

THE GAB BAG

By ALAN BROWNING, JR.



THEY'RE PLANNING REAL ACTION

As one who often calls attention to this and that and frequently without intending to, arouses the ire of this and that citizen, we can't help but feel delighted that an article in this column last week which wondered in the Gab Bag's usual mild manner why fire escapes were not installed at the elementary school building, has resulted in a get-together of interested citizens who have gone the Gab Bag one better by putting in motion plans to give Elkin, not only a safer school, but a bigger and more adequate one.

After all, it is not the purpose of this column to attempt to start what may vulgarly be called a "stink," but to try and make Elkin a better town.

Some may not agree with our methods of doing this, but we feel that the best way to get something to the attention of the public is to just come out and say it and not beat around the bush.

Where we were critical last week, we are thankful that we can be complimentary this week. For under present plans, following an inspection of the school here by men who have the authority to do something about it, Elkin stands to gain a building that will be safe as far as fire is concerned, and larger to care for the increasing number of pupils which may be expected now that many employees of the Chatham Manufacturing Company are moving here with their families.

To install fire escapes on the building here would be a step toward making the building safer, but, as pointed out by school officials, the need is apparent for more space, and so, rather than put up escapes which would eventually go into discard as the need for additional room became imperative, the sensible thing to do now is to remodel the building, tear away the auditorium to make way for additional classrooms, and see that everything is as fire proof as possible in the doing.

A new auditorium, according to proposed plans, would be constructed as an addition to Elkin's modern new high school building, with possibly a couple of more classrooms there.

We would say, if these plans can be made an actuality—and

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R. M. Chatham Dies Here on Sunday

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on the streets. He was a member of the Elkin Methodist church.

His survivors are his wife, who before her marriage was Miss Mary Armfield, three sons, Hugh Chatham, of Stanlytown, Va.; Richard Martin Chatham, Jr., and Bobby Chatham, and two daughters, Betty and Margaret Chatham; one brother, Paul Chatham, of Charlotte; two half-brothers, Alex Chatham, of this city, and T. Dan Chatham, of Winston-Salem, and one half-sister, Mrs. M. E. Motsinger, of Winston-Salem.

Funeral rites were held Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock from the Methodist church. The rites were in charge of Rev. Herman F. Duncan, pastor of the church, and Rev. L. B. Abernethy, a former pastor. The esteem and love of a host of friends was manifest in the beautiful floral offering and the many who attended the services. As a mark of respect to the passing of Mr. Chatham, the Chatham mills suspended operation during the hour of the service and all business houses of the town were closed.

Active pallbearers were: Dr. E. G. Click, Fred Neaves, W. V. Holcomb, C. C. Poindexter, R. G. Smith, H. C. Graham, Click Darnell, and J. R. Poindexter.

Honorary pallbearers were: W. A. Neaves, A. M. Smith, Worth Gray, Z. H. Dixon, T. H. Eldson, E. F. McNeer, M. A. Biggs, Mason Lillard, J. Frank Miller, R. L. Doughton, Washington, D. C., J. Gordon Hackett and Walter Gwyn, North Wilkesboro, R. A. Doughton, Sparta, Cameron Morrison, Charlotte, Frank Carter and Cape Haynes, Mount Airy.

Among the out-of-town friends and relatives attending the funeral in addition to the above were: Mrs. E. C. Bivins, Mr. and Mrs. Grover Lovell, Mrs. Oscar Merritt, Mt. Airy; Blair Gwyn, Ed Finley and Joe McCoy, North Wilkesboro; Miss Barbara Weedon, Detroit; Bob Carter and Thomas White, Yadkinville; Dr. T. W. Shore, Boonville; Mrs. M. E. Motsinger, Miss Myrtle Mottsinger, Alex Mottsinger, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Chatham, Miss Phyllis Pinkston, Winston-Salem; Paul Chatham and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lillard, Charlotte; Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Stanley, Clyde Stanley, Stanlytown, Va.; Miss Hazel Hudley, Bassetts, Va.; Jack Armfield, Troy; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Deaton, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Nicholson, Miss Jennie Colvert, Miss Sallie Chunn, Miss Tonnie Turner, Mrs. Lonnie Turner, Mrs. R. H. Bennett, Mrs. L. P. Lewis, Mrs. Annie Lewis, Mrs. P. E. Bradley, Wesley Jones, Robert White, Don Cochran, and W. E. Natress, of Statesville.

A GOOD IDEA
The various civic clubs of Elkin have gotten together to form a Forum, the purpose of which is to bring to Elkin outstanding speakers to discuss timely topics of interest to the community and the nation.

It would seem to us that it is a good idea, and we will be glad to appear as a speaker at any time the Forum should go crazy enough to invite us. We never tire of giving our celebrated and informative lecture on "The Family Life of an Earwig." If you have any earwigs in your home you should have a vital interest in hearing us.

All kidding aside, though, this body should be able to secure some really outstanding people to speak. We only hope that this column's approval doesn't kill the entire thing before it starts.

Maybe its leaders should have it vaccinated.

M. M. Mayberry Dies on Saturday

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Reed hospital in Washington and other government hospitals. He had planned to return to Washington to continue treatment when a cold from which he was suffering grew worse and he was admitted to the local hospital. His death came as a distinct shock to relatives and friends.

He was associated with his brother in the operation of the City Transit company and the City Cabs here, and was well and favorably known. He was a member of the American Legion.

Mr. Mayberry was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John S. Mayberry of Jonesville, and had spent his entire life in this vicinity with the exception of the year he served in the army overseas.

He is survived by his wife who before her marriage was Miss Myrtle Reece, two daughters, Misses Ruth and Nancy Ann Mayberry, one son, Lot Mayberry; three brothers, Dewey and John Mayberry of Jonesville and Theodore Mayberry of Elkin; and three sisters, Mrs. Hugh Holcomb of Jonesville, Mrs. George Hart of North Wilkesboro, and Mrs. Joe Apperson of Winston-Salem.

Funeral services were held Monday morning at the home in Jonesville. The rites were in charge of Rev. D. G. Reece and Rev. Dwight B. Mullis of Jonesville, and Rev. Mr. Binkley. Interment was in Hollywood cemetery here.

Active pallbearers were business associates of the deceased: B. E. Davis, Thomas Calloway, Roy Waldrup, Bruce Brown, H. K. Johnson, W. R. Cox, Lloyd Pardue, Joe Gentry and Wade Whitaker. Honorary pallbearers were members of the George Gray Post of the American Legion.

FORUM COUNCIL HOLDS MEETING

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sell Burcham was named secretary. The following committee appointments were also made: Discussion, Mrs. E. C. James, chairman, L. S. Weaver and Russell Burcham; publicity, Mrs. Ruth Byrd Crater; hospitality, Mrs. R. C. Freeman; house, Mrs. George Royall, and attendance, Lowell Smithey, chairman, Mrs. Paul Gwyn and A. B. Scroggs.

The council selected Dr. Ralph McDonald of the faculty of the University of North Carolina, and former candidate for governor of North Carolina, as the initial speaker at a meeting on the evening of March 8, at 8 o'clock. Dr. McDonald is at present engaged in extension work at the University. He will speak on "Federal Aid to Education." The meeting will be held at the elementary school auditorium and will be open to the public.

The Forum council is composed of the following members, representing the various civic organizations of the town: Woman's club, Mrs. George Royall, Mrs. R. C. Freeman, Mrs. Paul Gwyn; Kiwanis club, L. S. Weaver, Marion Allen, Garland Johnson; T. C. U. club, Russell Burcham, Lowell Smithey and C. J. Hyslip; Elkin Merchants Association; George Royall, Joe Bivins; Parent-Teachers, Elkin; Mrs. E. C. James, Miss Blanche Dixon, Mrs. C. A. McNeill; Parent-Teachers, Jonesville; Rev. D. B. Mullis, A. B. Scroggs; American Legion; F. W. Graham, Paul Gwyn; American Legion Auxiliary, Mrs. Joe Bivins, Mrs. Ruth Byrd Crater, Mrs. Edworth Harris.

150 PRESENT AT LOCAL BANQUET

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more than 3,000. Most of the epithets were gleaned from the South and New England, and a few of them from abroad. The talk was humorous and highly entertaining. The speaker was introduced by Garland Johnson.

The banquet opened with the national anthem, in unison, by the assemblage, with Walter Combs offering the invocation. Mrs. J. H. Beeson led group singing during the evening, with Miss Peggy Royall playing the accompaniment.

Joe Bivins, retiring president, presided over the meeting, and spoke briefly, thanking the members for the cooperation received during the past year. He turned the gavel over to the new president, George E. Royall, who presented a brief humorous program. The officers of the association and the speaker were toasted in song by the group. Mrs. Beeson sang as a solo Irving Berlin's "God Bless America."

The hall was attractively decorated with American flags, suggestive of Washington's birthday. The long tables had streamers of red crepe paper interspersed with red, white and blue candles, running the full length of the tables. Small hatchets were used as place cards.

The event was climaxed with a square dance, with music being furnished by a local string band.

SURRY CIVIL COURT COMES TO AN END

Surry County Civil Court ended Tuesday, after completing a successful term. Although the court was detained in opening due to unavoidable circumstances, much progress was made.

Judge J. Will Pless presided over the term in which many routine matters were disposed of, and several divorces were granted.

One of the leading divorce cases was that of Graham Parks and Bertha Parks, who were asking annulment, but the evidence presented by the plaintiff caused the judge to motion the case nonsuit. Wilmer Snow Swanson also secured a divorce from J. F. Swanson.

MEETING OF 4-H CLUBS TO BE HELD IN DOBSON

A meeting of all County 4-H clubs will be held in Dobson at the Courthouse on March 4, at 9:45 p.m., at which time all members and their parents are invited to attend.

L. R. Harrill, state 4-H leader, will be the speaker for the occasion. Several honorable recognitions will be made, including that of the Honor Club of 1939 and the champion in each project.

Mrs. Grace Pope Brown, Home Demonstration Agent, and A. P. Cobb, assistant county agent, will be in charge of the event.

PAYMENTS

The U. S. Department of Agriculture will begin distributing \$225,000,000 in parity payments within a few weeks to producers of wheat, cotton, corn, and rice who cooperate in the AAA program.

4-County Tourney Ends Wednesday

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boro boys 21, West Yadkin boys 19; West Yadkin girls 18, Piney Creek girls 20; Ronda boys 18, Piney Creek boys 10; Ronda girls 20, Sparta girls 19; Elkin boys 29, Wilkesboro boys 11; West Yadkin girls 20, Boonville girls 16; Yadkinville boys 15, Wilkesboro boys 4.

Monday, February 26: Elkin girls 6, Jonesville girls 19; Jonesville boys 31, Ronda boys 9; Yadkinville girls 19, Copeland girls 11; Boonville boys 34, Copeland boys 16.

ATKINSON MAKES TALK ON GEO. WASHINGTON

An interesting talk on George Washington was made before the Elkin Kiwanis club at their weekly meeting last Thursday evening, by J. S. Atkinson, deputy collector of revenue, and a well-known Elkin man.

Mr. Atkinson's talk came as the feature of a program observing Washington's birthday. Well versed in history, the talk was both interesting and instructive.

Jack Carter was welcomed as a new member of the club during the meeting. Kermit Combs, of Ashland, Va., was a guest of his brother, Kiwanian Walter Combs.

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ASSAULT CASE IS UNDER WAY

Yadkin County Man Faces First Degree Charge in Superior Court

Yadkinville, Feb. 28—(Special)—The trial of Erskine Lackey, 21, on a charge of rape, was begun Tuesday afternoon in superior court here with the selection of a jury taking up several hours Tuesday and one hour Wednesday morning. Twelve men were selected, some from the regular jury, some from an extra venire of 25 summoned Monday night and four from another extra 25 summoned Tuesday night. The trial was still in progress and will likely last through today.

Lackey, who lives near Union Grove, is charged with first degree rape. Miss Treva Scott, 20, of the Smithtown section, is the prosecuting witness.

In her testimony from the witness stand here yesterday morning Miss Scott testified that Lackey, together with Early Cranfill and her sister, Neva Scott, went to ride on May 21, last, and that Lackey, who said his name was Howard Parker, assaulted her, accomplishing his purpose two times. She gave details of the alleged crime. She was followed by other witnesses until mid-afternoon when Lackey took the witness stand.

Just how long the trial would last was uncertain last night. This is the first trial for first de-

gree rape in Yadkin county in many years.

Lackey, alias Howard Parker, is represented by Attorneys A. T. and Brewster Grant, of Mocksville, Allen and Henderson, of Elkin, while Solicitor A. E. Hall is assisted by Attorney Frank Freeman, of Dobson in the role of private prosecutor.

The jury selected for the trial is composed of J. P. Nicks, Clint Hauser, C. L. Reece, W. C. Bell, Charles Parks, Wade Dinkins, Carl W. Pinnix, H. O. Henderson, M. H. Angell, Walter Michael, C. G. Ray and Earl Finney, J. P. Henderson is the 13th juror, to be used only in case of illness of another.

The alleged crime occurred on May 21. After that Lackey disappeared and it was some time before he was located in the Army where he had joined, and was on his way to Honolulu. He had traveled a distance of 26,000 miles before he finally landed back at Brooklyn, N. Y., last October.

It is probable the state will ask for a verdict of attempted rape after the evidence is in, which will likely be some time today.

ADVISORY BOARD IS TO HOLD MEETING

John W. Corfer, superintendent of Surry schools, announced Tuesday that the County Advisory and Planning Committee will hold its regular session at the Dobson Woman's Club building on Monday night.

Notices have been sent to all members and those expected to attend from Elkin are F. W. Graham, J. Mark McAdams, Mrs. W. M. Allen, Miss Betty Allen, M. Q. Snow and Errol Hayes.

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