

THE WATERGEE MESSENGER

NEWS—5.50 IN ADVANCE PER ANNUM

"The Hand of the Diligent Shall Rule"

CHAS. W. BIRCHMORE, PROP.

VOLUME 50

CAMDEN, SOUTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1934

NO. 15

Wiles Is Given Death Penalty

Columbia, Jan. 13.—Robert H. Wiles, South Carolina's first kidnaper-killer in modern years, was sentenced to death today, three weeks after he beat to death a 15 year old schoolboy.

Judge Hayne F. Rice decreed the 40 year old bespectacled automobile mechanic to die in the electric chair on March 12. Ignoring the insanity plea, a Richland County jury in less than a half hour of deliberation found Wiles guilty of murdering the schoolboy, Hubbard H. Harris, Jr.

Wiles admitted the witness stand he lured Hubbard from home on the lad's birthday, two days before Christmas, to demand a \$1,000 ransom. He hammered the boy to death, he said, with an iron bar at a deserted farm house when his "one-man" plot went awry.

Jury Asks Guidance

Part of 23 minutes the jurymen deliberated the case was spent in prayer asking "divine guidance" in their verdict.

As Clerk of Court C. E. Hinnant intoned the fatal word, "guilty" Wiles' three-year-old son, Robert, Jr., could be heard outside the courtroom door crying, "daddy, daddy."

The child had been with his father in the courtroom but was taken outside by his mother and two grown half-sisters before the jury retired.

Wiles heard the verdict with the stern composure he had maintained during most of the three day trial. He leaned forward in the prisoner's dock and looked intently at Judge Rice as the sentence was passed.

His only sign of nervousness was the rapid chewing of a quid of tobacco in his mouth.

When Judge Rice asked, "you've anything further to say?" Wiles' eyes were fixed on the man replied quietly.

The judge read the formal sentence and said, "may God have mercy on your soul."

A few minutes earlier, Pugh Taylor, defense attorney who had argued to the jury that Wiles was "insane as a car bell" had whether Wiles could be committed to an insane asylum.

Judge Rice said he could not issue such an order but would set a future date for considering the point, Taylor and Kenneth R. Kreps, Wiles' other lawyer, indicated they would press for a sanity test.

Retained to Pen

Twelve policemen slipped Wiles out through a rear door and returned him manacled to the state penitentiary. They had formed a human barrier around him in the prisoner's dock.

As an additional precaution against any violence, Sheriff T. Alex Heise ordered each of the spectators who pecked the courtroom searched for weapons. Most of them had been present throughout the swiftly-moving court drama.

The jury had taken the case with conflicting argument on the insanity plea ringing in their ears. Defense counsel, pleading for "mercy," argued the middle-aged killer was "plainly drugged."

Solicitor A. Fletcher Spigner countered that the insanity plea "collapsed under Wiles' own testimony" and his plot was "impossible in a mad man."

Wiles yesterday had testified in detail of his life history and calmly outlined his plan to abduct Hubbard and extort a ransom from the youth's father, a chain store executive.

He said he had been under "a terrible mental strain" since he shot and killed his first wife and Ralph B. Gordon, a plumber, who, he said, "ran away with my wife and two babies." He was acquitted of the double slaying in Durham, N. C., in 1925.

Packing drama into the court proceedings, the mother and father of Hubbard added their testimony to the mass of state's evidence against the slayer.

The father related Wiles had wished him a "Merry Christmas" on the street a few hours after Hubbard was clubbed to death. Mrs. Harris told of telephone calls that lured her son from home to death with the promise of a holiday job.

Wiles admitted making the telephone calls to the Harris home the

Kershaw Co. 4-H Girls Win National Prizes

Mary McCoy and Dorothy West, members of the Midway 4-H Club, won first places in the Hazel-Atlas Company's National Canning Contest held in Chicago during the National Club Congress. These contests are held annually and are open to any 4-H Club members in the United States and awards are made for the best individual jar.

The nation is divided into four sections—Southern, Eastern, Western, and Central. Dorothy West won first place in the Southern Section on a jar of collards and received a check for \$9.00 as a prize.

Mary McCoy not only won first place in the Southern Section and received the \$9.00 prize but she also won the Grand Championship in this class. This means that Mary won over the girls from all four sections of the United States. For this she received a beautifully engraved ring. She won these honors on a jar of soup mixture.

During the past year, the 4-H Club girls of Kershaw County have done their part to meet the emergency. Their records show that they have canned 4,958 quarts of fruits and vegetables. They exhibited their products at the County Fair, the State Fair and in the National Contest. They have won \$72.50 in prizes this year.

Mary McCoy Wins National Canning Honor

Mary McCoy, member of the Midway 4-H Club, won first place and Grand Championship on a can of soup mixture in the Hazel-Atlas Canning Contest held in Chicago last month. This is the first time that a South Carolina girl has been so honored.

But doing outstanding things is not unusual for Mary. She was president and valedictorian of her class. She went to school eight years without missing a day, and has the distinction of never missing an honor roll. She likes athletics and was a star on the basket ball team. At present she is taking a commercial course at the Hartsville High School. Mary is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. McCoy of Cassatt.

The following is Mary's Club story: My Club Story.

While Mrs. Boykin was Home Demonstration Agent, I longed to join the 4-H Club, but was not old enough to become a member. My mother was Club member and some of the older girls in our Community were 4-H Club girls. This aroused my interest in Club work and I decided then, when I reached the age of ten, I would join the 4-H Club.

Miss Burgess, the new Agent, came to our school to organize the 4-H Club. I joined the Clothing Club. During the year I began to sew for myself, and canned the required amount of fruits and vegetables to be a Club member. In the Fall I exhibited some of my sewing and twelve cans of canned products at the County Fair. Much to my astonishment I won Three Dollars as a prize for my sewing exhibits, but did not win anything on my canned products. This was very encouraging to me, although I did not win on my fruit, and I decided to work harder and can better the following year.

I joined the Room Improvement Club, and much to my surprise was elected secretary of the Club. Again I worked hard, improving my room, and canning my fruits and vegetables. At the County Fair I exhibited again and won first prize on my fruit and various other prizes on my sewing. I felt as though I had really accomplished something since I had so greatly improved my room.

The next year I began to lose interest in the Club since it became impossible for the Agent to any longer have the meetings at the school house. But that year I canned my fruit and tried to continue my Club work the best I could.

In the Fall, Miss Carig, the new Home Demonstration Agent, came to our school and re-organized a Club. All my lost energy was revived and I became very interested in Club work again and joined the Gardening and Canning Club. I joined this Club in

night before the kidnapping. He told casually of extending the holiday greeting to the slain boy's father.

Liberty Hill News

Liberty Hill, Jan. 16.—On Monday night of last week a chicken supper was given at the school house by the ladies of our village, the proceeds to be used for finishing and equipping a swimming pool, now about completed here. A good supper was served consisting of chicken served in different ways with other kinds of meats, with macaroni, rice, cakes, pies, pickles and other etc. delicious eats prepared and served by the deft hands of our ladies. A large crowd was present including quite a number from our neighboring suburb of Stoneboro. A neat sum was realized and a pleasant evening spent by all.

Messrs. H. S. Higgins, F. B. Floyd, Abe Hilton and G. C. Truesdale of Stoneboro attended a banquet in Columbia on Wednesday night last given by the Standard Oil Co. to its agents and other guests.

Mr. T. P. McCrea of Columbia spent the week end with his family here.

Mr. R. C. Jones was a business visitor in Camden on Friday last.

Miss Margaret Richards of Columbia College musical department spent the week end at home with her parents, Gov. and Mrs. Richards.

Mr. W. C. Perry was in the Capital City one day last week.

Mrs. L. P. Thompson and two little sons were visiting in Heath Springs on Sunday last.

Gov. John G. Richards was a Columbia visitor on Thursday past and expects to attend the hearing before the legislative committee on " liquor Control" on next Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Higgins had as dinner guests on Sunday his sister, Mrs. W. T. Raines and family and Miss Moore of Great Falls, Md. and Mrs. T. S. Hammond of Heath Springs, Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Hammond and family of Stoneboro and Mr. John Higgins of Great Falls, the occasion being a turkey dinner at which about 25 were present.

Post Master C. D. Cunningham and Mr. J. H. Clements were in Camden on business one day last week.

A BEAUTIFUL TRIBUTE WORTHILY BESTOWED

There are now hanging on the wall of the Lytleton Street Methodist church Sunday School auditorium, the pictures of three noble men, who served this Sunday school through a long period of years. C. W. Birchmore, who was directly connected with the school as a teacher, and superintendent for over 40 years; Dr. F. M. Zemp, who was the superintendent for about 25 years, and George T. Rhame, who was the secretary and treasurer of the school for over 20 years. These pictures are beautifully framed, and on each is a silver plate, bearing the name, and dates of birth and death. This tribute was planned and executed by Mr. M. M. Reasonover, the former superintendent, and the work was done by Mr. Hoffer. The good that men do live after them; so true in this case.

hopes of learning more about canning. We had many demonstrations, and I learned lots about canning. I again entered the contest at the County Fair. I came out victorious, winning first prize on my fruit. During that year I sold vegetables which I had raised in my garden. I added this to my Saving Fund. I also put out shrubbery and other plants to help beautify my home.

Last Fall I joined the Food Club when Miss Craig re-organized the Clubs. Again I was elected an officer—president of my Club. The Agent explained the importance of food, telling what a great part it played in our health, and I saw I did not eat as I should. I very seldom ate any vegetables because I didn't like them, and I did not get the needed minerals for the up-keep of my body. I ate too many sweets and not enough fruits. My greatest fault, as I realize now, was not taking the proper care of my teeth. I very seldom brushed them and now they seem to be "off-color" despite the care I take of them. I resolved then and there to turn over a new leaf in my "Health Book" and earnestly try to improve my health.

Some time one thinks Club work is all work, but there is lots of fun even

Bethune News Notes

Bethune, Jan. 16.—The regular monthly meeting of the School Improvement Association was held in the Auditorium Monday evening. The president, Mr. J. H. M. Daniel, presided and the usual routine of business was carried out.

The tenth grade received a prize for having the greatest number of parents and guests present.

Miss Eliza King, registered nurse, is located here for the present to cooperate with the Kershaw county board of health.

Mr. C. L. Mays returned from the Columbia hospital Wednesday, where he was a patient for several days.

Rev. John Keels spent Wednesday in Columbia with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Keels and attended the funeral of his mother's sister, with the family, Thursday morning in Florence.

Dr. Stokes of McBee and Dr. E. Z. Truesdale attended the County Medical meeting held in the home of Dr. Clyburn in Camden Wednesday evening.

Mrs. T. H. Josey was hostess to Circle 3 of the Presbyterian Church Tuesday afternoon. During the social hour, which followed the business and devotional meeting, Tola Gardner, little grand daughter of the hostess appeared drawing an express wagon of gifts and presented them to Mrs. J. H. McDaniel, a recent bride with a wish for the New Year.

The hostess assisted by her daughter, Mrs. Foster Gardner, served a salad course with fruit cake and coffee.

Circle one and two were entertained by Mrs. Margaret Marion and Miss Kathryn Truesdale respectively Wednesday afternoon.

A social was given by the Young People of the Presbyterian church Friday evening in the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. G. King, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McDaniel, who were married during the holidays, were given a surprise when Paschal McLaurin, as a traveling salesman, presented them with a trunk of miscellaneous gifts.

Refreshments consisting of ambrosia and crackers were served by Misses Frances Bethune and Mary A. Baker.

Dr. E. Z. Truesdale attend the Annual New Year's meeting and banquet of the Marlboro County Medical society in Bennettsville Friday evening. Dr. Truesdale was accompanied by Dr. Stokes of McBee.

Miss Effie Brabham of Bamberg was the week end guest of Miss Kathryn Truesdale.

Among the young men who have recently secured work elsewhere and left Sunday for their respective positions are: Lee Morgan, Van Morgan and Alvin Clyburn to Spartanburg; June Truesdale, James King and L. W. Wages to Anderson; John Neil McLaurin to St. Matthews; Greg King and Frank Hammond, Camden.

Clifton Severance was the guest of his brother, Dr. R. E. Severance in Andrews last week.

Van Morgan spent Saturday night in Rock Hill with friends.

Three high class entertainments will be given in the school auditorium Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. These entertainments are sponsored by the school and are put on by a traveling company—The Leonard Players. Admittance free 15 and 25 cents.

in work, when thinking of the good times that are had during the County Short Courses which are rewards of work well done. Achievement Day is another day looked forward to by Club members. Each year I have attended the Short Courses. We have lots of fun during these courses—playing games, singing songs, swimming, making many interesting things for our home. I have wall pockets, sofa pillows, scarfs, vases, silhouettes and a number of other useful souvenirs that I have made at the Short Courses each summer.

My saving fund I had saved as a nest egg to go to college. But my savings were so small that I'm using it to take a commercial course, in hopes of attending college at a future date.

Monica, a mannequin in a stylish shop in London, changes her clothes 250 times a day.

Cotton Contracts Are Being Signed

The Cotton Acreage Reduction Campaign is meeting with splendid cooperation and unusual enthusiasm in Kershaw County. The time for taking these contracts expires Jan. 31, therefore, it is urgent that all farmers intending to make contracts do so at once. This is a special request to our farmers that they do not wait for a committeeman to come to see them but instead look up the committeeman nearest to you as soon as possible and execute your contract.

No farmer can afford to continue farming without cooperating in this movement to help, along with his neighbors and the Government, to increase the price of cotton and especially to increase the net profit to the farmers. The terms of this contract are more liberal than any which our farmers have ever had opportunity to enter into. It is believed that the payments made our farmers for not planting cotton will be much greater than the profits which the farmer would make if he did plant the cotton. The Government is taking steps to see that the farmers who do cooperate and sign these contracts and reduce their cotton acreage from the base period of 1928-1932 will fair much better than farmers who do not cooperate and sign contracts and reduce.

It should be understood that our farmers are not called upon to reduce from the acreage they planted last year. The contract calls for a reduction from the average planted during the period 1928-29-30-31-32. However, the farmer is not to increase his cotton acreage above the amount he planted in 1932 or 1933.

Farmers who do not cooperate by entering into this contract will not receive Government financing from any of the Government Loan Agencies, such as the Seed Loan, Crop Production Loan, Land Banks, Production Credit Association or Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation. The cash rent paid by the Government to the cooperating farmer is three and one-half cents per pound for the average production produced during the base period 1928-1932. The three and one-half cents payment will be made in two installments, the first to be paid the farmers between March 1 and April 30, 1934, approximately, and the second installment between August 1 and September 30, 1934, approximately. Also the parity payment upon the farm allotment (which payment will not be less than one cent (1c) per pound on said farm allotment) shall be made to the producers between December 1, 1934 and January 1, 1935, approximately. The farm allotment is forty per cent of the average production during the base period.

This is a great opportunity for our farmers and I do not see how any farmer living in this community can conscientiously refuse to cooperate in this undertaking by our Government to help our people.

Please see your nearest committeeman at once and sign your contract. Remember, the time for signing contracts expires January 31.

Respectfully,
HENRY D. GREEN, City Agt.

MRS. J. H. CLYBURN III

The many friends of Mrs. J. H. Clyburn will regret to learn that she had a very serious operation at the Camden Hospital on Monday. Reports are that she is doing as well as could be expected.

CAMDEN HOSPITAL UNDERGOING REPAIRS

The Camden hospital is now undergoing complete alterations and improvements. All of the interior of the building is being painted and several additions are being made. One of the additions is that of nurses' rooms that are being built. The hospital has always been handicapped for space for its nurses and the additional space will give ample room for these. Another one is that of a contagious ward that is being added. The ground will also be landscaped in every way.

The work is going on under the direction of O. J. Smyrl, local Civil Works administrator.

Legion Auxiliary To Hold Beauty Contest

Mrs. Leon Schlosburg announces the completion of arrangements by a committee from the American Legion Auxiliary for the staging of a local and state-wide beauty pageant at the high school auditorium Friday, January 26. Local firms, business and fraternal organizations will be invited to sponsor entrants to name "Miss Kershaw County," "Miss Camden" and "Miss South Carolina." Sixty or more entrants from every quarter of the state will be here to compete on the same night for the title of "Miss South Carolina."

"Miss Kershaw County" will be given a silver loving cup. "Miss Camden" a silver goblet and "Miss South Carolina" will have all expenses paid to New York and Atlantic City where she will represent South Carolina in the nation-wide contest where every state will be represented. An elaborate program is being arranged. The sixty state-wide contestants have been selected by out of county judges as the most beautiful.

Out of state judges will decide who is the most beautiful girl in South Carolina.

Watch for program and further announcements.

OSBORNE ANNOUNCES FOR MAYOR—CANDIDATES FOR ALDERMAN ANNOUNCE

In the approaching City Primary to be held in March for the election of Mayor and Aldermen for the six wards, the following announcements appear elsewhere in this issue of the Messenger:

For Mayor—J. H. Osborne, Alderman Ward One—M. Billings, Alderman Ward Two—W. C. Scarborough, G. A. Creed, W. B. Porter, Alderman Ward Three—F. N. McCorkle, John T. Haney.

Mr. Osborne served as Alderman from Ward Three for several years. It is believed that he will have no opposition in the coming Primary. Mayor Kennedy will have completed his second term as Mayor at the end of this term and will not offer for re-election.

BAPTIST CHURCH SERVICES

The following services are announced at the First Baptist Church for week beginning January 21.

Men's prayer meeting at 9:30 Sunday morning, Sunday school at 10 o'clock with C. O. Stogner, superintendent in charge, Public worship conducted by the pastor, J. B. Caston at 11:15 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Morning subject: "The Backward Look. Evening subject: "The Forward Look." Weekly Teacher's meeting Tuesday evening at 7:30, Midweek prayer and praise service Wednesday evening at 7:30, Senior B. Y. P. U. Thursday evening at 7:30, Junior B. Y. P. U. Sunday evening at 6:30.

The public is cordially invited to attend all the the services of this church.

RECOMMENDS EXEMPTION OF PROCESSING TAX UP TO 800 POUNDS

Congressman J. P. Richards, along with other southern Congressmen, held a lengthy hearing before Mr. Savoy and other authorities of the Agriculture Department at eight o'clock Wednesday evening in the interest of eliminating the processing tax on the sale of dressed hogs by farmers who were not engaged as a business in the slaughtering and sale of pork. A request was made that a thousand (1,000) pounds dressed pork exemption be allowed in this matter, as many small farmers who have only a few hogs to sell for pocket change would be unjustly penalized. The representatives of the Agriculture Department finally agreed to recommend that the sale of eight hundred (800) pounds per year of dressed meat be exempted before the processing tax would be imposed with the understanding that if over thirteen hundred pounds per year were sold by any one that the tax would apply as before required to any and all poundage sold.

Congressman Richards became active in this matter when he received protests against the processing tax from some of the markets and farmers of his District.