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BIG SUM WANTED TO MEXICANS FOR GETTING ARMFIELD

Raleigh Observer Says High Point Man gave Information.

It cost three thousand dollars to get Jesse L. Armfield from his haven of refuge in Mexico according to a story The News and Observer published Tuesday morning.

The News and Observer's story follows: Three thousand pieces of silver, paid into the hands of half dozen Mexican greasers worked the undoing of Jesse L. Armfield, fugitive Thomsville banker.

Three thousand dollars, collected from among the depositors of the bank of which Armfield is alleged to have wrecked, were sufficient to encompass his return when the ordinary channels of international law were stopped by the fact that Mexico's present government has never been recognized in Washington.

Variations of the story of Armfield's return to American territory have drifted in to the Corporation Commission, but all of them agree on one point, that the former banker was in a manner of speaking kidnapped and thrust out of Mexico at a point where a North Carolina extradition paper was awaiting him in the hands of a North Carolina officer.

Officers who had a hand in the venture have been reticent in discussing modus operandi of Armfield's return to the United States. The mere fact that he is back has been sufficient to satisfy the majority of people concerned in the matter and Thomsville's chief of police has been content to let things speak for themselves.

Armfield's presence in Mexico City became known to the Thomsville chief three months ago. High Point furniture salesman got everywhere, and one of them happened to be in Mexico City, and happened to see Armfield on the streets of that poly-glot metropolis.

He sent word to Chief Wimberly. The chief said nothing, but went to work to devise means for his return by most happy etc. The correspondence is said to have been carried on in Spanish. The

Thomsville did, and perhaps does not yet recognize Mexico. Chief Wimberly through a well known detective agency established communications with the Chief of Police of Mexico City. Armfield was there, yes. The Mexican would be most happy, etc. The correspondence is said to have been carried on in Spanish. The

Concert Will Be Given By City's New Band

Lexington's cornet band, which was recently organized under the direction of R. D. Matthews, will give its first public concert Saturday evening, at 7:30 o'clock, either from the porch of the March Hotel or from the court square, weather permitting. The band has been holding frequent rehearsals and is said to have developed into a splendid musical organization.

Fight for Railway Station Carried to Raleigh Today

Petition Filed With the Corporation Commission by Committee

Another Arrest is Made in the Automobile Theft Case

Robert Hutchins has been arrested in Yadkin county and placed under \$1,500 bond on the charge of being implicated with J. E. Ragan and Ada Crofts in the theft of an automobile belonging to Prof. E. C. Denton.

Major Phillips is chairman of the committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce to champion the cause of Lexington in the fight for a new passenger station on the Southern Railway for Lexington.

That, about 1900 the Southern Railway Company built a small wooden building about 40 feet by 200 feet and used this building for waiting rooms for both whites and colored, offices for both passenger and freight, but the great majority of the space being used for freight sheds.

That, at that time the station was adequate for both passenger and freight traffic, as the population of the town was about 2,000, and the number of passengers using the station insignificant, as was also the freight traffic.

That, in 1922 Lexington has by the census of 1920, 5,253 people and including suburbs 8,000, with a passenger traffic of about \$110,000 annually, and a freight traffic amounting to over one million dollars annually.

That, in 1914 the officials of the Southern Railway acknowledged the need of a new station at Lexington and agreed to build a new passenger station, submitting plans for same.

That, later on account of the World War and the enormous traffic and drain on the resources of the Southern Railway the officials of the road asked to be relieved of their promise to build a passenger station in Lexington being patriotic and realizing the need of all available resources for the defense of the country.

That, the citizens of Lexington did not request that a new passenger station should be built until over three years after the Armistice was signed ending the War, but during the last three months the officials of the Southern Railway have been requested to redeem their promise and in each instance they have acknowledged the need of a new passenger station at Lexington, but in each instance they have finally and definitely refused to redeem their promise and provide for this growing city adequate passenger facilities.

Wherefore, your petitioner respectfully prays that an order be made for the construction of a new passenger station at Lexington which will be adequate not only for the present but for the future.

Three Bankers Of Raleigh Are Put Under Big Bonds

Charged with embezzlement, R. G. Allen, former president, J. H. Hightower, president, and H. H. Massey, cashier of the defunct Central Bank and Trust Company, of Raleigh, were arrested yesterday afternoon and held under bonds of \$50,000 each for Allen and Hightower and \$10,000 for Massey.

Talk of criminal prosecution in connection with the failure of the Raleigh bank which closed its doors on January 14, yesterday afternoon culminated in the three warrants, Hightower and Massey being charged with five counts of embezzlement in a joint warrant while the warrant against Allen contains eighteen counts, seven of which charge embezzlement. Both warrants were sworn out on the affidavit of Clarence Latham Chief Bank Examiner and were issued by Justice of the Peace J. E. Owens.

The only charge against Hightower and Massey is embezzlement, while the five counts totaling \$22,000, while in addition to the seven charges of embezzlement against Allen, totaling \$23,721.51, there are nine counts of making false entries on the books of the bank and, in addition to the

MANY HOGS NEAR HERE REPORTED DEAD OF CHOLERA

State Will Help Check The Epidemic by Inoculation

Perhaps 150 or more hogs have been the victims of an epidemic of hog cholera which struck a section of the county near Lexington a few days ago.

Dr. Brannock has been hard at work for several days inoculating hogs in and near the infected section. Monday he had with him Dr. Owen, of the State Department of Agriculture, who came here in response to a telephone call to investigate the situation.

In the meantime Dr. Brannock will assist all hog owners to secure the serum for inoculation against cholera. This is said to be the only known method of preventing cholera, which always claims a high percentage of the hogs afflicted.

It is reported that the cholera got into this section through some hogs imported that had become infected. County Agent Blinn stated yesterday that the inoculation of hogs is highly important if the spread of cholera is to be checked.

Thirty-Five Dead As Airship Fails On Trial Flight

Flung earthward, presumably by a broken rudder the giant army airship Roma plunged to the ground here Tuesday to strike ground near Hampton Roads, Va., army base, capsule across a high tension electric line and burst into a roaring furnace of blazing hydrogen gas in which at least 35 of her army crew and passengers perished.

She was making a trial flight with a new battery of Liberty motors. They were installed to replace Italian engines bought with her in Italy, but which have not proved satisfactory. Installation was completed at Langley Field two weeks ago. The Roma was the largest of its type in the world.

Long after dark, many hours after her fall, the ship was still a mass of flames from end to end of her 419 foot mast. The fire was feeding on the million cubic feet of gas that had distended the great bag for the flight.

Barely a dozen or more than two score men aboard had been picked up alive. One died en route to a hospital. All of those who survived the fire escaped by jumping as the ship struck. The others, penned in the hull beneath the fallen bag, were burned to death. Heat of the fire fought back rescuers for hours.

BRIEF STORY OF COUNTY FOR AGRICULTURE HANDBOOK

A legend or history, of Davidson County is being gotten up by E. C. Byerly, Superintendent of Public Welfare, for the purpose of being published in the state hand book which is issued by the State Department of Agriculture. This history should set forth all salient facts in regard to the industrial development of the county and should contain an exposition of the financial, manufacturing, and agricultural resources of the county together with her wealth in public interests such as schools, churches, facilities for transporting etc. Mr. Byerly will appreciate facts and information that will help to properly accredit the county in this publication.

COUNTY DEPENDENTS WILL BE SUBJECT OF STUDY

Dr. H. W. Crane, head of the State Bureau of Mental Hygiene, is coming to Davidson County under the auspices of the Public Welfare department for the purpose of making investigations as to the mental conditions of persons in the care of the county. This county has been selected as one of a representative group for an extensive and detailed study in regard to dependent and poor relief.

A CHARTER SOUGHT FOR THE MASONIC TEMPLE COMPANY

Officers and Directors Are Chosen—Capitalized at \$125,000

Charter is being asked this week from the secretary of state for the Masonic Temple Building Company, of Lexington, which company was formally organized Monday night at the Masonic hall by those who have subscribed to stock in the proposed five-story temple to be erected on the corner of South Main Street and Second Avenue West.

The company is organized to begin operations with a minimum subscribed capital of \$40,000 and a maximum capital of \$125,000 is authorized. The minimum and to spare has already been subscribed by individual Masons and by the Junior Order council and P. O. S. of A. camp of Lexington.

From among the directors a building committee will be selected, or the entire board shall act as such committee, as they may choose. It is not considered likely that building operations can be gotten under way before May 1. The subscriptions, which are to be paid in monthly installments, are not due on the first installment until the first of March. It will also be necessary to give time for the two store buildings now occupied by Pickett Bros. and Barnes Variety Store to be vacated before work can start.

Formation of the company has been in process for some two months or more and steady progress has been made, each step being taken with care and consideration. Few details that might in any way endanger the ultimate success of the proposal now remain to be settled and assurance is given that the proposal will go through in fine style and that Lexington will gain a splendid new business and fraternal building.

PARDON ASKED BEFORE SENTENCE IS PASSED

A formal application for the pardon of Capt. R. E. Crawford, of Asheville, Southern Railway conductor, was forwarded to Governor Morrison Monday night. Crawford was convicted of manslaughter in Rowan Superior Court last week in connection with the slaying of Engineer Sam Hinton at Spencer in December because of alleged remarks derogatory to Crawford's wife. The remarkable fact is it is said that the application for pardon goes to the Governor before sentence has been passed by Judge J. B. Ray. The application is endorsed by the trial judge, the solicitor, every member of the jury and many others.

Wholesale House Entered Tuesday Night By Robbers

Robbers entered the store house of the Lexington Grocery Company, wholesale, Tuesday night and made away with an unknown quantity of goods. Just what was taken members of the firm were unable yesterday to determine, although it was thought that a quantity of El Rezo cigars had been taken and very probably some cigarettes.

The only clue showing that considerable goods were probably carried away is said to have been the fact that a sack had been emptied of a number of ten-pound bags of sugar. It is thought the robber or robbers took this large sack to carry away what was desired.

A crowbar was used to prise off the heavy wire screen from a window at the rear of the building and entrance was made through this window. The back door was open so it is presumed that this was used as an exit, as it could easily be opened from the inside. The crowbar was identified by railroad track workers as one taken from a collection of tools nearby.

It is said that about sixty-five men spent a considerable portion of the night about the Southern station, near the wholesale house, these arriving on a late train and waiting for daylight, when they went to the road construction camp south of the city. Therefore, the robbery was perhaps done with much boldness.

Inquiry was made with a view to securing bloodhounds. The nearest hounds are at Granite Quarry and it is said that they have not proven very effective in tracking robbers in towns and cities, as automobiles are used after the robbers get away from the scene of their crimes. The fact that these store robberies keep up with great regularity and that cigars and cigarettes, goods difficult to identify, are usually taken, adds to the belief among officers that some storekeeper is in league with the robbers and is buying this stolen property.

\$1,154.33 Secured Here for the Jewish Relief Fund

Lexington did itself proud on the Jewish Relief Fund canvass conducted here recently, according to final report made by the committee that secured the contributions, which was appointed by Major J. A. Leonard. Chairman J. M. Gamewell on Tuesday forwarded to the state chairman of the relief fund a check for \$1,154.33. One contribution credited to Lexington's quota and amounting to \$100 was sent direct to the state chairman, this making the total for Lexington, which for the purpose of the canvass also includes Erlanger, \$1,154.33.

Few communities in North Carolina perhaps have done better in proportion to population. Especially is this record a noteworthy one when it is taken into consideration that this city's Jewish population is confined to one family. The contribution demonstrates that the cry of distress has a universal appeal and that Lexington gives make no distinction as to race or religion when help is really needed.

Red Tape Causes Road Detour To Be In Bad Shape

Caught in a mesh of red tape, the detour from Lexington to the Hayden place, near the Yadkin River, which is being used to take care of the traffic usually routed over the portion of the Central Highway now under construction as well as the usual traffic from Churchland, Tyro and Reeds, has been almost impassable at points during the past two or three weeks, it is said.

The truck used by the state maintenance forces broke down two or three weeks ago, it is reported, and at last reports no repairs had been received. Drugging has been resorted to in an effort to keep the road passable, but this is said to have failed of its purpose on account of exceptionally bad weather conditions and the fact that State Highway Commissioner's orders to the local maintenance crew do not include provisions for making any repairs on detours.

It is claimed that at some places a little sand would have remedied a condition that has gotten worse from day to day, but the state's maintenance forces had no orders to use sand. They are allowed to do only certain things, it is said, regardless of whether conditions demand different treatment.

The school trucks in use at Churchland especially have recently had considerable trouble in getting through the road, which it is declared was turned over to the state forces by the county in good condition.

The county road department is said to have stood ready to give any assistance desired in keeping the road from going to pieces, as they believe it would be an economy, since the road will be turned back to them by the state as soon as the hard surface from here to the river is completed. However, their tenders of any assistance desired have all been choked to death in a round of "refer-ences." The situation is said to have been reported to Commissioner J. Elwood Cox by chairman C. M. Wall, of the county board of road commissioners. Mr. Cox is said in turn to have "referred" the matter to District Engineer J. D. Waldrop, of Greensboro, who further "referred" the matter until it finally was referred back to Mr. Cox, the state's local maintenance man on the detour, who has only orders allowing the road to be dragged.

HIGH POINT WILL BAN CERTAIN PUBLICATIONS

A city ordinance became effective yesterday at High Point making it unlawful to sell, distribute or give away copies of certain publications deemed by the mayor and council to be obscene. The ordinance, adopted by a unanimous vote, specifies the White Bang, the Wampus Cat and the Hot Dog. A fine of \$20 is imposed for each violation.

A committee from the Rotary Club, appeared before council and requested that the publications be banned from that city. They are largely responsible for the delinquency found among children of school age, the committee said.

The committee had reviewed the school teachers of the city and were surprised that the publication had such a large circulation among the young girls. One teacher reported over twenty copies in her room at one time. The magazines are shipped by express and the inference was drawn that the publishers use the express service in order to avoid the law against sending obscene matter through the mails.

Rev. W. L. Huggins, pastor of First Methodist church, was prevented yesterday from attending the district conference of his church at Winston-Salem on account of illness. Mr. A. Paris, local merchant, returned recently from a business visit of about three weeks to Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York.

LEXINGTON OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL RACE FOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Albemarle Gains Victory—Meets Kannapolis Here Tonight

Winston-Salem and Churchland high schools will meet on the Erlanger court tomorrow night at eight o'clock, in what should be one of the most hotly contested games of the championship race in the west. Churchland has eliminated Tyro, while Winston-Salem last night put Farmington out of the race. The winner of tonight's game between Kannapolis and Albemarle will play off with the winner of the Churchland-Winston-Salem game.

Lexington was eliminated from the high school basketball championship race Tuesday night, when they lost to Albemarle, 28 to 22, on the Erlanger "Y" court, in one of the prettiest games seen here this season.

Tonight Albemarle and Kannapolis teams, victors in two of the three elimination contests played here, meet on the Erlanger court. The victor will then play Churchland high school quint for the championship of group five. After that a schedule will be arranged wherein the group winners in the western and eastern halves of the State will meet and all will be eliminated except one team from each section, who will meet at Chapel Hill for the state title.

It looks now as if Churchland and Belmont are the most likely aspirants for the western title. The Churchland quint has been receiving the coaching assistance during the past week of "Run" Fauette, famous State College athlete, who is now with the Erlanger Y. M. C. A.

Tuesday night's contest between the locals and Albemarle was a nip and tuck contest from the opening whistle until within a few minutes of the end, when Albemarle secured a four-point lead, the largest margin in their favor during the game to that point, and about two minutes before the game was over increased the lead to six points. During the last five minutes the Albemarle team played almost wholly on the defense, resorting to tactics to delay the game.

There were few personal fouls and not a large number of technical ones. It was Lexington's failure to shoot a single foul goal that probably cost them the victory, while Albemarle got a majority of its free tries. Just before the end of the first half Lexington had secured a five-point lead, but Mabry, Albemarle's right forward, shot three field goals in rapid succession and the half ended with his team leading 14 to 15. The lead changed hands several times during the early part of the first half.

Burford Miller was the conspicuous star of the game, standing out above any other player on either team by his shots from midfield. In the first half he shot ten of Lexington's fourteen points, several of them almost midfield. Albemarle players also made several fine shots from difficult angles.

The attendance was large and school spirit was high. The local high rooters under the leadership of Reynolds Shoaf and Reid Barbee were in the best form yet seen. The line-up: Albemarle (28) Lexington (22) Mabry F. Leonard Sides F. Young Austin F. Everhart Honeycutt F. Farabee Hatley F. Miller

Kannapolis and Churchland basketball teams were returned winners Monday night, when both won decisive victories in the preliminary series of the statewide high school championship on the Erlanger court. Kannapolis eliminated Jamestown with a 46 to 20 victory, while Churchland dashed the hopes of the Tyro five by taking a vigorously contested game, 26 to 11.

Democrats Will Win Congress, is Belief

"The Democrats are certain to win a majority in the house and have more than an even chance to win control of the senate," said Frank Dorsemus, of Detroit, one of the biggest business men of the west and former chairman of the Democratic congressional campaign committee. "There is more dissatisfaction, more people out of work, and more complaints against the Republican administration at Washington than I ever seen since the retirement of Grover Cleveland," said Dorsemus.

"The Republicans made lots of pledges about reducing taxes. They have not reduced this burden and will be unable to do so. They promised a soldiers' bonus and now the president is 'taking water' on this issue. The Democrats never had a better chance of sweeping the country than this fall. You know I am an out of politics and what I say is based purely upon what I have seen and heard in traveling from the Atlantic to the Pacific," he added.