

WHITE PLAINS HAS BIG FIRE

Nichols General Store Is Destroyed by Blaze Which Threatens Town

LOSS SAID TO BE \$25,000

The entire village of White Plains, quiet little rural community in central Surry county, was threatened with destruction about 5 o'clock Sunday afternoon by a fire which razed the large general store owned and operated by George S. Nichols.

The store and its contents were destroyed, with an estimated loss of \$25,000, and only heroic efforts by White Plains residents and hundreds of people who came from Mount Airy and neighboring communities prevented the blaze from sweeping all buildings in the center of the village.

The historic White Plains Friends church, one of the oldest places of worship in Surry county, was ignited by the flying embers but quick work with bucket lines, wet blankets and brooms

saved the church with small damage.

The home of Kit Marshall, standing only a short distance west of the store, also caught from the larger fire and was damaged considerably. The large home of Nichols himself, which stood just east of his store, was saved, although it was in grave danger of destruction for over an hour.

The hundreds of volunteer fire-fighters were hampered in their efforts by the intense heat and by the danger from a possible explosion of the two gasoline tanks that stood just in front of the building.

The fire was made the more spectacular by the almost constant explosion of shotgun shells and rifle cartridges that were destroyed in the fire. Nichols had more than 2,000 shells and cartridges in his stock, most of which were carried from the store and placed just across the highway. However, they ignited there when the wind carried the blaze across the road, and for more than half an hour the explosions sounded much like a battle. Portions of the cartridges were thrown as much as 100 feet in all directions, adding to the danger faced by the fire-fighters.

The fire, origin of which could not be determined, started in a small building behind the huge frame store.

Nichols and his wife were not at home at the time the fire started, having left home about 2:30 o'clock to drive to Elkin. Their first knowledge of the blaze was when they were returning and saw it from the top of a hill two or three miles away.

Nichols estimated his loss in the store building, stock and fixtures at \$25,000, of which only \$4,000 was covered by insurance. He had operated the business for the past 31 years and carried one

Dobson School Has Industrial Art Department



The Dobson high school is the only rural school in Surry county which boasts an adequately equipped industrial arts department, a scene from which is pictured above. In this department, which contains \$800 worth of equipment, numerous articles of furniture are made by the 50 youths who are taking the training. George Williams, the instructor (shown near right center, wearing coat), is a graduate of A.S.T.C. and is a native of Yadkin county. He received his start in this type work in a shop on his father's farm near Yadkinville.

of the largest stocks of any rural store in Western North Carolina. The store carried furniture, hardware, dry goods, clothing, shoes and a large line of drugs in addition to the groceries, feed and other farm supplies. His home and its contents, which were saved, were valued at more than \$6,000.

The Nichols store was one of the landmarks of the White Plains section. It was founded more than 60 years ago by the late John Nichols, former Surry county sheriff and a grandfather of the present proprietor, who took it over 31 years ago from his own father, the late George Y. Nichols. The small building that caught fire first Sunday was the original store operated by Mr. Nichols' grandfather.

28 Cases Heard In Yadkin County Court Tuesday

The regular monthly session of Yadkin county criminal court ended a one-day session late Tuesday night after disposing of 28 cases during the day. Judge S. C. Williams and Solicitor F. D. B. Harding worked into the night clearing the docket.

One of the interesting cases of the day was that of state against Mrs. Click Harrison, charged with operating a disorderly house. She lives with her husband near Deep Creek Friends church and the case brought many people from that section. She was found not guilty.

Another case of local interest was that of Vance Hutchens, Yadkinville boy, charged with public drunkenness and possession. He asked the judge not to send him to the roads but away where he could take a new start. He was sentenced to serve 9 months on the roads, capious to issue only in Yadkin county, which means he will leave the county or serve the sentence.

Glenn C. Woodie, operator of the Salisbury-Mt. Airy bus line, paid the costs for overloading on highway 67, Boonville to Elkin.

Mildred Smith, young white girl, plead guilty to violating the motor laws and paid the costs. Otho (alias Jack) Rudisell, no driver's license, 30 days suspended; VPL four months roads suspended on payment of \$50 and costs. Driver's license revoked 12 months.

Flake Brown, receiving stolen property, found guilty. Six months, to state, appeals, bond \$500.

Carl Boyles, speeding, \$10 and costs.

Wilsie (Buck) Baily, speeding, \$10 and costs.

James T. Cockerham, violating motor laws, costs.

Henry Caudle and Fred Shelton, affray. Plead guilty. Thirty day, suspended on payment of costs.

Rex Davis, colored, larceny, pleads guilty. Sixty days on road. Weldon Duncan, VPL, 3 months, suspended. Twenty dollars and costs.

Curtiss F. Evans, driving drunk, \$50 and costs, driving license revoked 12 months.

Layman Gwynn, colored, 30 days, suspended, \$10 and costs.

James Helton, colored, injury to property, 3 months on roads. Capious not to issue for 24 hours. (Gone to South Carolina.)

Eva Mae Lee, no drivers license. Nolpross.

Kimbell Mullis, driving drunk, not guilty.

Woodrow F. Parsons, reckless driving, costs.

John D. Royall, Ellis Royall, Dan Royall, VPL, John D. and Dan not guilty. Ellis, \$25 and costs.

Luther Royall, stopping road. Judgment suspended.

J. E. Ring, disposing of mortgaged property, judgment suspended to April term.

Francis H. Ray, speeding, \$10 and costs.

Paul Southard, larceny, 2 months to state. Suspended, \$25 and costs.

Coy Sizemore, bad brakes, one-half costs.

Cleo Swaim, improper lights. One-half costs.

Norman Spencer Shue, speeding. Costs.

R. S. Voss, speeding. Costs.

File Bonds

Miss Carolyn Barnette and Vern Ester, charged with manslaughter in connection with the wreck near Boonville March 3rd in which two people were killed, had their case continued. Miss Barnette filed a bond of \$500, and Ester gave bond of \$1,000 to April term.

20,000 sheep pastured in a California desert have had no water for 60 days but are said to be "fat and full."

DR. McDONALD SPEAKER HERE

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in the United States, and said that out of the 700 to 800 forums in the United States that more than 20 of them were in North Carolina, and these are sponsored jointly by the Department of Education, the University of North Carolina and the state's public schools.

Dr. McDonald spoke again at 8 o'clock in the Methodist church, this being the initial meeting of the recently organized forum in Elkin. Prior to his evening address, Rev. Herman F. Duncan of the Methodist church, offered the invocation, and Mrs. J. H. Beeson, soloist, sang "God Bless America," accompanied by Mrs. Franklin Folger. The speaker was introduced by Dr. E. G. Click, Garland Johnson, chairman of the local council, presided. Dr. McDonald prefaced his remarks by saying that to his knowledge this was the first forum in North Carolina to be held in a church, and added that it was entirely fitting that it should be held there.

Speaking on the subject of "Federal Aid to Education," he presented contrasting views, defining the advantages and disadvantages of such aid, and explained in detail a bill for school funds to be distributed to the various states, now pending in the U. S. Congress. He also gave comparative statistics of the schools of North Carolina with other schools of the nation. After discussing the question from practically every angle Dr. McDonald invited opinions from the audience and many joined in the open discussion of the several phases of such legislation.

He emphasized the point that the forum is designed for open discussion and expression of the people and for bringing them together to discuss problems of timely interest, and that it was truly American in ideals, being similar to the town meetings held by early settlers to discuss their various problems.

Other speakers will be brought to Elkin to address the forum in the near future, three other similar meetings being planned for the spring months.

At the Kiwanis meeting, presided over by W. G. Carter, a past president, in the absence of both the president and vice-president, H. C. Graham and T. A. Leeper were welcomed as new members, and Kiwanian P. M. Greene of the Mount Airy club, was a visitor.

In observance of National Girl Scout Week, the girl scouts of Elkin will be guests of the club at this evening's meeting.

TO OBSERVE FRIDAY HERE AS ARBOR DAY

Friday will be observed as Arbor Day and members of the Garden Department of the Woman's Club urge that all citizens observe the day by planting trees or shrubs on their premises.

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TANNER SAYS NO CHOICE BUT TO SIGN, IN REPORT

(Continued from page one)

well and fought with all its might, and it did well beyond all expectations. I will not use the commonplace word, heroes. I will say they fought like men. We had many great victories and only on the main frontier were we forced to withdraw somewhat . . .

"But we are a small people. The same men had to fight all the time and it was inevitable that they became tired . . .

"We asked for help from Sweden . . . Its neutrality policy did not permit it, which rendered the position still more difficult."

Both the cabinet and Parliament had met during the morning. The cabinet approved Tanner's speech and Parliament considered the ratification of the treaty.



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SCHEDULE OF PAY IS GIVEN

(Continued from page one)

burley, one cent per pound; peanuts 12.5 cents per 100 pounds; potatoes (in commercial areas), three cents per bushel; and commercial vegetables, \$1.50 per acre.

Farmers who plant within their acreage allotments for cotton and wheat can earn combined conservation and parity payments of 3.15 cents per pound on the normal yield of the cotton acreage allotments, and 19 cents per bushel on the normal yield of the wheat acreage allotments.

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NEW CAROLINA SERVICE STATION OPENS FRIDAY

The Carolina Service Station, located on South Bridge street, will open Friday morning in modern new quarters that has just been constructed, the old building having been torn completely away.

As a special opening offer on Saturday only, the station will give one quart of motor oil free with each 10 gallons of gasoline sold.

Operated by Rafe Davis, the Carolina Service Station handles Texaco gasolines, oils and greases, and also sells Firestone tires. The new station is completely modern in every way and is prepared to give complete service.

Good Paraphrase
Teacher—Paraphrase the sentence, "He was bent on seeing her."
Pupil—The sight of her doubled him up.

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