

SUICIDE CAUSED BY FAILURE OF FRIENDS TO PAY NOTES WHICH LYDA HAD ENDORSED

Detailed account of the tragical death of C. F. Lyda, who took his own life at his home in Mt. Hope, West Virginia on November 24, is given in the Beckley West Virginia paper, a copy of which appears below.

Surviving are the widow and five-year-old son. Mrs. Lyda was, before her marriage six years ago, Miss Irene Duckworth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Duckworth, of Brevard. The body was brought to Brevard where funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at the Baptist church, conducted by the pastor, Rev. W. H. Hartsell. Interment was in Gillespie cemetery.

Account of the tragedy follows: Putting a 32 calibre automatic pistol in his mouth, Wednesday morning, C. F. Lyda, prominent Mount Hope and Beckley business man, pulled the trigger. He had sent his stenographer from his office in the Masonic building to the post-office, a few minutes earlier, and as he used a revolver with a silencer, only a muffled thud was heard, as he struck the floor. The bullet went upward thru his head, and lodged in the ceiling.

A few minutes later Miss Hummel returned, saw the body lying in a pool of blood. Fearing that he was suffering from a hemorrhage, she summoned Dr. C. B. Anderson to the scene. As Dr. Anderson went in the room, and noticed the gun lying on the floor, Mr. Lyda gasped for the final time, and died.

Blames Friends

The cause for his action was revealed in a note which he wrote just before pulling the trigger. It blames his friends and unpaid notes he has endorsed for them for the necessity of committing suicide. The note, which is dramatic and is written in terse but telling words says:

November 24, 1926, 9 A. M. To the public or whom it may concern:— I carry \$100,000 life insurance, of which \$50,000 is payable to my creditors, which are many. My friends have imposed on me, and I have been foolish enough to go on their paper. When the paper was due many of them could not or would not pay their obligations. I endeavored to take care of the paper when due, with the result I am compelled to take my life to pay a part of my obligations.

My wife and baby are absolutely innocent of any wrong doing, and I do not want any one to blame them for any actions, and I alone take the blame and fully realize what I am doing.

C. F. LYDA. With this evidence at hand the coroner's jury which was summoned by N. S. Allen, chief of police of Mount Hope, and presided over by Justice of the Peace D. C. Station, of Scarbro, returned a verdict that his death was occasioned by a self-inflicted pistol wound.

The pistol with which he did the shooting, said to have been borrowed from a friend a short time previously, and his final death note are in the possession of Squire Station.

Mr. Lyda's body was shipped yesterday morning to Brevard, North Carolina, his wife's former home. His widow and child accompanied the body.

His will has not been made public, but it is presumed that \$40,000 insurance will go to his widow. Mr. Lyda had coal and real estate holdings throughout the section, and was majority stockholder in the Safety Railway Gate Company, the owner of valuable crossing safety device patents.

News of his action spread over the entire coalfields with incredible activity. He was particularly well known in this city and Mount Hope, as he maintained offices for his life insurance agency and his finance corporation in each. Many were heard to comment that they would have expected him to be the last one to kill himself.

PLANS FOR MORE POULTRY SHAPING

By L. A. AMMON
The business men have been figuring on what 100 good hens per farm, well housed and fed would mean to the county, and like the others that have given it thought, are in full accord with the idea. It means so many thousand dollars to the county that the Chamber of Commerce has appointed Messrs. C. C. Yongue, S. M. Macfie and Thos. H. Shipman as a committee to work with the County Agent.

The banks are also seeking to help in the campaign, and later some propositions will be made the farmers, that will help them in getting a start of pure blood.

A big New York poultryman writes me that he is interested in North Carolina, and particularly Transylvania county, and says poultry is his game. Two during November.

Vick Chemical Company, makers of the famous salve, have sent me a long list of questions to fill out. They are hunting for some section with considerable level land. The object is to get the farmers to grow mint as a cash crop. What they wish to know is the average returns on corn and other crops. This is a contract crop, or sold at market price. The returns are medium.

My report for the year 1926 shows that more time was spent on poultry than any other subject, with dairy cattle second, and truck third. Marketing work consumed considerable time, near the top.

The report shows that the farmers ordered 210 tons of lime, and through their own leaders 176 tons of fertilizers. Do you like to answer questions? Two thousand, one hundred and fifteen were asked the agent in a serious way, and 307 telephone calls. Wrote 464 individual letters, and cards and circulars some more. At 31 meetings, 1,421 people attended.

Some thirty poultry houses built or rebuilt, seven brooder houses, eighteen thousand pounds of chickens sold in ten weeks. Milk stock, purebred and high grade to the number of 31 were brought in to the county. Co-operative marketing ran up better than \$7,000, and profits or savings made to farmers better than \$1,500.

Other states where poultry is being bred, they have an annual rooster swapping and sale day. Do we need such a day yet?

After two years of planning, Mr. Gene Duckworth starts his store for buying country produce, and here is hoping all can work to each others advantage and make it a real institution of the county.

Mr. English has sold eight head of his Gurnseys, without trying.

County Agent goes to Raleigh for a week's study next week. Will see the boys about rye.

WORKSHOP THEATRE PRESENTS 3 PLAYS

"The Workshop Theatre" presents three plays Friday evening, December 3rd, at the high school auditorium, under the auspices of the Elementary Parent-Teacher association. A well-known play director, Miss Edith Russell, will direct the plays.

The object of the play is to raise money for the elementary school library. The aim of the school is to become standard this year and 500 volumes of standard literature are necessary to meet this requirement. The school and the parent-teachers association must pay for these books, and in order to accomplish this goal they need the cooperation and support of all citizens of the town.

A FINE CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

In selecting a Christmas present for your friends or relatives, why not send them the Home paper?

Nearly every family in the county has some relatives who have moved to other parts of the country. The Brevard News would be just like getting a long letter from home.

Send The News to them. We will accept the subscription and write the people that the paper is a present from you. Don't you know they would enjoy getting The Brevard News every week in the year?

Try it once. We're most certain it would be a most acceptable Christmas Gift.

THREE MEN TO BE TRIED FOR MURDER IN COURT THAT CONVENES NEXT MONDAY

Criminal term of Superior court will convene here next Monday morning with His Honor, J. T. Shaw, presiding. In the big docket to be tried there are two murder cases and one shooting case, the balance being liquor cases in the main.

Louie Whitmire is to be tried on the charge of murdering Jess Masters.

R. A. Eden and C. F. Lynch are to be tried jointly on the charge of murdering John Chapman.

Sylvanus McCall is to be tried on a charge of shooting Samuel Owen.

The above named cases are the ones of outstanding interest. Most of the balance of the docket is made up minor cases, generally regarding violations of the liquor laws.

PROMINENT MAN DIED LAST FRIDAY BREVARD BUS LINE HAS CHANGED HANDS

One of North Carolina's most prominent and best loved citizens passed away last Friday, when death claimed Mr. J. T. Fortune, Forest City. At the time of his death Mr. Fortune had reached the ripe old age of 74 years, and up until two or three years ago had been active in business, political and civic affairs. His main business was farming and merchandising, but he has always been a natural leader, and was mayor of Forest City for several terms, and held other offices to which he was called by admiring friends.

At the funeral, which was held last Sunday, six grandsons acted as honorary pallbearers, while six granddaughters were flowerbearers. Hundreds of people attended the funeral in testimony of the high esteem in which their departed friend had been held.

Mrs. C. E. Lowe, of Brevard, is one of the surviving children of the late Mr. Fortune. Mrs. Lowe and family attended the funeral services.

H. F. Copeland, of Asheville, has purchased the bus line from Brevard to Hendersonville from W. O. K. King, and is operating the line with large buses, of the \$12,000 kind. The Brevard line now runs through to Asheville, stopping at the Hendersonville terminal for passengers at that point. But Brevard-Asheville passengers now make the trip without change of cars.

For the present, it is announced the schedule will be on the two-hour limit, beginning at 8 o'clock in the morning. Later, it is intimated, the schedule may be improved.

Desiring a central location, the new owners of the bus line have leased the Whitmire building, directly facing the county court house, for use as a bus terminal here. The room is large and is being converted into a regular waiting room. The buses are now using the building.

MEDFORD GROUP FEAST AT SYLVA

Members of the organization of the Medford Furniture Co., and their families were guests of the firm at a Thanksgiving dinner given in Sylva last Thursday. C. B. Medford, Cordell Russell and P. E. Moody, executives of the firm, were hosts to the employees of the four stores located at Brevard, Sylva, Waynesville and Canton.

The Brevard store was represented by Russell Cordell, Joe Lyday, Francis Sledge, Frank McClure and P. R. Russell.

The Brevard store is the last one organized in the Medford chain, and officials of the company were highly pleased with the progress made by the local store.

Turkey and all the trimmings were served up to the organization which serves the Medford Furniture company faithfully.

"FLAPPER GRANDMOTHER" REHEARSALS ARE STARTED

Rehearsals for the musical comedy, "Flapper Grandmother," to be presented here next Tuesday night, December 7, were started this week under the direction of Miss Elliott, a trained director. The cast is made up entirely of home talent, from the tiny tots up to the Flapper Grandmother, and will afford a delightful evening's entertainment.

GIRLS WEARING OVERALLS TO BE ADMITTED FREE TO CLEMSON THURSDAY

All girls who wear overalls to Clemson Theatre today (Thursday) will be admitted free to both the matinee and night performances. The picture showing on this occasion will be "Mike," with the showing of the first chapter of "Snowed In."

COMMUNITY SINGING

Rosman community singing class will meet next Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock at Pisgah Forest Baptist church for an afternoon's singing. All people are invited to attend the meeting, which is being held for the purpose of armpousing a greater interest in community classes in the county.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY MEETS TUESDAY AFTERNOON

The Missionary Society of the Baptist church will meet next Tuesday afternoon, at 3:30 at the church.

Joseph Gray, 69, of Hertford, Eng., celebrated his golden wedding with his second wife, whom he married when he was 19.

POSTOFFICE RECEIPTS SHOW INCREASE OF 39 PER CENT IN FOUR-YEAR PERIOD

THE PRAYER CORNER IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."—I Thess. 5:18.

On Thanksgiving evening I read a poem with the above title, and said, "I must share this with my readers, for we all need it."

1. This saying is a hard one, Heavenly Father—"In everything give thanks"—in everything. How can I thank Thee for this crushing sorrow? And how can I rejoice and praise and sing?

2. This burden is too heavy for my shoulders; it presses sore; I bow beneath the load; and long the way has been o'er which I journeyed; and full of briars and thorns has been the road.

3. Yea, bleeding are my feet—see, Thou, my Father! And tattered 's my raiment, worn so long; and battered by the winds and stormy tempests. I hide me, in my shame, and Earth's throng.

4. Yet, Thou hast said it, O Most Holy Father—"in everything give thanks"—and fain would I obey Thee from the heart, where lips are silent; and on Thy promises I would rely.

5. "Come unto Me"—I come to Thee, my Savior! "My grace sufficient is"—Lord I believe! "I never will forsake thee"—Yea, Lord, never! "Peace I leave with you"—I will no more grieve.

6. "Child, cast thy burden on me"—Dear Lord take it! "I will sustain thee"—I accept Thy word. "Lean thou on me"—I would be meek and lowly. "Ye shall find rest"—I rest on Thee, my Lord!

7. "In everything give thanks. Oh, do Thou teach me to praise Thy name, O God, when billows roar. Heedless of thorn and briar, storm and tempest. 'I'll press toward the mark," and reach the goal.

8. I'd thank Thee when the thunders roar above me; I'd thank Thee when grief's fires about me glow; I'd thank Thee when the friends of life may leave me; I'd thank Thee when the ice winds o'er me blow.

Let Thine own will be done in me, O Father! My will I would have moulded into Thine. Do with me as Thou wilt, but hold me, keep me—Thy will be done, O God—not mine, not mine.

A PRAYER FOR THE WILL OF GOD

O Thou, who wilt not break the bruised reed nor quench the smoking flame, give us grace to give thanks in everything, for it is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning us.

O most holy Father, Thou has said "In everything give thanks," and we would fain obey Thee from the heart, where our lips are silent, and on Thy promises we would rely.

Hast Thou not said, O most merciful Jesus, "Come unto me." We come to Thee, our Savior. "My grace sufficient is." Lord we believe. "I never will forsake thee." Yea, Lord, never. "Peace I leave with thee." We will grieve no more.

Hast Thou not bidden us "Cast thy burden on me." Lord, take it. "I will sustain thee." We accept Thy word. Thou hast said "Lean thou on me." We would be meek and lowly. "Ye shall find rest." We'll rest on Thee, our Lord.

Oh, do Thou teach us to praise Thy name when billows roll, heedless of thorn and briar, storm and tempest, to press toward the mark, and reach the goal. Give us grace to thank Thee, when the thunders roar above us, when grief's fires glare about us, when the friends of life may leave us, when the winds o'er us blow.

Let Thine own will be done in us, O Father. Our will we would have moulded into Thine. Do with us as Thou wilt, but hold us, keep us—Thy will be done, O God, not ours, not ours, Amen.

WE THANK YOU, FRIENDS.

People of Brevard and Transylvania County have been very good to us in telling us how much they like The Brevard News. We shall strive to give you a better paper each week than the week before. That is our goal.

YOU CAN HELP US.

By asking your friends to subscribe to The Brevard News. The more subscribers we get, the more we can do in the way of improving the paper. Ask your neighbor to take the paper. We'll appreciate it very much, indeed.

There is no better way of judging the growth of a community than that of studying the postoffice receipts. Postmaster R. L. Nicholson has submitted the following figures showing the increase in receipts at the Brevard postoffice during the past four years.

| For year ending: | Receipts |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| June 30, 1923, Receipts—\$9,868.55 | |
| June 30, 1924, Receipts—10,465.56 | |
| June 30, 1925, Receipts—11,183.36 | |
| June 30, 1926, Receipts—13,699.11 | |

Analyzing the above statement, it is found that the four-year increase amounts to nearly 39 per cent. It is understood that the above receipts are only for stamps and does not include the money order business at all. The money order business during this immediate past year amounted to something over seventy thousand dollars.

If one is interested in the future of Brevard, a little calculation, based on the above report, will offer a way of arriving at a fair and most accurate future growth of Brevard, taking it for granted that the growth in the future will be no more rapid than that of the past four years.

But in making such calculation it is well to take into consideration all the new roads that have been completed and those soon to be finished. These roads surely will add tremendously to the city's future growth. In addition, there is the matchless activity of the Chamber of Commerce, with its big advertising program. The Kiwanis club, reaching out to every point of vantage and telling of Transylvania's assets, will add much to the future growth of Brevard.

It is a most gratifying report, and should be encouraging to every citizen of the county.

LEGION AUXILIARY MAKES FINAL PLEA

The American Legion Auxiliary met in the office of the president, Mrs. H. E. Perkins, on November 24th. Those present were: Mrs. Perkins, Mrs. O. L. Ervin, Mrs. S. M. Macfie, Mrs. R. R. Fisher and Mrs. W. W. Duckworth.

It was decided to elect new officers, and make a final effort for assistance. If more interest is not taken by all the members of the Auxiliary will discontinue activities and the charter will be forfeited. The few members that are greatly interested, but cannot work alone, will move their membership to the Asheville Unit. Won't you do your part? All old members that are behind with their dues, pay up! Remember—the Auxiliary dies if you are not interested NOW.

The newly elected officers are: President—Mrs. W. H. Duckworth Sec. and Treas.—Mrs. Z. W. Nichols Vice-President—Mrs. H. A. Plummer Historian—Mrs. W. M. Cloud. Thelma R. Fisher, Sec-Treas.

WOMAN'S BUREAU TO MEET MONDAY AFTERNOON, 6TH

Regular meeting of the Woman's Bureau will be held at the Chamber of Commerce room next Monday afternoon at three-thirty o'clock. An interesting program will be provided, with Mrs. Oliver Orr as program leader.

Light refreshments will be served by the hostesses for the afternoon. Mrs. Z. W. Nichols, Mrs. D. G. Ward, Mrs. Harry Patton and Mrs. W. H. Duckworth. All members and prospective members are cordially invited to be present. Election of officers will take place at this meeting.

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