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Board of Education Acts On Teaching Bible In School

Will Permit Selma High School For Whites To Try It Out As An Experiment During Term of 1945-46 On Certain Conditions Which Are Herewith Set Forth.

The Johnston County Board of Education met on Friday, January 5, 1945 with all members present as follows: W. H. Call, Chairman; J. W. Woodard, P. B. Chamblee, Dr. J. H. Stanley and Conrad H. Parker.

The minutes of the meeting of December 8, 1944, were read and approved.

The matter of teaching the Bible in the public schools of Johnston County which was raised by a petition presented on October 20, 1944, by the Rev. Geo. W. Blount, the Rev. Wade Baker and the Rev. Howard Newman, pastors of the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches of Selma, has been given most careful attention by each member of the Board of Education. Each member of this Board of Education is a member of a Christian church and believes wholeheartedly in the Christian Bible and as individual members are ready and willing to put forth every possible effort in the several churches of which they are members to forward the teaching of the Bible by the churches. No member of the Board questions the good intention of any of the petitioners who request that the Bible be taught in the public high schools as an elective subject. However, there is serious doubt in the minds of the members of the Board as to whether this is not a jostle of the church and state which is contrary to the fundamental principles of the American Government. Likewise, the Board of Education is conscious of the fact that there are many individuals in the County who feel very strongly that it is wrong to teach the Bible in the public schools, and likewise, there are many individuals in the County who feel that it should be done in an attempt to improve the moral conditions in the County, and since the public schools must serve all the people of the County, and since the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of North Carolina both guarantee to the humblest individual citizen an unalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of his own conscience with no interference from any human authority in any case whatever, it becomes the duty of the Board of Education to guard very carefully such authority even though it affects citizens who are so humble and inarticulate as not even to make their wishes and desires heard.

For these reasons the Board approaches its decision in the matter with caution and maintains its policy of keeping church and state separate in the schools of Johnston County. However, out of deference to the good intentions of the petitioners from the Selma School District, who are joined by the local Selma School Board in their request, the following exception to the policies for the County as a whole is hereby made: It is hereby ordered by the Board of Education of Johnston County that the white race be permitted to experiment with the teaching of the Bible as an elective subject in the high school grades during the school term of 1945-46 under the following rules and regulations; and further that pending the outcome of this experiment no other district of Johnston County be permitted to teach the Bible in its schools.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. That the teacher of Bible shall hold a North Carolina High School Teacher's certificate, one of the subjects covered by such certificate shall be Bible.
2. That such teacher, as all regularly employed governmental teachers, shall be nominated, elected and approved as now, or may hereafter be, provided by law; that is, such teacher shall be nominated by the principal, elected by the local school board and approved by the County Board of Education.
3. That such teacher, as all regularly employed governmental teachers, shall be subject to the same rules, regulations and discipline as may be promulgated by the principal, the local school board and the Board of Education of Johnston County.
4. That the money to pay said teacher, and the money to pay the cost of maintenance of plant items, as the same shall be determined by the State Department of Education, shall be deposited in the County Treasury for the benefit of said teacher not later than 80 days after the close of

school for the preceding year. Said funds for the payment of such teacher of Bible, and the cost of this course, shall be disbursed, when the same shall become due, only on order drawn on the County Treasurer and signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Education.

5. That notice of the intention to install an elective course in the Bible must be given to the principal of the Selma school, the Chairman of the local school board and to the Board of Education on or before 80 days after the close of school for the preceding year, at the same time money for the same is deposited with the County Treasurer, in order that proper provision may be made in the daily schedule for said course; and such teacher employed to teach the Bible shall be a teacher in addition to the regularly State allotted teachers for said school.

6. That at no time shall any money for the benefit of this course be collected in the school house or through the school children.

7. That the contract for said teacher shall not be a continuing contract as is now, or may hereafter be prescribed by law provided for regularly employed governmental teachers, but shall be for the period only for which money has been deposited as above specified, and in no event shall the Selma School District, or the County of Johnston, or the State of North Carolina ever be liable to such teacher of Bible in a greater sum than has been deposited for such purpose; and these rules and regulations shall be deemed to be written into every such contract made for such teacher of Bible.

8. That such teacher of Bible shall have all the privileges as belong to regularly employed governmental teachers except as limited by these rules and regulations and shall become an integral part of the faculty of the Selma High School and shall be subject to the performance of such extra-curricular activities as may be her fair share of these duties.

9. The Board of Education of Johnston County reserves its right to prescribe the curriculum which shall be followed by said teacher whenever in its judgment such action may become necessary.

10. That students taking such course in Bible shall furnish their own textbooks and the cost of the same shall not be included in the rental fee now collected of all high school students.

11. That all courses in Bible must be elective and that credit toward graduation may be given only after the 15 basic units now required by standard colleges for entrance have been made by such. That is to say that of the 16 units required for graduation, only one may be in Bible. Motion to adjourn was adopted.

New Board of Kiwanis Directors Hold Meeting

There was a meeting of the new board of Kiwanis directors held at the home of Dr. R. M. Blackman on Tuesday night of this week at 8:30. In the absence of Wilbur D. Perkins, the new secretary, who is convalescing from injuries received in a highway accident a few days ago, Matt R. Wall, former secretary-treasurer of the club, served in his stead.

A three-course chicken dinner was served by Mrs. Blackman, who was assisted in serving by Mrs. B. C. DuBose.

President M. L. Stancil presided at the business session and enumerated some of the duties of the new board. Secretary Wall gave a financial report of the club, showing the amount of funds turned over to the new board, as well as the financial activities of the club for 1944. His report showed that the club had a good year and a neat balance is still in reserve for the new board.

Several matters of interest to the club were discussed, and the new board starts off with high hopes of making 1945 one of the best Kiwanis years in its history.

The meeting adjourned with all present declaring Dr. and Mrs. Blackman charming host and hostess. Those present were M. L. Stancil, M. R. Wall, John Jeffreys Roy Smith, Dr. R. M. Blackman, Norvell Smith and B. C. DuBose.

Steer clear of "Land Mines," say Extension authorities. High priced land is loaded with dynamite. More than 10 million acres of forest land burned in Florida last year.

Selma Youth Shoots Self

John Archie (Jay) Sellers, 20, died in Johnston County Hospital Monday night at 11 o'clock from self-inflicted gunshot wounds Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Sellers, an employee of the State Highway and Public Works Commission, shot himself through the left side of his head using a .22 rifle. The shooting occurred at the residence of Mrs. Lottie Eason, with whom the young man had been making his home for some time. On the night preceding the tragedy he told friends that he contemplated committing suicide. He tried to get in the armed services but was rejected on account of physical disability. No cause has been assigned for the rash act. Funeral services were conducted from Yelvington's Grove Free Will Baptist church Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock by the Rev. Wiley T. Ferrell. Burial took place in the church cemetery. The deceased was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Sellers. Surviving are his step-mother Mrs. Lizzie Wheeler, of Selma, four brothers, Oscar Sellers, of Smithfield, Route 2; Thurmond Sellers, Selma; Luby Sellers, in the Pacific area; Clarence Sellers, somewhere in France; one sister, Mrs. William Edwards, of Smithfield; two half-brothers, Joe Sellers and Charles Sellers, of Selma; three half-sisters Edna Virginia, Ila Blanche and Sadie Sellers, of Selma. The body remained at the Overby Funeral Home in Smithfield until the hour of the funeral.

Cadets of Civil Air Patrol Take Exam

Cadets of the Civil Air Patrol stood their first written monthly examinations last week. Subjects under test were first-aid, MC&D, communications (radio, telegraph, telephone, blinkers and teletype), airplane instruments and ID. Papers turned in were generally very good, indicating that progress is being made.

On Monday afternoon the commander spoke to a group of students in the local school on activities of the organization. Five applications for enlistment were received at the regular meeting that evening. In connection with enlistment the question of girls enrolling has recently come to the front. The Flight has several girls within its ranks and they have been found to be excellent Cadets; being good students and good soldiers generally. We would like to emphasize the fact that girls are not only eligible—they are particularly welcome. Wish we had quite a few more like those now among our members.

An Army liaison plane is scheduled to be stationed in Selma for a few days, beginning about 21st of January and members of the Patrol will each make a flight in this plane.

A number of the younger boys and girls were noted as visitors at Monday night's drill and they are invited to return. Some out of town visitors are expected also for Thursday's session. Visitors are always welcome. Why not drop in for a few moments and observe the Patrol at work—it will prove of interest.

The Cadets elected their own officers Monday night. The Cadet Commander is William F. Black, while each of the two sections will be led by Section Commanders Charles T. McVickers and Robert L. Denning. Pay us a visit and watch these student officers direct a session of infantry drill. They're pretty snappy at it, too. And they are all learning something that is calculated to help them to be better citizens and to pull together. Cadet Cpl. Kathleen Starling presided over the election which was participated in only by the Cadets. Senior members did not vote and neither did they offer any nominations from the floor; the headquarters staff left the room during the election. And you can bet that the Cadets conducted their election in a business-like and orderly manner, too.

Too Much Snow For Talmage Corbett

Talmage Corbett writes to Editor M. L. Stancil under date of January 3, 1945, from Shelby, Ohio, as follows: "I am now receiving the paper and sure do enjoy it. We are having some very cold weather. It was 5 degrees below zero last night, and we have about 12 inches of snow; and the wind blew so hard that snow has drifted, blocking all roads out of here. I am wishing I was back in N. C. until Spring. Give my regards to everyone."

Selma Citizens Organize Chamber of Commerce

Four Oaks Man Fatally Burned

Roy Holmes, 46, Perishes in Blaze At Parents' Home Near Four Oaks.

Smithfield. — Roy Holmes, 46, of Four Oaks, Route 1, was burned to death Saturday night at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Holmes in Ingrams Township.

He came in around 12:30 and went to his room to retire. Shortly afterwards his parents, who were in the front part of the house, heard the howling of the dog, which was in the room with their son. Upon investigation they found the room in flames. The old couple were there alone and before help arrived the house was practically burned down.

The remains of the son were found in one corner of the room and those of the dog under the frame of the bed. They think that the son suffered a heart attack and fell over a lighted kerosene lamp, scattering the flames that set the room afire.

Funeral rites were conducted Tuesday at 3:00 p. m. at Overby's Funeral Home in Smithfield by the Rev. J. W. Davis, pastor of Four Oaks Baptist Church, and interment took place in the Dickey Cemetery near Four Oaks.

Surviving are his parents; his wife the former Louise Johnson; one son, Roy Holmes, Four Oaks, Route 1; seven daughters, Mabelle, Maline, Mary Lou, and Rebecca Holmes of Four Oaks, Route 2, Marie Holmes of Baltimore, Md., Mrs. Hubert H. Moon and Ruby Holmes of Gadsden, Ala.; one brother, Buster Holmes of Four Oaks, Route 1; one niece and one nephew.

Rudolph A. Howell Is Awarded Loving Cup

Kiwanis in regular session last Thursday evening heard President M. L. Stancil review the work of the past year and, at the same time, set forth the objectives for 1945.

As has been its annual custom for a number of years, the membership also balloted to determine who should receive the silver cup for having been adjudged the outstanding citizen in our community for the year 1944. This honor went to Kiwanian Rudolph Howell, who was presented the cup by David Ball who held the cup for 1944 as the result of his accomplishments in 1943. Awarded annually, the cup bears the names of a long line of citizens who served the community well.

Organization of a chamber of commerce for the town of Selma was also discussed quite fully, and a number of Kiwanians voiced their views on this question.

Death of Infant

Margaret Evelyn Deans, the one-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence E. Deans, died in a Baltimore hospital early Wednesday morning, January 10, of pneumonia. She was a granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Deans of Selma. The remains will be brought to Selma for burial.

S. Sgt. James E. Phillips Arrives in England

Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Phillips of Selma, Route 1, have received news that their son, S. Sgt. James E. Phillips, has arrived safely somewhere in England. S. Sgt. Phillips received his training at Fort Bragg, Fort Meade, Md. and was stationed at Camp McCoy, Wis. before going overseas.

Cpl. Rudolph Phillips Returns to Camp

Cpl. Rudolph Phillips has returned to camp after having spent the Christmas holidays at home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Phillips. He is now stationed at Camp Hood, Texas, after serving 22 months in the South Pacific.

Lieut. Joe D. Richardson, Jr., who has been stationed in Texas for some time, arrived last week to spend several days with his mother, Mrs. Pearl B. Richardson.

President Chamber Of Commerce



WILLIAM I. GODWIN

Bible In Schools Committee To Meet

The committee for the The Bible in the Schools of Selma, sponsored by the churches of Selma, will meet at the earliest advisable time to perfect necessary plans of procedure, now that approval of the local and county boards of Education has been obtained for the teaching of Bible in the Selma school. Member of the committee will be notified when such meeting will be held.

GEO. W. BLOUNT, Chairman.

Seen and Heard Along THE MAINDRAG

By H. H. L.

The writer of this column regrets to learn that GEORGE W. LANE, son of MR. and MRS. M. B. LANE, is reported missing in action—GEORGE is one of the town's most popular young men—for more than ten years he was the local carrier for The News and Observer, and every morning during that time, rain or shine, he brought us our paper before breakfast—we join his many friends here in hoping that he will return one of these days safe and sound—JOHNNIE COLONES is back on the Maindrag to the delight of his many friends—JOHNNIE spent more than a year in the South Pacific and saw action in the Marshall Islands, Saipan and Tinian Islands—that was a fine thing the citizens of this town did on last Monday night when they organized a Chamber of Commerce, something Selma has been needing for a long time—and they are to be congratulated for putting at the head of the organization one of the town's outstanding citizens, a former Mayor and now Solicitor of the County Recorder's Court, WILLIAM I. GODWIN—BILL will make a very efficient officer—the writer, as the editor said in last week's paper, was indeed surprised when he returned after spending some time with home folk in Western North Carolina and Virginia, to find such a change in the Sun office—ALTON, son of the editor, rolled up his sleeves as soon as he got home and went to work re-arranging the entire office, and together, with the painters, did a swell job—he left Sunday for Fort Benning, Ga., for further orders—ALTON spent more than a year in Greenland—on one occasion he wrote us something like this: "When you hear the choir sing 'From Greenland's Icy Mountains' think of me"—we trust Uncle Sam will not send him back to that country—well, today is the birthday anniversary of one of our most popular citizens, DAVID S. BALL, general manager of the Whitley Cotton Mills of Clayton—PRESIDENT STANCIL of the local Kiwanis Club did not know today was DAVID'S birthday when he appointed him program chairman of the Kiwanis meeting tonight.

James W. Butler of Goldsboro Addresses Meeting On How Organization Works — President and Board of Directors Are Elected — Enthusiastic Meeting.

At a representative meeting of the citizens of Selma, held at the Woman's club building on Monday night of this week, which was attended by about 40 people, plans were set in motion and a Chamber of Commerce was organized with 43 members.

A committee from the Selma Kiwanis club, headed by Otho Davis, was appointed by the club about two weeks ago at the suggestion of Rudolph Howell, past president of the club to make a survey of the town and have a meeting called for the purpose of organizing a Chamber of Commerce in Selma. This committee did a good job in getting the word around. On this committee were Rudolph Howell, L. O. Davis, Raleigh Griffin, J. N. Wiggs, M. L. Stancil, Dr. R. M. Blackman, C. E. Komegay and W. T. Woodard, Sr.

L. O. Davis opened the meeting Monday night with a few explanatory remarks and then turned the meeting over to Rudolph Howell who presided during the organization procedure.

Mr. Howell had been given the job of securing an appropriate speaker for the occasion, and announced that he had secured Mr. J. W. Butler of the Goldsboro Chamber of Commerce, who is a man of state-wide authority on Civic and Business Men's clubs, to address the meeting, but would arrive a little late. While waiting for the speaker a nominating committee was appointed to nominate officers for the new Chamber of Commerce.

Upon the arrival of Mr. Butler he was introduced by Mr. Howell. Mr. Butler outlined the workings of chambers of commerce in brief, and then the meeting was thrown open for questioning the speaker about certain phases of operation which he answered very satisfactorily to all present, after which Mr. Howell announced that he was ready for the report of the nominating committee which they made its report.

Following the reading of the committee's report, several names were presented from the floor, and then a written ballot was taken for President. The names of Joe A. Creech and William I. Godwin were before the house for president, and Mr. Godwin was the winner.

Six men were elected to constitute the board of directors, with three for one year and three for two years. One-year men are W. T. Woodard, Sr., Joe A. Creech and Floyd C. Price, Jr. Two year members are Carl Worley, Raleigh Griffin and L. O. Davis.

It will be the duty of the board of directors to elect a secretary and treasurer, but until this is done, L. O. Davis was delegated to take charge of all funds and records and hold them intact for the proper officers when they take hold.

The meeting was well attended and everyone seemed highly enthusiastic for the new chamber of commerce.

Directors Of Chamber Of Commerce To Meet

There will be a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Selma Chamber of Commerce at the Mayor's office Friday night, January 12, at 7:30 o'clock.

Highway Worker Killed

Gussie Maple, 35-year-old Negro, of Sumpter, S. C., was instantly killed Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 seven miles north of Selma. Maple, who was working for Brown Paving company, of Charlotte, who are putting tar surface on highway 301 between Selma and Kenly, was shoveling sand when his sweater was caught in some shafting, winding him up and beating him to death. Coroner E. N. Booker, of Selma, who investigated the accident, said the Negro's feet were entirely beaten off.