

THE NEWS-HERALD.

Only Paper Published in Burke County

The Burke County News
The Morganton Herald

Consolidated November 29, 1901

Subscription Price \$1.50 per Year in Advance

VOL. XXXV.

MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA, APRIL 22ND, 1920.

NO. 44

WISEMAN SENTENCE COMMUTED TO 30 YRS.

Governor Saves Life of Man Convicted of Slaying Dr. Hennessee and Sentenced to Electrocution — Reasons.

Last Friday Governor Bickett commuted the sentence of Aaron Wiseman from death in the electric chair to 30 years in the State penitentiary. The action of Burke county where the surprise in which Wiseman was connected with which Wiseman was connected with very little commuted.

Governor Bickett issued the following statement, which presents in full his views in the matter:

About six years ago in the little village of Glen Alpine in Burke county there was a bloody battle in which Dr. E. A. Hennessee killed German Pitts. Upon his trial for the homicide Dr. Hennessee was acquitted. On the night of January 1918, Dr. Hennessee stepped from a west bound passenger train and stepped at Glen Alpine and immediately thereafter was shot ten times in the back and seven pistol balls going entirely through his body, instantly killing him.

The immediate circumstances of the killing pointed to Garfield Pitts and Aaron Pitts as the assailants of Hennessee and they were at once arrested. A brother of Dr. Hennessee testified in the trial of Wiseman there was bitter feeling between Pitts boys and his brother, and it was generally talked in the county that there was a feud between them. A true bill was found against Aaron and Garfield Pitts, but when the case came to trial they were acquitted. There is a widespread feeling in Burke county that the jury regressed all doubts in favor of the Pitts boys because of the fact that Dr. Hennessee had killed their brother and they had been influenced by the Missouri law that demands an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

M. N. Hennessee, brother of the deceased, appeared at the hearing before me and said that he was still of opinion that the Pitts boys were implicated in the killing of his brother. (Continued on ninth page.)

THE SENATE PASSES A NEW ARMY BILL

Provides For Voluntary System of Military Training Between the Ages of 18 and 21.

The army reorganization bill providing for a regular army of 297,000 officers and men, a national guard of 250,000 and a voluntary system of military training for young men, between the ages of 18 and 21 was passed by the senate yesterday and goes to conference.

Except for the provisions fixing the size of the regular army and the national guard the senate and house measures are widely different. The new bill authorized a regular army of 299,000 men and 17,832 officers. The senate measure provides for 280,000 enlisted men and 17,832 officers.

Universal military training prominent in the principal obstacle, for the senate bill made no provisions for training. Leaders are planning to bring out a separate training measure in the senate measure provision is made for four months training after January 1, 1922. Enlistment in the national reserve or national guard is optional but not compulsory, upon conclusion of training.

Under both the senate and house bills the national guard would consist of 800 men and officers for each member of congress and be supported by the federal government, although under direct orders of the members of the several States.

BOY IS ELECTROCUTED

The Hickory Record of yesterday reports that Lester Pruett, a doffer boy employed at the Shuford mills in Highland, was electrocuted about 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon when he took hold of the wire fence enclosing a transformer in the mill lot. The boy was charged with electricity from the shock sufficient to produce death in a few minutes. The young man was lifted from the fence and taken to a hospital.

The fence was charged from what was found later to be a leaky motor, the dampness of the air having something to do with it. The fence was grounded around the transformer to protect the public from the high voltage wires, and nobody had any idea the fence carried a current of electricity.

EXCHANGE OF PULPITS

Rev. J. A. MacLean, of the Methodist Presbyterian church, and Dr. Craig, of the Hickory Presbyterian church, exchanged pulpits for Sunday's services. Dr. Craig is a splendid preacher and the local church was glad of the opportunity of hearing him.

TABLE ROCK CIRCUIT

Services will be held Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock and Sunday morning at 11 at Linville church, and Sunday afternoon at 3 at the home of the pastor, Rev. J. B. Taylor. The pastor, Rev. J. B. Taylor, will be assisted in these services by Rev. J. W. Bennett, of Rutherford county.

LOCAL BRIEFS IN AND AROUND TOWN

Short Items of Local and Personal Interest Gathered During the Week.

The Maude Stevens Concert Company, of the Alkahest Lyceum System, will appear in the auditorium here on May 7th.

Mrs. Albert Wilson entertained the Music club on Monday afternoon. Mrs. Frank Gulley was an invited guest. A salad course was served.

In the recent campaign for funds for the Y. M. C. A. Morganton and Burke county contributed \$160. Miss Wilhelmina Tate was chairman for Burke county.

In rearranging assignments of teachers in the graded school Miss Janie Pearson has been placed in the second grade, Miss Mary Moore having resigned.

Mr. C. F. Kirksey has been appointed committeeman from Burke county on the Democratic Executive Committee from the Ninth Congressional District.

The Ladies' Missionary society of the First Baptist church observed last week as Week of Prayer and on Friday afternoon the officers of the society were hostess at a tea to all the members of the society.

The Burke Grocery Company is planning to extend the building which the store occupies 40 feet in the rear and to install elevator service to the second story. This addition will increase their floor space at least 2000 feet.

The April issue of "The Lyre," the monthly publication issued by the students of the Morganton high school, has just been published by The News-Herald job department. It is a neat, newsy little paper, a credit to its youthful editors.

A special meeting of the American Legion has been called for Saturday night. All members who can possibly do so are requested to attend. The meeting will be held at 7:30 in the K. of P. hall. Every ex-soldier should belong to the Legion.

Mr. R. T. Claywell has a very fine barometer in the accuracy of which he takes much pride. Mr. Claywell intends to bequeath this much prized instrument to the Charlotte Observer, he says, to aid them in determining weather forecasts. He says "Jo-Jo" always misses it.

One of the teachers in the Morganton school asked her class to name important events in the past year or two. One bright-eyed little fellow, the son of Mr. and Mrs. M. F. McAllister, raised his hand and answered, "The Seventy-five Million Dollar Campaign."

Mr. S. S. Lane and family moved on Tuesday from Green street to the house formerly occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Barns on East Union street, which was recently purchased by Mr. Lane. Mr. and Mrs. Barns moved into part of the Moran house on West Union street. Mr. John Wacaster, of the State Hospital, has purchased the Lane house and will move in very soon.

Last Wednesday night Mr. R. W. Pipkin was attracted by the noise of a stalled car on Morehead street and investigating, found a Hudson super-six, seven passenger car stuck in the mud. The occupants had fled. It turned out later that the car had been stolen in Asheville by two negroes who were attempting to take it through Morganton without going over the principal streets. The owner telephoned along the route he supposed they would take and got in communication with Mr. Pipkin. He came the next day for his car. The negroes gave themselves away by inquiring the way to the Morganton station and were arrested on Thursday and placed in jail.

TORNADO IN SOUTH TAKES HEAVY TOLL

Series of Violent Storms Sweep Mississippi Valley — Death List Reaches at Least 140 — Destruction Great.

A death list which was reported at more than 140 and property loss of many millions of dollars was the toll exacted by a series of tornadoes which Tuesday swept a score of towns, villages and isolated farms in eastern Mississippi, northwestern Alabama and the southern counties of Tennessee.

Communication with many of the stricken districts was difficult but fragmentary reports agreed that the tornadoes swept down with a deadly suddenness, obliterating everything that lay in their path. In at least one case—that of Rose Hill, Miss.—practically the entire town is believed to have been destroyed and in several instances all members of a family were reported to have been caught in the debris of its home.

Striking first apparently in Lauderdale county, Miss., about 10 o'clock Tuesday morning, the storms swept a narrow path across the remainder of the State, carrying destruction to a dozen or more communities. About the same time effects of the same or similar disturbance were reported from counties in the northwestern corner of Alabama, the extreme force of the wind being expended before the Tennessee line was reached, in Williamson and Maury counties.

Meridian, Miss, the heart of a rich farming district, suffered heaviest, according to late reports, with a known death list of 21. The village (Continued on sixth page.)

MORGANTON SCHOOL BUILDING

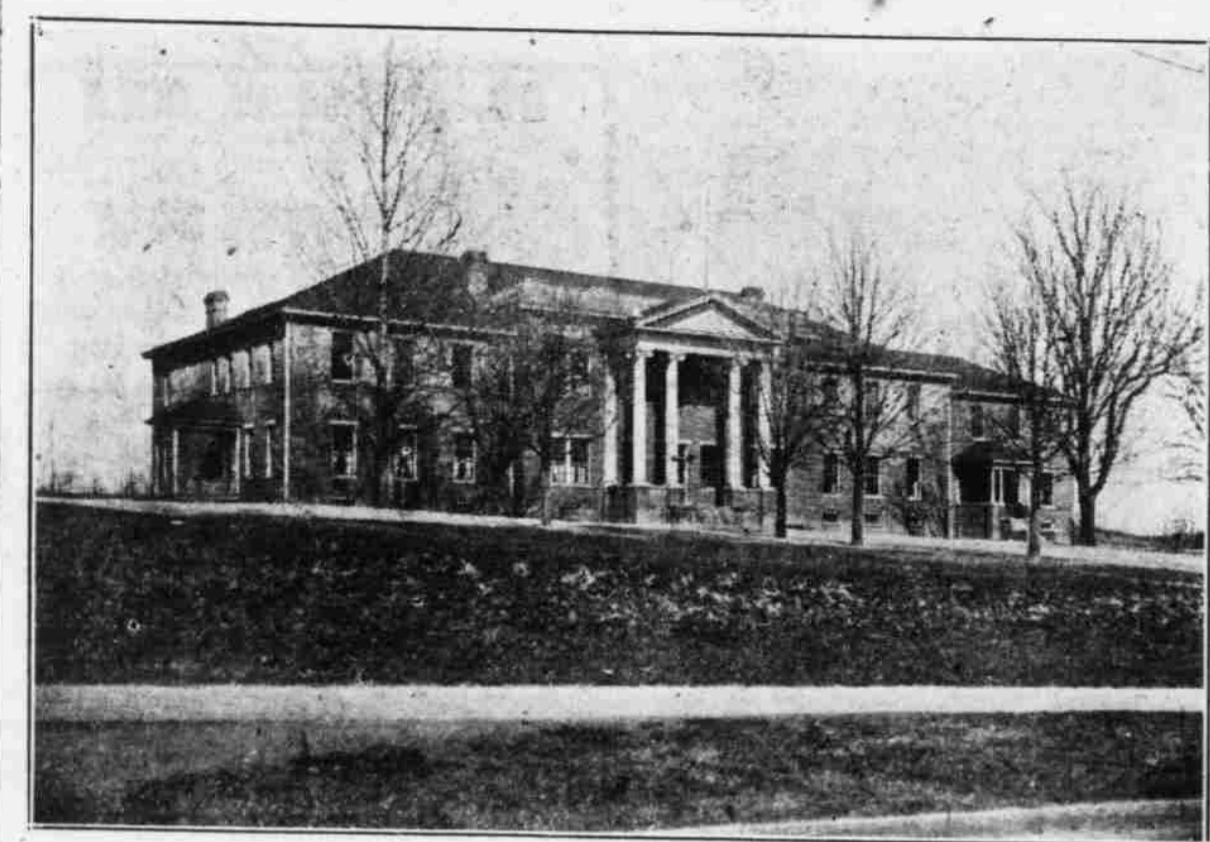


Photo by Webb
The town has outgrown this building and is now in great need of additional school room to take care of the more than one thousand children

DEATH IN VIRGINIA OF MR. W. A. MCGIMSEY

Pneumonia Claims Former Burke Citizen—Leaves Large Family — Burial Here.

The remains of Mr. Walter A. McGimsey, who died last Friday morning at his home in Clarksville, Va., reached Morganton Saturday afternoon, accompanied by the members of his family and Messrs. Wade Gibbs and Bob McGimsey. The two latter had gone to Clarksville last week upon learning of Mr. McGimsey's condition.

Mr. McGimsey was ill for about two weeks, developing pneumonia, which caused his death. From almost the first of his illness his condition was considered hopeless.

He was 41 years of age, a native and long-time resident of Burke county, having moved from his former home at Gibbs to Clarksville about six years ago. He had been married twice, his last wife, nee Miss Cora McCall, and eight children surviving.

While residing here Mr. McGimsey had the respect and confidence of his neighbors and acquaintances and their friendship and esteem followed him to his new home in Virginia. The news of his untimely death was the source of much sorrow to many friends and relatives in Burke.

The funeral was held Sunday afternoon at the home of Mrs. McGimsey's sister, Mrs. W. H. Gibbs conducted by Rev. C. M. Pickens, and interment made in the Morganton cemetery.

Out of town relatives here for the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. I. N. McCall, of Hendersonville; Mrs. T. M. Minish, of Pitts, and Mr. and Mrs. Charlie McGimsey, of Linville.

Mrs. McGimsey and children will not return to Clarksville but will remain here indefinitely with relatives.

EVENTS CAUSING WAR INTIMATED BY KAISER

In Gerard's Presence He Said He Would Start Something in Three Weeks Time.

The former German Emperor, in a remark dropped in the presence of James J. Gerard, on board the kaiser's yacht in 1914 on the day of the assassination of the Austrian crown prince, gave intimation of the events which led to the world war. Mr. Gerard declared Saturday at a luncheon given by the Women's Democratic club in honor of the memory of Thomas Jefferson.

The kaiser said that because of the attitude of some of the common people, who had refused to accord him the proper respect in the reichstag, he would "start something in three weeks time," said Mr. Gerard.

"I have never written this before," the former ambassador added, "but I was stupid enough not to understand what he meant; I did not realize at that time that this man could throw the whole world into chaos and commit wholesale murder."

NORTH CAROLINA ROADS

The report of the North Carolina highway commission to be made to the special session of the legislature in July will show that of 114 projects submitted to the Federal government for approval there is now completed and under construction, 109.7 miles of hard surfaced roads and 233 miles of soil roads. This makes a total of 343 miles of road, approved for 87 of the State's 100 counties.

The highway commission now has 30 projects under way and has approved 95 miles of hard surfaced roads and 748 miles of soil roads. There are now 25 other projects being surveyed and plans for 26 other projects are being prepared.

North Carolina is now among the most active States in the matter of road building; interest in the work is very keen in all parts of the State.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Zack Cook and Mary Brittain. Claude L. Oxentine and Cora Benfield.

Dollar Day May 11th.

FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB

Held Tuesday Afternoon; Constitution and By-Laws Adopted; Another Department.

The first regular meeting of the Woman's Club since organization last week was held Tuesday afternoon. The principal object of the meeting was to complete the organization by adoption of a constitution and by-laws. The name decided upon was "The Woman's Club of Morganton." The officers, committees and departments are practically the same as those outlined in last week's paper with these additions—a corresponding secretary, year book committee, finance committee and a literary department.

The president, Mrs. A. C. Avery, Jr., presided over meeting, which was attended by a most gratifying percentage of the membership. Mrs. A. C. Chaffee was at the desk as secretary.

Mrs. Jerome Rogers made the report of the legislative committee, reading the proposed constitution and by-laws, which were adopted article by article and then as a whole.

Miss Ruth MacNaughton was unanimously chosen corresponding secretary and Mrs. Ben Kibler was appointed chairman of the department of education and Mrs. W. R. Patton chairman of the literary department. Mrs. J. W. Vernon accepted the chairmanship of the department of civics.

These committees have been appointed by the executive board: Yearbook: Mrs. Jerome Rogers, Mrs. R. B. Boger, Mrs. F. A. Bower. Finance: Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Starrett, Miss Rose Davis.

The membership committee reported 49 new members, this number with the 85 enrolled at the first meeting bringing the membership of the club to date 134. This is considered a splendid beginning but it is hoped that as many more women will join before the close of the month.

The club decided to request membership in the State Federation. Quite a number of the ladies will go to Newton today to attend the district meeting and probably several will go to Charlotte for the State meeting there next week.

DEATH OF MR. SIDNEY WILSON

Mr. Sidney Wilson, who for a number of years lived near Rocky ford, died at 3:30 on Monday afternoon at Grace Hospital at the age of 69 years. He had been sick since Christmas. Mr. Wilson was married three times. To the first union was born seven children, five of whom survive with the widow. These are as follows: Mrs. J. T. Johnson, of Pineville; Mrs. Hassel Beach, Morganton; Mrs. L. J. Womble, Columbia, S. C.; Mr. W. N. Wilson, Kingston; A. F. Wilson, Kings Mountain. The funeral was conducted at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Hassel Beach, on Wednesday morning at 10:30 and interment made in Forest Hill cemetery. All the children were here for the funeral. Mr. Wilson was a highly esteemed citizen.

SERVICES AT GLEN ALPINE

There were three preaching services at Glen Alpine Sunday. Rev. A. P. Brantley preached at the Methodist church at 11 o'clock, Rev. W. K. Houk of Morganton, preached a special sermon to the Junior Order at 2:30 p. m. and the pulpit at the Baptist church was filled Sunday night by Rev. Z. D. Harrell, of Ellenboro.

ELECTRIC LIGHTS GLEN ALPINE

Glen Alpine is now being furnished with electric current and the town is much pleased to have electric lights. Current was turned on last week.

MERCHANTS TO HAVE A BIG DOLLAR DAY

Merchants Planning Big Trade Event For May 11th—Plans Being Made Now for Making Real Bargain Day

Three years ago Morganton merchants carried through most successfully a big "dollar day," which at that time they planned to make an annual event. One thing and another has interfered until this time but this week an organized movement is on foot to repeat this big trade day on May 11th. A canvas of the merchants has shown that practically every one is enthusiastic on the subject and is already beginning to make such plans as will make the 1920 "dollar day" in Morganton attract such a crowd to town as good bargains can bring. Coming at almost the opening of the season, dry goods and clothing merchants are expecting that their offerings will prove especially attractive.

The following merchants have signified their intention of entering into the plans for dollar day, arranging for special inducements on that day, and there are a number of others who will in all probability come in: X. H. Cox, Lazarus Bros., I. I. Davis & Son, A. C. Connelly & Son, B. F. Davis & Son, W. A. Ross & Son, Avery & Harbison, H. O. Houk, Taylor & Taylor, T. C. Morgan & Co., Sam Katz, McK. Kincaid, Lane & Co., E. A. Greer, Morganton Hardware Co., Kirksey & Co., P. F. Newton.

Don't forget Dollar Day May 11th.

BRIEF NEWS ITEMS FROM OVER BURKE

Items of Interest Gathered From Different Sections of the County By News-Herald Correspondents

AMHERST.

North Catawba church had no services Sunday on the regular time. But the church held conference. Rev. W. R. Bradshaw asked to be released from preaching. He had been supplying for us almost twelve months. We are very sorry indeed to give up Mr. Bradshaw but on account of his health the church accepted the resignation. We feel that Mr. Bradshaw has done a great work here in this church.

The ladies held their W. M. U. at the home of Mrs. Ina W. Benfield Sunday afternoon.

The B. Y. P. U. at North Catawba is progressing nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Fishel, of Raleigh, spent the week-end with Mrs. Fishel's mother, Mrs. D. B. Moore.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Bradshaw spent the week-end with Mrs. Bradshaw's brother, Mr. Anderson McCall, near Chesterfield.

Messrs. Charlie Eller and Luther Whetstone and Miss Gladys Moore were dinner guests of Miss Lola Bradshaw Sunday.

The North Catawba choir held a practice at the home of Rev. H. S. Benfield Saturday night.

Mr. W. J. Benfield has been elected superintendent of North Catawba church Sunday school. We wish Mr. Benfield much success as he takes up this work.

Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Johnson visited at the home of Mr. Johnson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Johnson, near Morganton, Sunday, the 11th.

The bridge force is getting along nicely with the Hoffman bridge, and hope to have it completed before many weeks if no more misfortune.

Fire caught from some new ground Saturday close to the home of Mr. Brotherton, and they came very nearly losing their home. It also came very close to the home of Mr. R. N. Setzer.

Mr. H. S. Benfield's school closed at Rhodhiss last Friday.

There will be services at Catawba Valley next Sunday morning at eleven o'clock, preaching by the pastor. (Continued on fifth page)

NEGRO'S BODY FOUND NEAR BRIDGEWATER

Evidence of Foul Play in Connection With the Death of "51 Dad."

Tuesday when fencing in a pasture near Bridgewater belonging to Pitts & Giles, Pink Lefeyers and Lee Evens were horrified to find the body of a man, the appearance of the remains indicating that he had been dead over a week. The body was so decomposed that it was only by the hair that it could be told that the man was a negro. From the suit he wore and other evidence that developed the man was identified as "51 Dad," the only name by which he has been known since he came to the camp several years ago.

An inquest was held Wednesday and the coroner's jury returned the verdict that the negro came to his death at the hands of an unknown party who inflicted gun shot wounds in his side and behind the ear. Whether any further evidence can be found that will locate the murderer remains yet to be seen.

GERMANY WANTS LARGE ARMY

Germany has asked the interallied conference at San Refo to increase from 150,000 to 200,000 men the size of the German army provided for in the treaty. The request was transmitted to the French foreign office with the request that it be sent to the allied conference.

The note set forth that the increased force was necessary before the preservation of order in the interior and that furthermore the army would not accept its dissolution. The note further made request that Germany be allowed to retain the entire corps of officers, which would mean the framework of the former military machine.

PROGRAM ARRANGED FOR COMMENCEMENT

General Plans Made For Commencement Exercises of the Graded School May 21-26.

Superintendent W. F. Wampler has made the following announcement for commencement plans:

Friday a. m., May 21, boys' contest. Friday night, May 21, senior contests—drills—and play, "Too Much of a Good Thing."

Saturday night, May 22, class night and operetta, "American Girl"—expression department.

Monday night, May 24, play—"Green Stockings."

Tuesday night, May 25, sermon by Dr. Willis G. Clark.

Wednesday a. m., May 26, address by Prof. J. E. Avent; graduating exercises.

It will be noted that a slight change has been made in the dates, this having been done on account of a conflict with the Chautauqua date.

Pay your poll tax before May 1st.

Pay your poll tax NOW.