

THE COURIER

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BAD FIRE AT ETHER

VILLAGE ALMOST WIPED OFF THE MAP—STARTED IN BOILER ROOM OF ETHER MILLING COMPANY.

On Monday of this week, the little village of Ether, on the Norfolk-Southern Railway, a few miles this side of Star, came near being wiped off the map by a fire which started in the shaving room of the boiler room of the Ether Milling Company. The fireman had gone to dinner and the fire was not discovered until it had gained such headway that it had spread beyond control.

In the Ether Milling Company building, where the fire originated, was located a roller mill, cotton gin, saw mill and planing mill. In it was also a lot of wheat, cotton and lumber. The loss of building, equipment and goods is estimated at from ten to twelve thousand dollars. The Ether Milling Company is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Eli Freeman.

H. Freeman and Sons company store, owned by H. Freeman, Sewell Freeman and W. C. Floyd, was destroyed, the loss being estimated at from five to eight thousand dollars. 2,000 cross ties belonging to this same firm were also burned.

Elsie Freeman's store and dwelling were destroyed, the loss estimated at from fifteen hundred to two thousand dollars.

The Ether Telephone Exchange, the postoffice, located in a building next to H. Freeman and Sons Company, and the old depot, owned by H. Freeman and Company, and used as a warehouse, were entire losses. The loss of the latter is estimated at \$1,000.

Woodrow Farlow lost about 1,000 cross ties and considerable damage was done to his stock of goods in moving them from the building. The building, however, was saved.

One end of the Norfolk-Southern Railway station was badly damaged, though the entire building was not destroyed.

A great deal of lumber, the owners of whom can not be ascertained, was also destroyed.

There was no insurance at all on any of the property destroyed and the loss is entire. It has not yet been decided whether the business section will be rebuilt or not.

BURCH MORGAN CAPTURED

Burch Morgan was convicted of murder in the first degree in Montgomery county at September term of the Superior Court at Troy in 1904, and was sentenced to death by Judge Charles M. Cook. The death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by Governor Aycock upon the recommendation of Judge Cook and Solicitor Wm. C. Hammer.

After three years of liberty Morgan's requisition was signed by Gov. Craig on last Friday for the man who is now confined in Dillon, S. C. Iris Seagrave is named as the agent bearing the requisition papers.

It was in 1912 that Burch was at the prison camp at Enfield. The camp was located on the Atlantic Coast Line. Morgan took advantage of a passing freight and sprang before the engine, across the track and into the woods on the other side before the guards were aware of his absence. The freight could not be stopped. When it had passed and the guards gave chase the man had so much of a lead that it was impossible to overtake him.

DUKES GIVE MORE MONEY TO TRINITY

Messrs. J. B. and B. N. Duke last week gave money to Trinity College to have placed around the park a granite wall thirty inches high, and to finish the macadam on the circle drive within the park. The Messrs. Duke have always been interested in every phase of the college's life and work.

RURAL PROBLEMS AT SUMMER SCHOOL

Public schools and their improvement have been the subject of discussion at the High School Conference which closed at Chapel Hill last Friday after a most productive and successful session. Two particular types of schools engaged the attention of the conference and the teachers in attendance—moonlight schools and the farm life schools. 150 teachers pledged to teach one month in some moonlight school.

THE ROAD IN THE COUNTY

WHAT OUR TOWN CORRESPONDENT HAS AND THINKS—ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTY.

The crops are fine in this county and the farmers are smiling. The war does not hurt where a man has his home supplies, when the good ladies go to the garden and have so many good things to cook they hardly know what to cook for dinner.

Asheboro is very much on the map and with the roads leading out from here in every direction being improved all the time, we are going to stay on the map.

There was a reunion of the family of Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Bray, of Ramseur Rt. 1, July 11. All their children and grand children were present. All these shared the generous hospitality of the parental home. Each contributed to the common fund of joy and gladness. "Children's children are the crown of old men and the glory of children are their fathers." So said the great and wise King Solomon. This must have been a delightful occasion.

The Asheboro market is being well supplied with vegetables, but there is a shortage of fruits.

Dr. F. C. Craven, of Ramseur, was in town a short while Monday.

Your correspondent took a trip last week through Franklinville, Columbia and Coleridge townships. We were delighted with the crops, especially along the road between Ramseur and Coleridge. Mr. Hugh Parks has a fine farm on this road and his five renters have fine crops. Mr. T. R. Burgess has the finest cotton we have ever seen for this season of the year and he also has good corn. He owns a good farm and is a good farmer and the war in Europe will never touch him and his family, so far as necessities and creature comforts are concerned.

Mr. J. F. Routh, a prosperous farmer of Randleman Route 2, was in town Tuesday.

The good old summer time has been most delightful in this section so far. The weather has been pleasant indeed and there has been an absence of excess heat up to this time.

The Courier gets better and better as each copy comes out. Every home in Randolph and adjoining counties should open its doors to The Courier. All of our people should read it.

Mr. Troy Redding, of Back Creek township, was in town one day this week.

Mr. O. M. Yow, of Richland township, was in town Tuesday on business.

Mr. C. T. Luck, of Cedar Grove township, was here one day this week.

Mr. J. A. Redding, of Millboro, was in the city last Saturday.

Messrs. R. F. and Henry Garner, of the Ralph section were here a few days ago.

We clip the following from the Smithfield Herald:

The present prospects of the American farmer are bright. The great war in Europe has enlarged the market for American food products, and the American farmer has accordingly increased his acreage in many of the leading products. New crop records are to be made this year according to government figures, based on crop conditions on July 1st.

Corn, the most valuable of all American farm products, shows an area of 109,273,000 acres, half a million acres more than was ever planted before. This big acreage is supposed to produce 2,814,000,000 bushels of corn. The crop conditions for the few weeks prior to July 1, were such as to reduce the condition of the corn crop 3.5 per cent. below the ten-year average. Even in spite of these unfavorable conditions the crop is estimated to be 105,000,000 bushels above the average for the past ten years, and 141,000,000 bushels greater than last year's crop.

The much talked of billion bushel wheat crop promises to be a reality. The latest estimates gives the prospective wheat production 963,000,000 bushels. The winter wheat crop condition has fallen which promises a reduction of 13,000,000 bushels below the previous estimate.

The State having the greatest number of acres planted to corn is Illinois with 10,449,000, with an estimated yield of 351,300,000 bushels. Iowa follows next with 10,350,000 acres, and an estimated yield of 306,400,000 bushels. North Carolina has 3,303,000 acres in corn, with an estimated yield of 54,100,000 bushels.

Kansas holds first place as a grower

THE COURIER SUBSCRIPTION CONTEST

The Courier has contracted for an automobile, piano, buggy, diamond rings, furniture, etc., to be used in a subscription contest beginning today.

The premiums will be announced next week and those who desire to enter the contest are requested to send in their names and begin to take subscriptions. No votes need be sent in until after August 1, but subscriptions should be taken now, and the money sent before the first of August so that advantage can be taken of the offer to send The Progressive Farmer until January 1, next, to all who pay a dollar before August 1.

The contest will be conducted by the Southern Contest Company.

Write The Courier,
Contest Department,
Asheboro, N. C.

MAKE SMITH CONVICTED OF MURDER

At January term of Montgomery Superior Court at Troy in 1907, Make Smith and his son Charles were both in jail charged with the murder of Thomas Bundle a few weeks prior to that term of court.

Bundle was killed while walking on the railroad track in sight of the town of Star, and three ugly axe wounds were on the head and neck.

No evidence could be obtained at the time sufficient to go to the jury as to Make Smith and Solicitor Hammer, believing at the time that the father was equally guilty with son, obtained permission from the court to take a not pros with leave as to Make Smith and he was not placed on trial. Charles Smith was convicted and sentenced for 30 years. On the trial the proof was conclusive against the son, he went on the stand and testified that he hit Bundle three times with an axe and that something told him each time to hit him and something told him to throw the axe in a hole of water.

At the trial last week Charles Smith was brought from the State prison to testify against his father Make Smith. The son testified that the father and son followed Bundle and took an axe along and the father told the son to hit Bundle in the head, and then told him to hit twice more after Bundle fell from the first lick, and the father then told the son to throw the axe in a hole of water near by and he would get it later. The son said his father had him to search for money he got \$69 out of the dead man's pocket, that his father gave him a ten dollar gold piece and kept balance. He showed the gold piece to a witness, who testified at the other trial. When his father found it out he took out the son and told the son that a man by the name of Harris had at some time in the past let him have a five dollar gold piece. It was agreed that the son was to go to Harris and tell him that Make had let the son have the five dollar gold piece which Make the father had obtained from Harris.

On the trial of Charles Smith, Harris swore that he had let Make have the five dollar gold piece and that Charles had told him Make had given the five dollar gold piece to him. Charles swore in the first trial that it was a five dollar gold piece that the witness saw him have and not a ten dollar gold piece.

At the trial last week Make Smith denied the statement of his son Charles, but the jury found Make guilty and he was sentenced to the penitentiary for 18 years. Father and son are both serving terms in the penitentiary.

of winter wheat, having 126,500,000 acres, with a prospective yield of 78 per cent. of a full crop. North Carolina has 10,900,000 acres in winter wheat with a crop condition of 88 per cent.

Prosperity is ahead for the American farmer. Not every one will reap the direct benefits of the great crop, but the present prospects are bright for the up-to-date all-round farmer.

Mr. J. R. Osborn, of Liberty Route 1, spent several days in town this week.

Mr. Preston Husable, a prosperous farmer of near Liberty, was in town yesterday.

Mr. James Ellison, of Franklinville Route 1, and Miss Swannie Kinney, of Liberty Route 1, were married last Sunday by Rev. James Webster.

Mr. R. L. White, of Glenola, spent a short while in town Monday.

Mr. K. E. Hare, of Cedar Falls, was in town one day this week.

A TYPE OF THE SOUTHERN SOLDIER

(From The Sanford Express.)

Seeing Capt. H. C. Ingram down street early the other morning, we wanted to know why he was up so early. "The sun has caught me in bed but few times in 50 years," said the Captain. He has always been an early riser and has been greatly benefitted by it. He is 74 years of age and looks to be not over 60. He is perfectly erect and moves with a quick elastic step. Captain Ingram was in the Confederate army and became commander of his company. He fought at Gettysburg and was in 40 or 50 feet of Stonewall Jackson when he received his mortal wound at Chancellorsville. He heard him give his last command.

SUPPOSED DEAD MAN RETURNS

Frank Klug, of Milwaukee, Wis., for whose murder Nick Georgian is serving a 25-year sentence, and whose body was identified by relatives, returned Monday to his family. He had left home because of discouraging domestic conditions. Fearing arrest for desertion, he said, he made no effort to communicate with his family and a recent letter from a friend gave him the first intimation that he was supposed to have been murdered.

DEATH OF MR. VESTAL

Mr. Calvin Marvin Vestal, aged 74, died at his home in Randleman last Sunday, and was buried on Monday at St. Paul's cemetery, Rev. R. E. Powell conducting the funeral. Mr. Vestal was a Confederate veteran, having been a member of Co. I, 22nd North Carolina Regiment. At the time of his death he was a merchant at Randleman. He is survived by three children, but no widow. The children are Mrs. Cora Lee McDonald, Mr. Henry Vestal and Miss Annie Vestal, of Randleman.

Mr. Vestal was a good citizen and a good Christian man, and will be missed from the life of his community.

RUSSIANS DESTROY 59 TURKISH VESSELS

A fleet of 59 Turkish sailing vessels, laden with war material for the Turkish army of the Caucasus has been destroyed by Russian torpedo boat destroyers, according to a dispatch from Sebastopol to Reuter's Telegram Company. The sailing vessels were on a voyage to Trebizond, a seaport of Asiatic Turkey on the Black Sea. The crews of the Turkish ships were made prisoners by the destroyers.

PILOT MOUNTAIN TO BE SOLD

Pilot Mountain, one of the leading landmarks of the Old North State, and nearly 3,000 acres of land will be sold at public auction Tuesday, Nov. 9, the place of the sale being at the old Gilliam place, which is located on the premises.

The sale of Pilot Mountain marks the ending of a legal battle extending over 18 years, during which time it has been tied up in litigation among the heirs, who have been trying to get the battle settled, but not until a few weeks ago did the courts decide to appoint commissioners to sell the property. 2,911 acres will be sold.

Negotiations are going on looking to the taking over of the gold mine properties at Gold Hill, Rowan county, by parties representing the Guggenheimer Company. Nothing definite has as yet been given out, but from what can be gathered the proposition is almost certain to materialize.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

ITEMS OF LIVE NEWS GATHERED FROM OUR EXCHANGES AND CONDENSED IN BRIEF FORM FOR BUSY READERS.

Six persons were drowned Tuesday of last week in waters in and around Manhattan and in New Jersey. One man died of heart failure, while bathing. The dead also includes a boy who was fishing, a boy who was canoeing, a fresh air fund boy who was swimming, and a barge captain who tried to save his wife. An unidentified man fell into East river.

Before the war began Ypres, France was a city of some 18,000 people. Now it has not a single one. No one is making any effort to make any ruin habitable. The only sign of life except occasional soldiers coming out and going to the lines are cats grown wild which become streaks of fur disappearing among the ruins of their former homes.

J. Blanding Haman, who has been with the Wilmington Star, left last Friday for New Orleans where he will take a position with the Times-Picayune. He is succeeded as telegraph editor of the Star by James F. Reynolds, who has been with the News and Observer.

The \$20,000 worth of school bonds which Maxton voted recently have been sold to M. W. McNear and Co., of Chicago, for a 5 1/2 per cent., 30-year bond at par and accrued interest, the printing of the bonds and a premium of \$126.

The home of Mayor W. S. Stanley, Highland, near Hickory, was fired into with a pistol by some unknown person Thursday night of last week about one o'clock and the mayor and his wife narrowly escaped being murdered while asleep in bed.

A report is going the rounds in Thomasville that a gentleman out West recently addressed a letter to the "Chair Town" and that it came straight to Thomasville. That town is justly proud of its nickname for no other city excels her in the manufacture of chairs.

The seventh annual convention of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Sandy Creek association convened with the Baptist church at Aberdeen July 15 and 16. The business meetings were tinged throughout with zeal for better plans and methods for efficiency.

Stany county has been added to the list of counties which are to have soil surveys.

Dr. Joseph McConnaughey, one of Salisbury's oldest citizens died last Saturday after an attack of acute indigestion. In his younger days Dr. McConnaughey was a leading man in the county and was well known among the older citizens.

D. Kiser, a young fireman of Company No. 2, of Winston-Salem, met his death at a small fire one day last week, when he picked up an electric iron while the current was on. He could not get the iron down and two men tried to wrench it from him but could not.

Greensboro last week voted \$60,000 worth of school bonds, which will be put on the market as soon as possible. A new building will replace the Asheboro street graded school and two new buildings will be erected in the northern part of the city. A school for the colored will be located on East Washington street.

Mr. Frank Hargrave, threshed 2,782 bushels of wheat and 309 bushels of oats on his fine farm near Linwood, in Davidson county this year.

Don E. Herbert, aged 23, son of State Senator Herbert, of Hayesville, Clay county, died last Friday as the result of a bullet sent crashing through his head, while he and a Miss Watkins, of Andrews, and Herman Ownby were out in a machine. The coroner returned a verdict of suicide.

Mr. J. P. Millner, aged nearly 80, died last week at his home in Thomasville after several weeks of declining health. He is survived by a widow and eight children.

Solomon Gallert, of Rutherfordton, will probably run for the Democratic nomination for Congress in the Tenth North Carolina district in 1916.

High Point has asked the Federal health service to send an expert to High Point within the next few days to investigate conditions there, as there are several cases of fever in that town.

Two sons of Gaston Bradshaw, colored, of near Graham, were accidentally drowned in a mill pond one day last week.

FRANK'S THROAT IS CUT

LIFE TERMER USES BUTCHER KNIFE ON LEO M. FRANK AND HIS RECOVERY IS DOUBTFUL

Leo M. Frank, serving a life imprisonment sentence in the Georgia State penitentiary for the murder of Mary Phagan, a 14-year old Atlanta factory girl, had his throat cut by William Gree, a fellow prisoner, at the State prison farm Saturday night. Physicians pronounced the wound serious, but said there was a chance that he might recover.

Frank was attacked while sleeping in the prison dormitory in company with other inmates. The knife used was made of a file and the prisoner had used it in killing hogs the day before.

GOOD ROADS MEETING

North Carolina Association Met in Asheville Last Week—Timely Topics Discussed.

The North Carolina Good Roads Association convened in Asheville Thursday of last week. At no meeting in the history of the Association has there been a more general representation from the various counties, nor has a spirit of enthusiasm been greater. Strong addresses were made by speakers of prominence, timely resolutions were adopted and interesting reports were heard. More than 200 delegates were in attendance.

Paying a warm tribute to the late Dr. J. A. Holmes, whose death occurred recently, Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt referred to him as the founder of the North Carolina Good Roads Association. Resolutions of respect to the memory of the man who devoted his life to his State and country were adopted. Hon. H. B. Varner was re-elected President.

REFUND TO PURCHASERS

The Ford Automobile Company has announced a refund of approximately \$15,000,000 to owners of Ford machines who bought them since August 1, 1914. On August 1, 1914, the company announced that if 300,000 machines were sold during the ensuing year each purchaser would receive a refund of from \$40 to \$60. The 300,000 mark has been reached. 300,000 mark has been reached. "Uncle Henry" is going to stand by his promise.

HARRY K. THAW DECLARED SANE

Harry K. Thaw was declared sane Wednesday of last week by a jury which for nearly three weeks had listened to testimony given in the Supreme Court at New York before Justice Peter Hendrick. He remained in jail Wednesday and Thursday nights, and on Friday Hendrick announced that he had adopted the verdict of the jury and Thaw was given his freedom. Counsel for the State immediately gave notice of appeal, and Thaw's bond was fixed at \$35,000. After the bail arrangements were made he left for Pittsburgh.

Dr. George W. Long, of Graham, who has been at Whitehead-Stokes and John Hopkins hospitals for five and a half months, returned to Graham Thursday of last week. He is much improved.

Deputies C. D. Story, of Burlington, Hardy J. Stockard, of Saxapahaw, and A. W. Moser, of Graham, and Gordon Rogers, colored, barely escaped with their lives when their machine turned turtle near Burlington one day last week.

More than sixteen and a half million passengers were transported by the Southern Railway during the year ending June 30 with only one fatal injury to a passenger while on a train and that one while standing on a car platform. During this same period twelve persons riding in automobiles were killed in accidents at public highway crossings.

Of the forty cases on docket at the term of Rowan Superior Court last week, thirty-five were liquor cases.

The German submarine U-15 has been sunk in the Black Sea by Russian warships. This submarine became famous by eluding the British blockade and passing through Gibraltar on its way from Wilhelmshaven to operate against the allied fleet in the Dardanelles.

Speaker Champ Clark faced a band of suffragettes in a hotel lobby at San Francisco last Thursday and pledged allegiance to their cause.