

CAPTAIN SAWYER PASSELED AWAY ON CHRISTMAS EVE

One of Asheville's Best Known Citizens Died Monday Night

THE END CAME WITHOUT WARNING

Was Busy at His Home With Christmas Preparations

Funeral services for Captain James P. Sawyer, who died suddenly Monday evening at his Montford avenue home, shortly before midnight, will be held this afternoon at Central Methodist church.

Active—Charles W. Brown, W. B. Williamson, Ed. L. Ray, Arthur Rankin, Clarence Rankin, Erwin Sluder. Honorary—Mayor J. E. Rankin, Dr. R. H. Reeves, Dr. John Hey Williams, Dr. S. Westray Battle, Judge James H. Merrimon, Governor Locke Craig, Dr. W. D. Hilliard, Capt. J. E. Ray, Richmond Pearson, C. A. Ransom, Tench Cox, Chas. G. Lee, D. C. Wadwell, Gen. Theodore F. Davidson, Haywood Parker.

Interment will be at Riverside cemetery. The end came without warning and the news that Captain Sawyer had passed away caused a shock of surprise and sorrow in Asheville where for so many years he had been actively connected with the civic, social and commercial life of the community.

Remains of Captain Sawyer were for years in the hands of Mrs. Francis J. Clemenzer, and three sons, Clarence Sawyer, Eugene C. Sawyer and Dr. James Sawyer.

James Pinckney Sawyer was born in Henderson county February 7, 1837. His father, Isaac B. Sawyer, first mayor of Asheville, and before the war between the states clerk and master for many years, before the adoption of the code.

Following the war, Captain Sawyer entered the mercantile business on South Main street in Asheville, now 5th Regiment of North Carolina when the war between the states was in progress.

In 1893 the Asheville board of trade was formed and Captain Sawyer was the first treasurer. And this place he occupied continuously up to the day of his death.

RAPID PROGRESS IN MAKE BLDG AIRPLANE FLEET

Great Need Now for Thousands of Young Americans to Man Airplanes

LIBERTY MOTOR PLEASES ALLIES

Physical Impossibility to Put 100,000 Machines on German Front by Spring

By GEO. H. MANNING Washington, Dec. 26.—Such highly satisfactory progress has been made during the last month in the manufacture of the fleet of American airplanes that the officials of the Aircraft Production board have no longer any apprehension about having the machines ready when the time arrives to make the whirlwind aerial attack on Germany.

The greatest need now is for young Americans, sound of limb, clear of eye and of high intellectual capacity to man the fleet, Mr. Coffin said. The chairman of the Aircraft Production board, in an interview with "The Times" correspondent today, the first he has given the newspapers in a month, outlined the rapid progress being made by the United States to prepare a fleet of airplanes which would be the superior of any planes now in existence.

First: The Aircraft Production board, after innumerable laboratory and field experiments, has become more strongly convinced than ever that the Liberty motor is the best all plane motor ever built and that the American battle planes and scout planes equipped with the Liberty motor will prove the superior of any aircraft being used by Germany or any of the allies.

GEN. O'RYAN TESTIFIES AT THE INVESTIGATION

Behind Closed Doors, Camp Wadsworth Commander Tells of Conditions

Washington, Dec. 26.—Conditions in the American overseas forces and national army training camps were discussed today in the senate military committee when it took up its inquiry into war operations. General officers of the national army just back from inspection trips in France were called by the committee which temporarily postponed further examination of Quartermaster-General Sharpe.

THIS COUNTRY'S TRADE BALANCE \$3,000,000,000

Washington, Dec. 26.—America's balance of trade approximated \$3,000,000,000 at the close of November, according to figures issued today by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce.

During the eleven months ended with November, gold imports amounted to \$35,000,000 and exports to \$37,000,000 leaving an excess of imports of \$168,000,000 in 1917 against \$299,000,000 in 1916. Silver imports during the eleven months amounted to \$7,000,000 against \$29,000,000 a year ago and the exports were valued at \$74,000,000 in 1917 and \$62,000,000 in 1916.

CELEBRATED DAY IN DESPITE STORM

Sammies in France Carried Out Their Program on Christmas—Played Santa Claus to French Children

With the American Army in France, Dec. 26.—The American expeditionary force in France celebrated Christmas in a howling snowstorm which continued all day. Despite the difficulties due to the storm few features of any program were canceled. Even the celebration at the quarters of the American air squadron was carried out although a blinding snow whirled into the hangar where a tree had been erected for the children of a nearby village.

When the youngsters had gathered at the hangar, Santa Claus, who was an American corporal, got into a big machine at a nearby hangar. He flew off and 15 minutes later there was a whirl of engines over the children's heads and an airplane dropped to the snow-covered field before them.

Efforts were made to carry out the program of football games, but some of these had to be cancelled when the snow became too heavy. While Christmas dinner did not approach that of the Thanksgiving because of lack of turkey and trimmings, the army managed to enjoy itself cheerfully.

MRS. ASTON BED HERE LAST NIGHT

Widow of Judge Aston and One of Asheville's Leading Women—Funeral at Residence Tomorrow

Following a long illness Mrs. Cordelia G. Aston, aged 76, mother of Mrs. Fergus Stikelather, died shortly after midnight this morning at her home, No. 2 Aston place. Her funeral service will take place from the residence Thursday morning at 11:30 o'clock and the family requests that friends refrain from sending flowers.

WOMEN AFFLICTED NOW WITH "KNITTING" NERVES

New York, Dec. 26.—Now it's "knitting nerves" caused by concentration of mind and hand on the needles. Thousands of women in New York are afflicted, according to Dr. Louis R. Weismiller, physical director of the west side Y. M. C. A., who adds that his only patients showing symptoms of the new war time complaint have been women.

TWO KILLED AND SEVERAL INJURED

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 26.—W. D. Wynne was fatally injured, his eight-year-old son, Alfred, instantly killed, Mrs. W. D. Wynne, their four-year-old son, Gilbert, and Miss Tessie Turner seriously injured, when an A. B. & A. train struck an automobile in which the party were returning to the Wynne home about 12:45 o'clock this morning at Owenton crossing.

MEXICAN BANDITS CROSSED BORDER AND RAISED RANCH

Killed Three Persons, Wounded One and Stole \$7,000

AMERICAN TROOPS CAME TO RESCUE

Believed to Have Killed and Wounded Many of the Mexicans

Marfa, Tex., Dec. 26.—American troops today were guarding all outlets to Van Horne canyon, where 100 Mexican bandits on Christmas morning crossed the American border, raided the postoffice and general store on the Eric ranch, 27 miles southeast of here, killed Michael Welsh, a veteran stage driver, and his two Mexican passengers, wounded Sam Neill, foreman of the Eric ranch and carried away booty estimated to be worth \$7,000.

After the bandits had passed over the rim rock which rises abruptly more than 1,000 feet above the Rio Grande, the soldiers, who were in close pursuit, fired many rounds at them and are reported to have killed and wounded many of the Mexicans. The shooting compelled the bandits to abandon the horses on which they carried today that an official Indian, T. Langhorne in command of the American forces in the Big Bend expected the pursuit to be resumed at day break.

When the bandits attacked the ranch with his wife and a number of ranch hands barricaded themselves in a house until United States soldiers had been sent to their aid. Cavalrymen were sent to the Eric ranch in automobiles. When the raiders sighted the approaching cavalry they abandoned the work of pillage and rode off over the rim rock toward the southwest.

NEW FISH FOODS MUST COME UP TO STANDARD

Washington, Dec. 26.—Quality and price of new fish foods put on the market through the assistance of the department of commerce must conform to standards set up by the government or the producers will not reap the benefit of official recommendation of such foods.

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BOLSHEVIK POWER RAPIDLY GROWING

Leaders Realize Hopelessness of Situation—Commonly Called "German Hirelings"

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London, Dec. 26.—There have been occasional assertions in Petrograd dispatches that the influence and power of the Bolsheviki were waning but never with such unanimity as in special dispatches dated from the Russian capital Sunday and printed today. Nearly all make the point in one form or other that defection from the workmen's and soldiers' organization is growing constantly.

The correspondents cite instances of Bolsheviki refusing to march, declining to attack the Ukrainians and permitting the Cossacks to disarm them without resistance. Fighting, it is said, is the last thing they are willing or intend to do. A hostile spirit is reported to prevail among the Baltic sailors and the red guard, but the former are not numerous enough to conquer the Ukrainians and the red guard is largely untrained.

Reports of civil war activities, however, continue to be received. The Bolsheviki government declares definitely that its troops have captured Kharkov, Nicolaiev and are threatening the Ukrainian hold on Odessa. The Cossacks report the strengthening of their hold on Donetz basin. None of the reports, however, is more precise than reports of a similar nature. In the meantime nothing more is heard of the efforts at reconciliation between the Bolsheviki and the Ukrainians.

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TEUTON TROOPS ARE BEING TRANSFERRED FROM EAST FRONT

Hindenburg Probably Awaiting Reinforcements Before Making Drive in West—Russian Factories Ordered to Stop Making Munitions—Peace Negotiations at Standstill

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While their guns bombard the western front, the Germans are taking troops from the eastern front for use elsewhere despite the provision of the Russo-German armistice prohibiting such action. The artillery activity in France has been moderate over most of the front and more violent on the right bank of the Meuse, northeast of Verdun, the scene of the German attack nearly two years ago.

German Infantry Inactive. German infantry has not been active and it is probable that Field Marshal von Hindenburg is waiting for more reinforcements before making his heralded attack. Russia advises telling of the German withdrawals in the east add that some of the troops are being taken to the Rumanian front. Rumania is not taking part in the peace negotiations and the Ukraine, which lies beyond Moldavia and Besarabia, is opposed to the Bolsheviki.

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