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Board Of Education Grants Hearing To Miss Nicht.

On February 3rd, a petition signed by Mrs. W. E. Hoke, president, and thirty-three others, membe.s of the Parent-Teachers' Association of New Windsor, presented to the Board of Education of Carroll County, a petition for the removal of Miss Theresa Nicht as principal of the New Windsor public school, alleging that there was so much dissatisfaction in that community that it was in a turmoil, by reason of the methods of discipline employed by Miss Nicht, in consequence of which the children were afraid of the teacher, in a highly nervous condition, and that under her tutelage they could make little progress. The petition threatened that if she were not removed "drastic action" would be taken by the patrons of the school.

Acting upon the petition, the Board of Education passed a resolution authorizing County Superintendent Maurice S. H. Unger to dismiss Miss Nicht as principal, and he carried out the direction of the board and transferred her to the school at Louisville. Miss Nicht taught in that school for one day, and then became ill.

Dr. J. M. Henry, president of New Windsor College, wrote an open letter to superintendent Unger, giving copies to the Press, severely criticizing the board for its action, and alleging that the influence of the Ku Klux Klan was back of the petition because Miss Nicht is a member of the Roman Catholic church.

This allegation of Dr. Henry, and the publicity given to the affair in the Baltimore dailies, has given all concerned much unpleasant notoriety.

State Senator Harry O. Levin, an attorney of Baltimore, acting in behalf of Miss Nicht, asked that the board give her a hearing, and the request was granted. Wednesday the regular monthly meeting of the board was held, and, after a brief business session in its offices, it suspended other business and sat in the court room, which was crowded to its utmost capacity, with not less than 800 interested spectators, citizens from all parts of the county.

The members of the board present were James Pearre Wantz, president; Milton A. Koons, Thomas Slingluff, and Harry Zepp. The board was represented by its attorney, Charles O. Clemson, Esq.

Superintendent Unger was the first witness examined by Mr. Levin, and testified to the resolution of instructions from the board, and his execution thereof; that Miss Nicht was not dismissed as a teacher in the county, but only as principal of the New Windsor school; that she is still on the roll of teachers, with a certificate qualifying her to be a principal, and that her salary could not be curtailed; that when he notified her of her removal it was his intention simply to transfer her to another school, and as there were at the same time four other teachers to be transferred, the best he could do for her was to send her to Louisville. He said that in a word the cause for her removal was her tactless handling of parents and children. He further said that there was no cause for her removal outside of the petition; that no ground of religion was ever spoken of or touched upon; that he did not think that any member of the board knew, when the resolution was passed, that Miss Nicht is a Roman Catholic, that he did not know it until after her transfer, that neither he nor the board know the religious affiliation of many of the teachers in the county, and that in their employment no question of religious or political affiliation ever enters.

Mrs. John W. Smith, vice-president of the Parent-Teachers' Association, testified that the petition had never been presented for her signature; that she has two children in school, taught by Miss Nicht; that they love to go to school and she can scarcely keep them home, and that they make satisfactory progress.

Mrs. William Guyton testified that she has children in the school, that they have not been ruled by fear, that they get along all right, that Miss Nicht is a good teacher, that she was not asked to sign the petition and would not have done so if asked.

Miss Anna Nicht, herself a teacher, sister of the deposed principal, related that she called on Mr. Unger on September 7th to ask why her sister had been dismissed, and asked him if he had anything against her professionally as a teacher, and that he replied in the negative; that she lacked tact in discipline, and that Mr. Unger said she was dismissed.

Miss Gladys Nickerson, teacher in the New Windsor school, testified the children in Miss Nicht's room were not ruled by fear, and that the community was not in a turmoil, so far as she observed.

Miss Lulu Crimm, Supervisor, said that, as a whole, Miss Nicht is a good teacher; that of course not perfect, all had defects, that she observed no turmoil in New Windsor, that she noted the attitude of the children toward their teacher and saw nothing unusual, and that no complaint had been made to her by Mrs. Hoke or others. Cross examined by Mr. Clemson, she said that Miss Nicht has her faults as has every other teacher, but that her good points overbalance her weak ones, that she had recommended her for the principalship and has no reason to change her good opinion of her.

Mrs. Herbert Getty testified that she has been a member of the P. T. A., but resigned when she heard that Miss Nicht was incurring opposition because she is a Catholic, and added: "I am a Catholic myself, and proud of it." She regarded Miss Nicht as a satisfactory teacher and her children got along all right with her.

Mr. Levin closed on behalf of Miss Nicht.

The first witness called by the board was Dr. J. M. Henry. He testified that he has two children in the school, never heard of petition until after the action of the board. He wrote the letter to Mr. Unger and gave copies to the Press after the transfer of Miss Nicht. He had heard about the middle of October that the Klan was out to get her. His boy, 11 years old, talked about it at home; he also heard it on the street, but paid no attention to the talk until she was removed. He declared that he did not believe the board was influenced by the Klan; that he did not believe that the Klan as an organization had anything to do with it, but is convinced that individual members of the order helped foment the trouble. His children get along satisfactorily in the school.

Guy W. Babylon testified that his objection to Miss Nicht was the way she treated the children, keeping them in and forcing them to walk long distances into the country after night. Cross examined by Mr. Levin he swore that he is not a member of the Klan, and the fact of Miss Nicht being a Catholic did not influence him in signing the petition; that he would lie when lying would make it possible to "find out something you want" or "to gain a point." The line of questioning arose out of an assertion made by Mr. Babylon that while he had told Mrs. Smith he regretted his action in signing the petition, his statement to her was only "in my mind, not in my heart."

"Then you deliberately lied to Mrs. Smith in order to get on her side?" asked Mr. Levin.

Mr. Babylon admitted that he had.

P. Thurston Cronise has two children in the school, he helped get signers to the petition. He said among other things "I don't belong to the Klan, and am sorry to say I don't belong to any church, but will stake my religion against that of some one who had testified."

W. E. Hoke, Mrs. James B. Barnes, Mrs. R. Webb Reese, Mrs. Robert Miller, and Mrs. Reuben Morningstar, all patrons of the school, testified as to their objections to the teacher, because of her methods of discipline, and declared that their children were made nervous. All said that by the words "drastic action" in the petition to the board they meant that unless Miss Nicht was removed they would not let their children go to school. Mr. Cronise had said that if she was reinstated, he would go to jail before he would allow his children to be under her.

Leslie A. Smelser has no children in the school, and was influenced to sign by the general dissatisfaction prevailing in the community, and that religion had nothing to do with his action.

Mr. Levin asked for the reinstatement of Miss Nicht, and for immediate decision by the board, so that if it be adverse he may have opportunity to appeal to the State Board.

President Wantz promised early action, and said that the opinion and decision of the board would be given in writing.

OBITUARY

ROLAND M. FARVER

Roland Marten Farver, son of Roland and Helen Farver, Church street, died Saturday, February 26, 1927, from lobar pneumonia at the age of four years, 21 days. The funeral was held Monday with services at the home at 2:00 P. M. and burial was made in the Westminster cemetery.

CARRYE D. HERING

Carrye D. Hering, wife of the late D. Roby Hering, died Wednesday, March 2, 1927, at her home, near Sykesville, aged 48 years.

This morning at 10.30 the funeral was held from the above residence and interment was made in Freedom cemetery.

RUTH V. RAPPANIER

Ruth Virginia Rappanier, daughter of Frederick Rappanier, died Saturday, February 26, 1927 after a brief illness at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis E. Smith, East Main street. She was aged seven years, 8 months and 9 days. The funeral was held Tuesday meeting at the Smith home at 1:30 P. M. and further services in Belle Grove Square Church of the Brethren at 2:30 o'clock. Burial was made in Meadow Branch cemetery.

The pallbearers were Helen Little, Eleanor Ditman, Elizabeth Hitchcock and LaRue Haines.

Harvey Bankard funeral director.

MRS. CHARLES E. EYLER

Mrs. Mary C. Eyler, wife of Charles E. Eyler, died suddenly at her home, near Harney, this county, Saturday, February 26, 1927. She was aged 62 years, 4 months and 1 day. She was a daughter of the late Abraham and Mary Hess. Besides her husband she leaves one son, Mervin L. Eyler, near Harney, and a brother, John W. Hess, Harrisburg; also four grandchildren. The funeral was held Monday meeting at the house at 10 A. M. with further services in the Lutheran church at Harney, Rev. L. K. Young officiated. Burial was made in the cemetery adjoining the chuhch.

JAMES H. BOWERS

James Hamilton Bowers died at his home, near Taneytown, Sunday, February 27, 1927, aged 81 years, 9 months and 10 days. He leaves four sons and two daughters as follows: Harry M. Bowers, near Taneytown; Charles Bowers, Philadelphia; Eddie Bowers, Georgia; Jesse Bowers, Florida; Mrs. Harry Baker, Gettysburg, and Mrs. Edward Copenhaver, near Taneytown. One sister, the wife of Dr. Demit, Taneytown, also survives. The funeral was held Tuesday meeting at the house at 9:30 A. M. with further services in Piney Creek Bethel church, Elders E. F. Bucher and George H. Bowers officiating. Burial was made in the cemetery adjoining the church.

MISS EMMA D. READ

Miss Emma D. Read, Reese, this county, died at the Maryland University hospital, Baltimore, Monday, February 28, 1927. She was aged 80 years and 14 days. She was a daughter of the late Elias J. and Mary Read, and is survived by two sisters, Miss Mary S. Read and Mrs. W. Irving Dice, Reese. The body was removed to the home of the brother-in-law and sister, Rev. and Mrs. W. Irving Dice, from where the funeral was held yesterday with services at the house at 10:30 a. m and further services in Pleasant Grove church, Sandyville, Rev. Charles Subock officiating. Burial was made in the cemetery adjoining the church.

F. A. Sharrer and Son funeral directors.

LEVI NUSBAUM

Levi Nusbaum died Sunday, February 27, 1927 at his home on John street. He was in his seventy-fifth year. Surviving are his widow and eight children as follows: Rosa V. Ibex, Ida Belle Nusbaum, Florence M. Bixler, Harry A., Harvey L., this city; Mrs. Goldie Englar, Baltimore; Howard E., Indiana; Myrtle V. Burns, Philadelphia; Nettie Susat, New York, and 33 grand children. The funeral took place Wednesday with services at the residence at 10:00 o'clock and burial in Meadow Branch cemetery. Elder Walter Thomas officiated.

The pallbearers were Harvey Rappin, Harry Fleagle, Frank Nusbaum, Harry Eckard, Lewis Sies and John Sherfey.

Harvey Bankard funeral director.

FATAL BLAST NEAR TANEYTOWN

One man was fatally injured and several other persons narrowly escaped death or serious injury Monday afternoon at 3.30 o'clock in an explosion which occurred at the reduction plant of Harold Mehring, located a short distance southeast of Taneytown, on the Westminster road.

The most seriously injured man, Luther Ecker, aged 40 years, a resident of Stumptown, near Taneytown, died in the Hanover General hospital Tuesday morning at 6 o'clock as the result of a fractured skull and other serious injuries. He was in a critical condition when admitted to the hospital the night before and an operation was performed immediately in a vain effort to save his life. Rendered unconscious by the force of the explosion, he remained in that state until his death occurred.

Harry Wilt, a neighbor of the dead man, is a patient at the hospital, having suffered a fractured right collar bone. His condition at first was not considered serious, but later it became apparent that he is suffering greatly from shock. Ecker and Wilt had been taken to the Hanover hospital by Dr. Elliott, Taneytown, who drove them there in his automobile.

Several other men who were working near the scene of the explostion escaped with slight cuts and bruises, none of which were considered serious. Their hurts were treated at Taneytown by Dr. Elliott.

The tragic accident occurred while Wilt was tending a steam cooker, which is operated under high steam pressure, in the reduction plant. In some unknown manner the apparatus exploded without warning, practically demolishing the small building in which it was located. The bursting point of the cooker was on a side opposite that on which Wilt was working, it is believed, thus accounting for his escape without greater injury.

The fatally injured man was not in the building at the time, it is stated, but was walking nearby. Whether his injuries were caused by flying pieces of the building, by parts of the exploding machine or by being thrown to the ground by the force of the explosion has not yet been determined.

Coroner L. U. Zech, York, was notified of the man's death and it was necessary for that official to sign a release before Undertaker C. O. Fuss, Taneytown, could remove the body to the home of the family. Coroner Zech on the death certificate gave the cause as a fractured skull and internal hemorrhages.

Tuesday night some thieves stole from Norman Myers, of Frizellburg, this county, seven auto tires, and from William H. Marker, residing in the neighborhood, two truck tires, a rim, and an automobile lap robe. The thieves were evidently frightened away from Marker's because they left the lugs on the front wheels of the truck half off.

CHARLES E. YINGLING

Charles E. Yingling, died Monday, February 28, 1927, at his home at 607 South Monroe street, Baltimore, aged 64 years, six months. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Minerva Yingling, nee Myers, and the following children, Raymond D. Yingling, Paul M. Yingling, and Harry R. Yingling, all of Baltimore; Mrs. Angeline Stuller, Enterprise, and one sister, Mrs. Samuel Orem, Baltimore. Interment was made yesterday at 1 P. M. in Meadow Branch cemetery. Mr. Yingling was a former citizen of this city.

MRS. WILLIAM D. GIST

Mrs. Alice Virginia Gist, wife of William D. Gist, died of pneumonia at her home on East Main street, Tuesday, March 1, 1927, aged 68 years, 11 months and 21 days. Besides her husband she is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Harry Bowersox, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Clarence Shipley, Pleasant Valley; two sons Harry C. Gist, Sykesville; Joshua R. Gist, this city; two grandchildren, Durward Bowersox, Washington, D. C., and Virginia Gist, this city. Funeral services were held yesterday meeting at the house at 1 P. M., with further services in Mount Pleasant Church, Mechanicsville. Interment was made in the adjoining cemetery. F. A. Sharrer and Son funeral directors.

COURT HOUSE NEWS

MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED

Calvin Jerome Clark and Mildred E. Plitt, Baltimore.

William G. Giggard and Anna G. Hahn, Westminster.

Robert W. Kemp and Lenore Florstedt, Olney, Md.

Walter M. Harbaugh and Emma Jane Sanders, Gettysburg, Pa.

Walter E. Hersh and Hilda V. Barnhart, Manchester.

Milton L. Freyman and H. Marie Wolf, Westminster.

Lewis E. Jones and Bernice P. Hipsley, Richmond, Va.

Chester Murray and Ella Becker, Dillsburg, Pa.

TRANSFERS OF REAL ESTATE

Jesse L. Manahan and wife to Henry C. Reaver and wife, 109 a, $10.

Dora L. Zepp et al to John H. Bopst and wife, 27 a, $10.

Board of Education to Paul T. Case, 4 lots, $747.50.

Sophronia P. Eader to William H. Rigler, 157 a, $10.

Arthur B. Shafer and wife to M. Theodore Yeiser, 71 sq. prs., $10.

M. Theodore Yeiser and wife to Arthur B. Shafer and wife, 71 sq. prs. $10.

J. Ezra Stem and wife to David E. Stem, lot, $10.

David E. Stem and wife to J. Ezra Stem and wife, lot, $10.

A. Frank Arrington and wife to George A. Jaeger and wife, 48 a, $10.

Daniel H. Arrington and wife to George A. Jaeger and wife, 1 a, $10.

Robert McCullery and wife to Walter H. Davis, 17 a, $5.

Upper Ashburton Realty Co., to Prescious W. Lambert and wife, 3 lots, $5.

Walter H. Davis et al to Charles E. Richardson, et al, lot $1.

Frank E. Cunningsam et al to Anna B. Zepp, 9750 sq. ft., $10.

George R. Sanner Jr., et al to Wesley Chapel M. E. Church of Freedom, 2 tracts, $1.

Charles E. Richardson and others to James K. Daugherty, 20,502 sq. ft., $10.

James K. Daugherty to Charles E. Richardson, 20,502 sq. ft., $10.

E. Miller Richardson and wife to Charles E. Richardson, 3,800 sq. ft., $10.

Alfred N. Forney and wife to Geo. P. Ritter, 233 sq. yds., $94.

Robert W. Leppo et al to William H. S. Allgire, 74 sq. prs., $1.

William H. S. Allgire to John C. Tull and wife, 2 tracts, $10.

Rufus W. Norwood and wife to John M. Bennett, 2 tracts, $10.

Mary Davis and husband to Charles O. Nicholson and wife, lot, $10.

ORPHANS' COURT

Monday, Feb. 28.—The last will and testament of Mary E. Cooper, deceased, was duly admitted to probate and letters testamentary thereon were granted unto Lester L. Robinson, Sr., who received order to notify creditors.

The last will and testament of Reuben A. Stonesifer, deceased, was duly admitted to probate and letters testamentary thereon were granted unto C. Gordon Stonesifer and J. Russell Stonesifer, who received warrant to appraise personal property and order to notify creditors.

Frank C. Schaeffer, executor of Eli M. Dutterer, deceased, returned report of sale of personal property and received order to sell stocks.

Letters of administration on the estate of Jacob N. Dehoff, deceased, were granted unto John A. Dehoff, who received warrant to appraise personal property and order to notify creditors.

Ida May Thomas, administratrix of Clinton Thomas, deceased, settled her first and final account.

The last will and testament of Robert E. Lee, deceased, was duly admitted to probate and letters testamentary thereon were granted unto Annie L. Lee, who received warrant to appraise personal property and order to notify creditors.

Harvey E. Shorb et al, administrators of Marie E. Shorb, deceased, reported sale of personal property.

S. Jacob Messinger, administrator of Samuel J. Messinger, deceased, returned inventories of personal property and debts.

Tuesday, March 1.—Sarah S. Conroy, administratrix of Laura Morningstar, deceased, returned inventory of personal property and received order to sell same.

Frank J. Loukota and Lawrence L. Mummaugh, executors of Barbara Jelinek, deceased, returned inventories of personal property and money and received orders to sell personal property and real estate.

The last will and testament of James D. Haines, deceased, was duly admitted to probate.

Richard R. Bennett, Sr., and Richard R. Bennett, Jr., executors of Nannie E. Bennett, deceased, reported sale of real estate on which the court issued an order ni si.

Letters testamentary on the estate of James D. Haines, deceased, were granted unto Michael E. Walsh and Central Trust Company of Maryland, who received warrant to appraise personal property and order to notify creditors.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS

Mrs. J. Grant Schwarz and children, Harrisburg, Pa., are visiting the former's mother, Mrs. William H. Thomas, Willis street.

George Wentz, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Wentz, Lineboro, is seriously ill due to blood poisoning of the hand, following a scratch received while coasting last week.

Miss Ella Becker, East Berlin, Pa., and Chester Murray, Dillsburg, Pa., were married on Tuesday by Rev. R. N. Edwards, in Centenary M. E. parsonage, this city.

G. W. Crabbe, state superintendent of the anti-saloon league of Maryland, will speak in the Church of the Brethren, Bell Grove Square, this city, Sunday morning at 10.45. Everyone is cordially invited to be present.

Yesterday Senator Englar, of this county, introduced a bill in the Maryland Senate authorizing the Clerk of the Circuit Court for this county to pay certain excess fees of his office to the County Commissioners of this county. Now these fees are paid to the State.

Mrs. Charlotte Rebecca Eyler died suddenly at the home of a daughter in Baltimore on Tuesday. Death was due to a heart attack. She was aged 68 years. The funeral was held yesterday from the home of another daughter, Mrs. T. Kurtz Warner, near New Windsor and burial was made in Beaver Dam cemetery.

Rev. C. B. Rebert, St. Petersburg, Pa., has accepted the call to the Carroll Reformed charge, composed of three churches, St. Benjamin's, Kriders; St. Matthew's, Pleasant Valley, and Jerusalem, Bachman's Valley. Rev. Mr. Rebert with his wife and son will move into the parsonage April 1st.

Yesterday about 4.30 P. M. the Westminster firemen responded to an alarm of fire on the property of Mr. Bosley, at Finksburg. When they reached the scene of the fire the Reisterstown company had already laid 1,000 feet of hose to an ice pond and had a stream of water playing on the fire. The heroic efforts of the firemen saved the barn and other outbuildings while a straw stack in the barn yard and a fodder rick were destroyed by fire.

Dr. Wilfred M. Copenhaver, professor of Anatomy of Strong Memorial Hospital and University of Rochester, and son of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Copenhaver, this city, sailed Wednesday from New York for Europe where he will be engaged in scientific research work at Stazione Zoological Labratory, Naples, Italy, and the Zoological Institute, Freiburg, Germany. The steamer will reach Cherbourg, France, about the 10th of the month, when Dr. Copenhaver will travel by railroad to Naples, Italy, via Paris, Lausanne, Milan, Bologna, and Rome. He also expects to visit Venice, Vienna, Berlin and London before he returns home in September.

MAN CAUGHT IN FLY WHEEL

William A. Currens, Lineboro, had an unusual experience Tuesday noon while engaged in chopping corn in his barn. As Mr. Currens passed the gasoline engine, a sleeve of his coat caught the crank, causing it to fly off from the shaft of the flywheel and tearing his coat from him. Mr. Currens was thrown to the floor and was knocked unconscious for several moments. In falling he apparently struck the shaft, as he is suffering from a bruised temple and chin and a thick red welt across his neck under the chin.

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