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DARING RESCUE.

Life Saved From Swollen Stream in Union County.

Monroe, Dec. 28.—Special. Two men were drowned, a wagon destroyed and the driver, L. Funderburk, had a narrow escape from death Tuesday, when he attempted to ford Richardson's creek, two miles east of Monroe. Unaware of the danger, the lad drove his team into the swollen stream and was instantly swept down the creek by the raging current. The wagon was capsized and Funderburk was thrown into the swirling waters. The mules became entangled in the harness and were soon drowned. Only the heroic conduct of John Funderburk, the boy's stepfather, saved the latter's life.

Immediately upon being thrown from the wagon, young Funderburk was submerged and swept two hundred yards down stream, passing under a footlog, which was itself under the water. Finally rising to the top, he caught hold of a small bush on the side of the creek and clung to it for dear life while he cried for help. His cries were not heard at first, and when his call at last fell upon some kindly ear, his voice had become so weak that he could hardly be located and the rapidly rising stream was almost ready to make sure of its intended victim.

John Funderburk and Oscar Watts heard the cries for help and were on the scene as quickly as they could locate young Funderburk. Watts went back to the house to get a rope, but in the meantime the stepfather realized that the lad must soon release his hold and he decided to risk his own life to save the youngster.

L. M. Sandlin Electrocuted.

Raleigh, N. C. Friday, 29.—L. M. Sandlin was electrocuted in the electric chair in the State's prison here this morning, thereby paying the penalty for the murder of his wife in Wilmington October 10th. The condemned prisoner did not make any statement as he was ushered into the death chamber. He was strapped in the chair and given three shocks of 18,000 wats each, the first at 10:35 o'clock. He was pronounced dead at 10:42.

The body was prepared for burial and turned over to Sandlin's brother, who took it to Onslow county this afternoon for interment tomorrow.

Sandlin was about 40 or 45 years old and was convicted in New Hanover Superior Court of the crime of murdering his wife, from whom he had been separated. The fatal shooting took place in Wilmington October 10th at a boarding house which the woman was just opening. Sandlin called upon her in the morning of that day and begged that she return to live with him, but she refused. Sandlin then went away and returned in a short time and shot her to death, then turned the weapon upon himself and inflicted a slight wound.

He was arrested immediately and tried and convicted, but his attorneys made a strong fight to save his life, upon the plea that the prisoner was insane, but after hearing the evidence and argument Governor Kitchin decided not to interfere, although he did grant a reprieve until today to give Sandlin's attorneys an opportunity to present what they claimed was some newly discovered evidence, which the Governor did not consider sufficient to warrant him in commuting the death sentence.

FUR-BEARING ANIMALS SCARCE.

High Price of Furs May Make Breeding of Fur-Bearers Profitable.

Washington Dispatch.

"Why does the price of furs continue to go up?" is a question that is frequently referred to the United States biological survey. Henry W. Henshaw, who is at the head of the government's biological work, says in answering this question, says the present high price of furs is due less to passing fashion than to the actual growing scarcity of fur-bearing animals.

"As wearing apparel and for personal adornments furs occupy a place of their own," said Mr. Henshaw, "and there seems to be no acceptable substitute for them. For years the demand for furs has been greater than the supply, and, chiefly as a result of the encroachment of civilization on the breeding range of animals and unceasing activity of trappers, the number of fur-bearers has been greatly reduced. If in the future furs are to be worn by any but the rich, it would seem that resource must be had to fur-farming on a large scale. The fur-bearers best adapted for artificial breeding appear to be foxes, minks and martens.

"Attempts to raise these animals, especially the first two named, are being made by private parties in various parts of the country and Canada. So far none of these enterprises appear to have passed the experimental stage, although a number of breeders of the silver fox claim to have made the business remunerative. It is believed that under suitable climatic conditions, and with a fair amount of the nature of the animals, the fur-bearing animals can be raised in large numbers.

The Mystery of the Maine.

Charlotte Observer.

For the correction of possible misapprehensions on the subject it may be well to say that the old battleship Maine was not raised because of any material values and so affected by sea concerned. So badly twisted, so water does the wreck appear that except as old iron the Maine possesses no material value at all. No selling price obtainable could possibly pay the expenses of salvage involved. The objects in view were, first, to reclaim for decent burial the bodies of the dead; second, to learn if possible what the cause of the explosion really was; and, third, to free Havana harbor from a hindering obstruction. On the part of some it was and is insistently proposed that the Maine be taken to Boston harbor or elsewhere as an historical relic. What has interested the general public most in connection with the project is the second motive mentioned, namely, the desire to ascertain definitely how the disaster occurred.

While it is not too much to say that the data set forth by the Sampson board of inquiry have been largely invalidated by subsequent knowledge, the later investigation, after the wreck lay bare, has substantiated the general conclusion reached during those exciting times. Least of all can the difficulty of accounting for the tragedy be avoided, since the keys of the magazines were found in the captain's cabin, by the old contention that the ship's own powder supplies blew her up. On the night of the explosion her magazines had been inspected with the utmost care; they were at the proper temperature for a tropical climate. There is no doubt that the explosion was caused by the explosion of the magazines.

the supposition that some mine laid in the harbor got loose and snote the Maine, but this theory presents about as many difficulties as any other which has yet been advanced.

Granting that the Maine was blown up from without, the circumstances of her fate thus remains unknown. Perhaps the mystery—for alleged confessions, of which there has already been at least one, would have to be received with great caution—will never be solved. Unsolved, it will always possess interest for the speculative imagination. It may in time accumulate some such literature as centers around the Diamond Necklace which helped to precipitate the French Revolution, not to mention many lesser and less kindred controversies like the identity of Junius and the mystery of the Man in the Iron Mask. If that greatest of real-life detectives, William J. Burns, had been placed promptly on the spot, there might be more facts and less story to tell.

Securing Orange County in Search of Lost Child.

Durham, Dec. 29.—Parties in squads of scores have been searching the western part of Orange county for little Bessie May Smith who wandered off and is believed to have been drowned. The child, three years old, seeing her tiny brother going to their father slipped away from her mother and tried to follow them to work. She lost her way at a branch three-quarters of a mile from the house and the little tracks vanish there. Near the place is White Cross creek, and it seems certain that she has been lost there. Nevertheless 150 men kept up the search all night, scouring the woods and fields without the slightest encouragement.

MONKEYS HAVE XMAS FEAT.

All Went Well Until Mike Chewed Up Table Cloth.

New York, Dec. 28.—Humans weren't the only ones to enjoy special Christmas dinners Monday, for the Yuletide spirit embraced the Bronx zoological park, where Head Keeper Frederick Engelholm and his assistant, James Spicer, had prepared for nine of their favorites a repast that brought joy to simian hearts.

It was quite a formal affair, too. The fortunate nine who received invitations were arrayed in garments befitting the occasion. Baldy, boasting eight years, five of which he has spent in the Bronx park zoo, was toastmaster. A special outfit of wearing apparel had been prepared for him, consisting of a keeper's uniform, complete, even to hat and shoe. Mimi, Mike and Baby wore gorgeous jackets, while Susie and Dick lent charm to the scene clothed in rompers. Betty's garb consisted of a blue skirt and a pair of khaki trousers. Sammy and Louise wore the same.

At 10 o'clock the festivities began. The guests were ushered to a table located in Apo-hall, at the north end of the monkey house, where each one seated himself or herself on little stools and awaited the first course. Milk and toast, eggs, bananas, apples, candy and cakes were served in turn, every one of the banquetters doing full justice to the fare.

Mike (who is a lady by the way) went a little further than the other guests and tried to top off the feast by chewing up the table cloth. But this lapse, and the fact that Mimi insisted on spreading huge arms on the table were the only instances of bad manners. Best Mike picked up and