

## Good Work Prevented Heavy Fire Loss

Entire Block on Elm Threatened by Fire Discovered in L. H. Caldwell's Grocery Department Early Friday Morning—Stock and Building Damaged Several Thousand Dollars—Firemen Did Fine Work.

Fire of unknown origin damaged the building and grocery stock of Mr. L. H. Caldwell's large department store several thousand dollars about 3 o'clock Friday morning. The fire was discovered by Night Policeman J. B. Boyle, who turned in the fire alarm. The flames threatened the entire block for a time, but the quick and successful efforts of Fire Chief Ed J. Glover and his firemen soon had the fire under control.

The fire started on the second floor and was confined to that department. The stock on the first floor was damaged considerably by smoke and water. It is difficult to estimate the loss, according to Mr. R. H. Crichton, manager of the store.

Fire Chief Glover and his force did fine work, according to Mr. Crichton and others who were present. Local firemen are not equipped with smoke masks and that made it more difficult to fight the flames. Had the fire spread through the block where it started a million dollar loss would have resulted.

## Man Shot In Barnesville Section Sunday

W. O. Watts Slightly Wounded in Leg—Arthur Sellers Admits Doing the Shooting But Claims it was in Self Defense—Sellers Gives Bond.

Arthur Sellers of the Barnesville section was arrested today on the charge of shooting W. O. Watts of the same section. The shooting followed a row between the two, it is said. The bullet struck Watts in the leg below the knee, inflicting a slight wound. Sellers admitted doing the shooting, but claims he shot in self defense and that Watts was after him with a club axe when he fired. Sellers was released under a \$300 bond. The shooting took place yesterday.

## Pension Board Will Meet July 4

All Who Are Entitled to Pension Should Make Application to the Board at This Meeting.

The county pension board will meet in the office of Mr. C. E. Skipper, clerk of the Superior court, on Monday, July 4. All who are entitled to pensions should make application to the board at this meeting. Under the new law all Confederate veterans whose taxable property is not above \$2,000 are entitled to a pension. The new law also provides that widows of veterans who were married prior to January 1, 1875, are entitled to a pension.

## REMAINS CLAUDE E. PHILLIPS INTERRED NEAR OLD HOME

He Belonged to Wildcat Division and Died of Pneumonia in France After Armistice Was Signed.

The funeral of Claude E. Phillips, who died in France of lobar pneumonia after the armistice was signed, was conducted from the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Phillips, in Wishart township Friday at 3 p. m. and interment was made in the family cemetery. The funeral was conducted by Rev. I. P. Hedgpath, assisted by Rev. R. N. Cashwell, both Baptist ministers of Lumberton. A large crowd attended the funeral and accompanied the remains to their last resting place.

The casket was opened by the family and the remains were recognized, having been embalmed before the first burial.

The deceased soldier belonged to the 81st (Wildcat) division and left Lumberton for Camp Jackson on May 28, 1918. He went overseas in July of the same year and saw service at the front for several weeks before the armistice was signed. It was after his division had gone into camp about Chatillon-sur-seine, France, that he developed pneumonia and died. He was a model young man and was well-known throughout this section.

## Three Tobacco Warehouses Leased—Live Market Expected Here.

All three of Lumberton's large tobacco sales warehouses have been leased for the 1921 selling season. The Star warehouse will be operated by Messrs. Cooper, Noblin and Eakes, the Big Banner by O. L. Joyner and the Planters by Messrs. Knott & Young. All the warehousemen are experienced in the business and all are well-known to Robeson growers except Mr. Young, this being his first year in this county.

Indications are that Lumberton will have a good, live market this year.

## First Cotton Blossoms of the Season.

The first cotton blossoms of the season were brought to The Robesonian office this morning by J. S. Scott. They were found in a 3-acre field at his place two miles from Raynham and are from Cleveland Big Boll. Mr. Scott found the first blossoms Saturday of last week.

## Lumberton Is Better Off Financially Than Most Towns

Man Who Audited Town's Books Says Lumberton is in Better Condition Than Any Other Town He Knows About—Mayor White Says Town Can Live Within Its Income and Will Continue to Take Care of Its Interest Obligations—Mayor White Discusses the Situation—Pay Roll Materially Reduced.

"Mr. Wilson, the expert accountant who recently audited the books of Lumberton, told me in Raleigh that Lumberton is in better condition than any other town he knows about, with the exception of floating indebtedness, and it has an ample sinking fund to take care of that," said Mayor A. E. White in conversation with a representative of The Robesonian Friday.

Mayor White attended the meeting of the State Municipal association in Raleigh Thursday when the association appealed to Governor Morrison to call a special session of the Legislature to correct the mistake in the Senate Journal entry which invalidated the Municipal Finance act of the 1921 session and made it impossible for towns to levy taxes in excess of 10 per cent. of the amount raised by taxation for the year 1919 and also makes it impossible for towns to sell bonds. He was accompanied by Mrs. White and their daughter, Mrs. Kilsell S. Beam. They returned home Thursday night.

"So far as running expenses are concerned," continued Mayor White, "Lumberton can live within its income, now that salaries of town employees have been reduced and some have been dropped from the pay roll, but some things that ordinarily would be done will have to be left undone for the present. The sanitary and fire departments can be kept up, however."

"The only thing that is giving serious trouble is the floating indebtedness, which amounts to \$65,000, including \$15,000 which is due the town board of audit and finance for permanent street improvements, which represents an investment. Included in this also is the cost of the municipal building, which is worth at least \$15,000 and which also represents an investment. This floating indebtedness has been accumulating for several years and is made up, besides the items mentioned above, of deficits in running expenses. During the war and since, until just recently, everything was at the peak of high prices and there was a necessary increase in expenses with no corresponding increase in income."

"That Lumberton's finances are in better shape than many other towns is shown by the fact that some towns have actually defaulted in interest payments. When a town does that it hurts every other town, just as any failure in a town hurts every other business enterprise in that town. Lumberton has not failed to meet its interest payments promptly and will not fail to do so. Raleigh will be short \$92,000 this year and will be unable to meet this deficit under the present law."

"Some people contend that the inability of towns to sell bonds under the present law applies also to schools. "It was brought out at the meeting in Raleigh that 32 classes of business and professions are exempt from taxation by towns. Among these are corporations, lawyers and doctors. They are required only to pay a small State license fee. The Standard Oil Co., for instance, does a large business in Lumberton but the town is not allowed to tax it, it can only be required to pay a small sanitary tax. If these classes of business and professions would be taxed they would add to Lumberton's revenue some \$2,000 or \$3,000 annually."

Only last week one of the town's notes, for \$1,500, became due and the Wilmington bank that held it declined to renew the note. In order to meet this situation Mayor White secured the money locally on his personal endorsement.

The fact that the town's floating debt is given now as \$65,000 whereas back in March of this year the town officials asked for and obtained from the Legislature authority to issue bonds in the sum of only \$47,000 to take care of its floating indebtedness has caused some people to jump to the conclusion that the town's floating debt has been increased nearly \$20,000 since March. That is not the case. The town's floating debt was the same then as now, but it was not considered necessary to include in the bonds the \$15,000 due the town's sinking fund, and it was estimated that it would be possible to take care of the balance out of the money received from taxes, so the amount it was proposed to refund was reduced to \$47,000.

It is interesting to note in this connection that the town's pay roll last week for street and light and power plant employees was \$125, whereas heretofore it has been over \$200 a week. Mr. J. P. Russell, from whom these figures were obtained, says that not very long ago the pay roll for street employees alone was around \$250 a week, or \$1,000 a month.

Messrs. A. J. Floyd, A. R. Bullock and B. L. Page of Fairmont among the visitors in town today.

## Will Employ Whole Time Secretary

Lumberton Merchants Association Will Engage Some One to Devote Entire Time to Its Business—Directors Elected—Some Local Merchants Will Attend State Meeting. It was decided at a meeting of the Lumberton Merchants association Friday afternoon to employ at once a whole-time paid secretary. The meeting was attended by a number of local merchants and other business men and several new members were added to the association. The association was organized some four weeks ago with the following officers: president, S. F. Caldwell; vice-president, R. H. Crichton; secretary, D. W. Biggs; treasurer, A. J. Holmes.

A board of directors was elected at the meeting Friday afternoon. The following compose the board: A. V. G. Wishart, Jno. D. McMillan, R. H. Crichton, L. C. Townsend, A. J. Holmes. The directors were given the power to employ a secretary.

A number of local merchants are planning to attend the meeting of the State Merchants association which will convene at Greensboro tomorrow and last through Thursday. The meeting will be held at the O'Henry hotel. An invitation has been extended all merchants and business men in the State to attend the meeting. An interesting program has been arranged, a number of prominent business men appearing on the program.

## Tax Does Not Apply To Farmers Peddling Produce

No privilege tax is imposed upon farmers who bring produce to town and sell it from door to door or to merchants. Some farmers have construed some of the items in the list of privilege taxes published in The Robesonian a week ago today as applying to them when they bring produce to town to sell. Town attorney T. L. Johnson advises The Robesonian that none of these taxes applies to farmers peddling produce.

## Varner Case Has Been Settled.

All the sensational Varner litigation, save that concerning a divorce, which grew out of the finding of Baxter McRary, wealthy Lexington mulatto, underneath the floor of the Varner home between 12:30 and 1 o'clock Tuesday morning, August 10, were settled to the satisfaction of all concerned yesterday afternoon when attorneys from Lexington met with local attorneys, agreed upon the conditions of the compromises, and signed the necessary papers to make the agreements binding. Mrs. Florence C. Varner, wife of H. B. Varner, gets a sum of money, said to be about \$20,000, the suit of H. B. Varner against McRary for \$100,000 is withdrawn, the suit of Fritts vs. Walker is settled, Mrs. Varner is to go to her home in Utah, and it is understood, she will enter suit for a divorce there, which suit, it is said, will not be opposed. The exact provisions of the settlement of the cases are not known, the lawyers agreeing among themselves to keep the terms a secret.—From Greensboro Daily News, June 18.

## Hundreds View Charred Remains of Negro Who Was Lynched.

Mountrie, Ga., June 19.—Hundreds of people today visited the scene where John Henry Williams, negro, was burned to a stake yesterday by a Colquitt county mob after he had been taken from a strong guard in front of the court house here. Williams' charred remains were still chained to the stump late this afternoon.

Williams was convicted and sentenced to hang for the murder of Lorene Wilkes, 12-year-old white girl. The Autreville section of Colquitt county which has been in a turmoil since last Monday, the day the little girl was slain, was quiet tonight.

Prominent white citizens and especially those residing in the Autreville section, started taking up a collection today to rebuild the negro churches, lodge buildings and homes destroyed during the week by the reprisal poses.

## Increase in Cotton Exports

Cotton exports for the month of May amounted to 477,000 bales valued at \$30,000,000 as against 364,000 bales valued at 77,000,000 for May last year. For the 11 months' period the total was 5,000,000 bales worth \$570,000,000 as compared with 7,000,000 bales valued at \$1,000,000,000 for the 11 months ended May 1920.

Mrs. W. C. Ranes and two children of Tarboro arrived Saturday night to visit at the home of Mrs. Ranes' mother, Mrs. Francis Edwards, near Lumberton.

Mrs. N. C. Stubbs of Hunter's Lodge and brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Gaitley of Parkton, were among the visitors in town Saturday.

Rev. Dr. R. C. Beaman, pastor of Chestnut Street Methodist church, and Mrs. Beaman spent Friday and Friday night in Wilmington, returning home Saturday morning.

Miss Eunice Blue of Raeford arrived Friday and will spend several days here visiting Miss Ruby Thompson.

## Parkton Letter

Death of Little Margaret McDonald, Mrs. Joe Shoemaker and Mrs. J. H. Butler in Quick Succession—A Fishing Trip That Was Fine in Spite of a Small Catch—Masons Have Public Installation of Officers—Play by Christian Endeavor Society—Personal Mention.

By C. D. Williamson  
Parkton, June 17.—We report three deaths and all three buried at the Parkton cemetery.

The first was little Margaret, two-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. McDonald, who died in the Pittman hospital Monday morning at 6:30 o'clock. Little Margaret was taken ill with colitis just a few days prior to her death and was taken immediately to the hospital and everything that could be done by physicians and the aid of nurses failed. The funeral was held at the Baptist church at 4 o'clock Tuesday p. m. Rev. J. L. Jenkins conducting the services. The floral offerings were beautiful. Deceased was one of the most attractive and beautiful little girls I ever knew, about the average of her age in intelligence, could sing and carry a perfect tune at 18 months old. Only a day or two before she was taken ill, she was in our home for a few minutes and we all admired her so much and talked to her. The flowers in the yard and in the porch were very attractive to her. Little did we think it would be the last time we would see little Margaret alive. The heart stricken parents have our deepest sympathy.

Another sad death was that of the beloved wife of Mr. Joe Shoemaker, who lived just outside of town. Mrs. Shoemaker died suddenly of heart trouble, on Monday morning about 8:30 o'clock. The family physician was called and arrived before her death, but nothing could be done to relieve her. Funeral services were conducted from their residence Tuesday at 1 o'clock by her pastor, Rev. W. L. Maness of the M. E. church, and interment was made in the Parkton cemetery.

Mrs. J. H. Butler died Thursday evening at 7 o'clock at the Highsmith sanatorium and the remains were taken to the home one mile from town this morning at ten o'clock by undertaker Oscar Bruce and the funeral was held at the Baptist church at 2 o'clock this afternoon, conducted by Rev. J. L. Jenkins, pastor of deceased. She had been a consistent member of the Baptist church for more than forty years. Deceased was 56 years old, and a good woman, a devoted wife and a loving mother, and will be greatly missed in her home and church. She is survived by her husband and the following children: Luther of Southern Pines, Robert of St. Pauls, Charlie of Hope Mills, Mrs. J. A. Townsend of Antioch. Flowers completely covered the grave. Our sympathy goes to the heart stricken husband and the entire family. All the sons and daughters attended the funeral.

Rev. J. L. Jenkins has conducted six funerals this week. Mrs. O. Stanley is quite sick but somewhat better at the present. Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Carrell of lower Cumberland county attended the funeral this afternoon of Mrs. Butler.

Master Donovan Williamson has been quite sick this week but is better at present.

This scribe could tell a wonderful fishing story of this week if time and space would permit. Spent Wednesday night with our good friend Mr. J. H. Regan and left early Thursday morning for the McKay lakes with plenty of line, bait, polls and hooks, bobs and trols, spinners and minnows and one Mr. Seals, who is an expert; but the fish just were not hungry. The wind was from the east, and old fishermen claim this is the wrong time to catch fish, but we never will forget our trip. While we never landed many fish, we had some fun and we will go again when the wind is right.

Parkton Masonic Lodge 446 had a fine time Tuesday night when it installed officers. Had a public lecture by Mr. Anderson of Fayetteville which was much enjoyed by a large number of Masons and members of their family and others. Refreshments were served and a general good time prevailed.

The Christian Endeavor society is pulling a play at the auditorium tonight. An enjoyable program is being rendered.

We should have mentioned last week that Mrs. Mamie Surles and three children of Four Oaks spent several days visiting relatives and friends.

Miss Annie Williamson is visiting the mountains of Alleghany county this week.

## 5 Per Cent. Added to License Taxes After June 30.

It is well to remember that 5 per cent. will be added to the amount of license taxes after June 30. After July 31, 20 per cent. will be added. This does not apply to license taxes for autos or auto drivers, as these must be paid before a car can be driven after this month.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Helie of Montgomery, Ala., arrived Saturday evening and are guests at the home of Mrs. Helie's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Goodwin, Fourteenth street.

## Lumbee Tent Gets 3 State Officers

Local Tent Only One Honored With More Than 2 State Officers—State Convention Royally Entertained at Greenville.

Lumbee Tent No. 18, Maccabees, was again honored with three officers in the State tent when the second annual State convention met at Greenville, Pitt county, Wednesday of last week, the local tent being the only one in the State from which more than two State officers have ever been elected. Three members of Lumbee tent were elected to offices in the State tent at Greensboro a year ago.

The State convention opened at Greenville Wednesday morning with a program providing a day of intense activity and closed at midnight of the same day. The meeting began with the opening ode, after which prayer was offered by Rev. C. H. Bascom, rector St. Paul's Episcopal church, Greenville, a member of the Greenville tent. Delegates and visiting members were welcomed to Greenville by Mayor D. M. Clark, also a member of the Greenville tent. Special Deputy O. F. "Jazz" Richardson of Lexington responded to the address of welcome. Archie Bilbro delivered an address of welcome on behalf of the Greenville tent.

The convention was royally entertained by the Greenville tent. A buffet dinner was served, together with other refreshments. Delegates and visitors witnessed a baseball game between Greenville and New Bern in the afternoon and later were given an auto ride about the town and surrounding country.

The following State officers were elected and installed, the installation ceremonies being conducted by Deputy Commander John F. Stokes: C. W. Burns of Hillsboro, past-commander; Archie Bilbro of Greenville, commander; L. M. McKenzie, Lumberton, lieutenant commander; T. I. Brown of Hillsboro, chaplain; D. C. Galloway of Hamlet, record keeper; O. F. Richardson of Lexington, sergeant; F. Grover Britt of Lumberton, master at arms; W. D. Shea of Rockingham, first master of guards; G. E. Hurley of Rockingham, second master of guards; Felix Labaki of Greenville, sentinel; H. T. Hux of Greenville, member of Lumbee tent, picket.

The next convention will be held in Richmond county, either at Hamlet or Rockingham, in June 1922.

The Maccabees enjoyed a substantial growth in the State during the last year, a number of new tents having been organized. A special campaign for membership will be waged during the coming year. Rev. B. W. Maynard, the "Flying Parson", will do some special work for the order during the next few weeks.

Lumbee tent was represented at the convention by Messrs. L. M. McKenzie and F. Grover Britt, both of whom addressed the convention.

## THE RECORD OF DEATHS.

Charles W. Williams of Bladenboro. Mr. Charles W. Williams, well-known Bladenboro citizen, died at the Thompson hospital here on Wednesday of last week. Deceased died in a few hours after reaching the hospital, being too weak to undergo an operation when brought here. He was 74 years old and is survived by four children. Interment was made in the family cemetery Thursday morning.

Albert Hardin, Indian, of Saddletree. Albert Hardin, Indian, aged 40 years, died suddenly at his home in Saddletree township Wednesday of last week. It is thought death resulted from heart trouble. Deceased was unmarried.

Mrs. J. F. Lockett of Howellsville. Mrs. J. F. Lockett, aged 27 years, died Thursday at her home in Howellsville township. The cause of her death has not been learned. Her husband survives.

Charlotte White Man Charged With Attempted Assault on Young Girls. A Charlotte dispatch of the 19th gives the following: W. H. McLaurin, white, charged with attempting criminal assault on four young white girls, their ages ranging from 8 to 11, waived bond Saturday in recorder's court and was hustled off to jail in short order. The police car stopped just long enough to allow him to kiss his wife.

McLaurin was removed from the courtroom within five minutes after waiving bond, there being a feeling of unrest in the big crowd of men who crowded the room. D. B. Smith will assist in the prosecution, being employed by the parents of the girls. T. L. Kirkpatrick and Heriot Clarkson will represent the defendant.

Messrs. G. W. Knott and W. M. Young, proprietors of the Planters' tobacco warehouse of Lumberton, arrived this morning from their homes in Henderson. They were accompanied by Messrs. J. P. Meadows and E. G. Knott, also experienced tobacco warehousemen of Henderson, who will be associated with them at the Planters' this year.

Mr. Asbury Rice of R. 4, Lumberton, was among the visitors in town Friday.

## COTTON MARKET.

Middling cotton is quoted on the local market today at 8 1/4 cents the pound.

## BRIEF ITEMS LOCAL NEWS

—Many people have been taking a dip at Jennings beach of late.

—Rains that were much needed fell throughout this section Saturday and yesterday.

—License has been issued for the marriage of James H. Inman and Annie Blanche Stephens.

—Regular meeting W. O. W. tomorrow (Tuesday) evening at 8 o'clock. All members urged to be present.

—There are some dangerous holes in the floor of the iron bridge which spans Lumber river at the foot of Fifth street. The bridge is in need of immediate attention.

—State Senator L. R. Varner returned Saturday night from Baltimore, Md., to which place he accompanied Mrs. Varner, who entered the Kelly hospital for treatment.

—Officers of St. Alban's Lodge No. 114, A. F. & A. M., will be elected at a regular communication to be held at 8:15 Tuesday evening, June 21st. All members are urged to be present.

—Mr. Zach Pevatte, who lives in the Center section, thinks the farmers in his section are allowing too many bushes to grow in their fields. His fields are not an exception, he says.

—Miss Quessie Prevatte and Mrs. Leafy Ward of the Back Swamp section returned Friday afternoon from Charlotte, where they attended the B. Y. P. U. convention. They were delegated from the Back Swamp organization.

—Mr. G. E. Andrews, an undertaker and embalmer, formerly of Greensboro, has accepted a position in the undertaking department of the Lumberton Furniture store. Mrs. Andrews will join her husband here as soon as he can get a house in which to live.

—Mr. J. Worth Williamson, one of the young men who successfully passed the examination before the State Board of Pharmacy last week, as mentioned in Thursday's Robesonian, is a son of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Williamson of Parkton and a brother of Mrs. Justin McNeill of Lumberton.

—Dr. W. W. Parker will leave Wednesday evening for New York city to attend the meeting of the National Association of Optometrists to be held at Waldorf-Astoria. While there he will also attend lectures and clinics given by noted eye-specialists of England, Canada and the United States. He will be away about two weeks.

—Mrs. R. H. Taylor and son, Master R. H. Jr., of Beaverdam, Va., have been guests since Thursday at the home of her father, Mr. J. Thomas Prevatte, near Clynborn church. Mr. Prevatte has been sick for several days but his condition is improving. Mrs. Taylor and son were Lumberton visitors this morning. They expect to return home this week.

—State Senator L. R. Varner will leave tonight for Kinston, where he will be engaged on legal business tomorrow, and Wednesday he will attend a meeting of the board of trustees of the State hospital at Raleigh, of which board he is a member. At the meeting Wednesday the board will let important building contracts for which provision was made by the last Legislature.

—The "Hoodoo," a play which the literary societies of Bladenboro high school planned to give at the local school auditorium Friday evening, was called off on account of small attendance. The rain which fell about the time the play was scheduled to begin probably kept some away. Less than a dozen local people were present when the hour for opening arrived.

—Mr. Richard Humphrey of Saddletree was a Lumberton visitor Friday. He has not been able to get any further word in regard to his son Dr. David Humphrey, whose death in the West Indies was mentioned in Thursday's Robesonian. There is no cable office at Montserrat, where Dr. Humphrey was located, hence it is necessary to wait on slow mail communication.

—Mr. T. A. McNeill, Jr., says that the fire department did some mighty quick work when his auto caught on fire last Wednesday night, as mentioned in Thursday's Robesonian. He says that Mrs. McNeill phoned the department and before she could walk from the phone to the car in the yard Fire Chief Ed. Glover and others had arrived in the fire truck. Mr. McNeill says it did not seem a minute and a half from the time the alarm was phoned to the time when members of the fire company arrived.

—Mr. F. C. Turrentine of Atlanta, Ga., has arrived to put in new switchboards and other fixtures in the Southern Bell Telephone company's building, Chestnut street. Another force is expected soon to finish the work begun several months ago of changing the system here from the "grind" to the common battery system. It is expected that the work will be completed in two months, according to Mr. C. C. Rogers, local manager. The system will be changed when the company moves into its new home and will be a great improvement over the present arrangement.