

Sylvan Valley News

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A HOME PAPER FOR HOME PEOPLE—ALL HOME PRINT

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IN PITCHED BATTLE WITH MURDERERS LAST THURSDAY LOCAL OFFICER SHOTS TO KILL

While Trying To Arrest Two Elrod Men Wanted For Murder in Pickens County, Deputy Sheriff Paxton Has Hard Fight and Kills One.

In a pitched battle on the outskirts of Brevard last Thursday afternoon about four o'clock between Thomas Elrod and his son, Leroy Garrison Elrod, and Deputy Sheriff Branch Paxton the younger Elrod was shot and killed by the officer, and the elder Elrod and Mr. Paxton were both rather badly bruised.

About noon Sheriff Shuford received a long distance message from the sheriff of Pickens county, South Carolina, asking him to be on the lookout for the two Elrod men who were wanted for the killing on the previous day of a man near Easley. Information soon reached the officers that two men answering the description had been seen along the railroad track between here and Pisgah Forest, and Sheriff Shuford and Deputy Sheriff Paxton went after them. Sheriff Shuford went on the afternoon train to Pisgah Forest to head them off there, while the deputy started out from Brevard along the railroad.

At the house of Pink Camp near the Y just out of town Deputy Paxton found the two men wanted. He ordered them to surrender, and they threw up their hands. He then approached close to them to secure their weapons, when the elder Elrod knocked the pistol from the hands of the officer, and a hand to hand conflict followed. A number of shots were fired. The younger Elrod had a shot gun which he fired twice, and also shot at the officer with his pistol. The officer returned the fire, and one of his shots entered the breast of young Elrod, as a result of which he died within a few minutes. The father of the boy was soon overpowered, and brought on to the county jail.

In the fight Mr. Paxton received a number of painful bruises over the head and shoulder, and was struck in the leg by scattering shot from the shot gun. While painfully hurt, his wounds were not of a serious nature. Thomas Elrod was badly beaten over the head before finally surrendering.

Sheriff Shuford had gone on to Pisgah Forest and did not reach the scene of the fight until after Mr. Paxton had succeeded in overpowering his men and making the arrest of one.

Sheriff Roark of Pickens county, S. C., arrived in Brevard shortly after the affair, and stated that the Elrod men were the ones wanted. The following from the Greenville News tells the story of the tragedy in South Carolina for which the men were being arrested:

"A disturbance occurred in the George's Creek settlement near Easley Wednesday afternoon which resulted in Alex Graham receiving a gunshot wound in the right leg, causing his death early Thursday morning. The two other men involved were Thomas and Leroy Elrod, father and son. These two have made their escape and the other one did not give out a statement before his death so it is not known which of the Elrods committed the crime.

"Rumors are to the effect that the quarrel grew from jealousy on the part of the Elrods. The woman in question it seems was in the habit of going to Graham's house several times a week to clean up his quarters. For some reason unknown the other two men objected to this and so yesterday afternoon the three were in a corn field together when they again brought up the subject. About an hour after the shooting took place Graham was found at the scene of the shooting unable to move, as he was almost

frozen from the long exposure. He was carried to the house immediately and medical aid summoned. The physician did not think the wound serious but from the shock he died sometime early Thursday morning."

About eight o'clock Thursday evening Coroner A. E. Lyday held an inquest, the following being the members of the jury: J. L. Bell, J. L. Aiken, J. C. King, W. H. Lyday, R. I. Allison and J. P. Bowen. The verdict was that Leroy Garrison Elrod came to his death at the hands of an officer in the discharge of his duty, and that the homicide was justifiable.

In testifying before the coroner's jury Mr. Paxton said:

"Sheriff Shuford phoned me he was going to Pisgah Forest and that George Marshall had told him he saw the men at the railroad Y who fitted the description and for me to come on and he would get off the train at Pisgah Forest and meet me. When I got to the Y I saw our men at a house, I suppose it was Pink Camp's. I arrested them. The boy ran around the house and the older man overpowered me and got my pistol. I got it back and reloaded it, and they were going towards the woods. The boy had a shot gun. I told them to throw up their hands. The boy shot at me and I shot at him three times. I arrested the old man and turned him over to the sheriff. That is about all I know. They made an assault on me at the house but I was not hurt at that place. The boy hit me once after he was shot. I think three or four shots were fired at me. The old man shot twice and the boy twice, once with pistol. I went to the place in consequence of information the sheriff got from the sheriff of Pickens county. The homicide occurred while both parties were resisting arrest."

Pink Camp, near whose house the affair took place, testified to the desperate struggle which took place between the Elrod men and the officer. Sheriff Shuford, J. A. Galloway, T. B. Summey and W. R. Kinsey told of the finding of the dead body of the younger Elrod, of the condition of the grounds, and the condition of the deputy sheriff and the arrested man, all of which showed the hard fight which had taken place. The sheriff from Pickens county testified that the two men were the two wanted. He had followed their trail as far as Cedar Mountain from which place he had called for the aid of the local officers.

Thomas Elrod was taken back to Easley Friday, and the body of his son was taken home in a hack. Alex Graham, who was killed in South Carolina, at one time lived in this county, and was quite well known here.

Thomas Elrod is a man about sixty-two years old, and his boy was about nineteen. The old man admitted that he had shot Graham as charged, and he will probably have to pay the penalty for his crime.

INCREASE CLERKS' PAY

President Finley, of the Southern Railway Company, announced last week that, in recognition of the value of their service and their loyalty to the interests of the company, the management had authorized an advance in the salaries of its clerical employees heretofore receiving \$70.00 per month or less. This advance is to be effective as of November 1, 1911.

REMODELING BUILDING.

The store room on the corner of Main and Broad streets, formerly occupied by T. W. Whitmore, is being fitted up for a new drug store. J. W. Duckworth is proprietor and manager of the new enterprise.

The work which is being done includes a general overhauling of the interior of the room and such changes on the outside as will render the building more suitable for the business in view. The installment of mahogany fixtures, counters, fountains, etc., will take place, and these together with the changes and repairs will necessitate a considerable outlay of capital.

The front of the room and about twenty feet on the Broad street side will be fitted up with solid glass panels. Workmen are now busy cutting out the required space in the wall along Broad street.

At the corner there will be an entrance from each street. This will be an advantage to customers coming from either direction.

The situation chosen by Mr. Duckworth could hardly be improved upon. Broad street has now become a general thoroughfare, and is especially frequented during the summer months.

The installation of new furniture and the necessary repair work will take several weeks. When all is finished we may expect the opening of the new business on the corner.

WILFRID THE WIZARD

The second entertainment provided by the Brevard Lyceum will be given at the graded school building on next Tuesday evening, Nov. 28. The first number given about a month ago proved very popular, and the second entertainment will doubtless draw a large crowd.

The entertainment next Tuesday evening will be filled with both fun and mystery. There will be two persons to furnish the amusement of the evening—one the man of mystery, the other a comedian. The following is a brief synopsis of what may be expected.

After making their introduction in a most amusing manner, Messrs. Rutherford and Rianhard exert their every effort to entertain their audience. The "Wizard," with arms bared to the elbows, will demonstrate to the satisfaction of all that it is not only possible for an article to be in two places at the same time—or even three places, but that it is equally possible that it be nowhere at all. While standing in close proximity to the luminous foot-lights a large lighted lamp mysteriously vanishes from the hands of the Monarch of Magic. The manipulation of coins, cards, rings, balls, etc., in the hand of the "Wizard," is marvelous beyond a peradventure. Along with the mystery connected with these interesting tricks is "Rastus," who is continually getting into mischief in a most amusing manner. Bowls of water, bird cages, birds, rabbits, ducks and other live animals make their appearance, and having served to amuse, vanish as mysteriously as they came, or, at a wave of the magic wand or by word of command, transform them into something entirely different—even "Rastus" is transformed into a hen. In concluding the performance, the "Wizard" will entertain the audience with his wonderful and ever popular art of ventriloquism, in which "Rastus" and "Sambo" play very important parts. The stage settings and fixtures are modern and up-to-date, the costumes are well selected for the characters, and, in fact, the entire production has been arranged with a view to please the most critical.

Thursday, November 30, Thanksgiving day, will be generally observed in Brevard. The merchants will close their stores and give their employees a holiday.

VACCINATION URGED BY BOARD OF HEALTH

AS MEANS FOR PREVENTION OF SMALLPOX

Quarantine Is No Longer Required and Importance of Vaccination Set Forth.

Small pox has appeared in a few places in this county, and in view of the fact that this disease is no longer quarantined by the health officers of the state the following warning with regard to the disease has been issued by Dr. W. S. Rankin, secretary of the state board of health.

"Small pox, the most contagious disease known to science, has appeared in your community. All those who have not been successfully vaccinated within the past five years are in danger of contracting the disease unless they are vaccinated at once. If you have not been vaccinated, you have good cause for alarm; if you have, you need have no fear of contracting small pox.

"Until lately the state required small pox to be quarantined. The state board of health shall now no longer advocate or insist upon the quarantine of small pox. The board takes this position for three reasons:

"First—Quarantine is an uncertain protection; vaccination a certain protection. Quarantine works positive harm in many cases by giving people a false sense of security against the disease, thereby tempting them to forego the certain protection which vaccination would give them.

"Second—Quarantine is a very expensive protection. The cost of the quarantine of small pox in the state in recent years has approximated \$100,000 annually, or enough to more than maintain the state university.

"Third—Quarantine is inequitable. By it the taxes that all contribute are used to protect a class. The majority of the people, having been vaccinated, secure no protection from quarantine, as they are already protected.

"Vaccination is a duty, a duty first to one's self, and second to one's community. You should preserve your own health in order to accomplish the most good in the world, and you should take precautions to prevent your carrying disease to others.

"We believe that the above stated principles represent the consensus of opinion of North Carolina people, and we believe the management of small pox, based upon these principles, will represent the will of a majority of our people.

"We are giving this warning because the old way of handling small pox by quarantine has caused many people to rely upon the state to protect them, and have not been vaccinated. As quarantine will no longer be enforced throughout the state those who have neglected to be vaccinated during the past five years are hereby notified of the danger of their negligence in this matter exposes them to, and are urged to be vaccinated at the earliest possible moment."

In addition to this warning issued from the state board of health the following additional facts and warning are given by Dr. C. W. Hunt, health officer of the county: "In addition to the above I beg to call the attention of the people of Transylvania county to the importance of vaccination to prevent small pox. There is no reason against vaccination. The improved vaccine virus is harmless and is certain to prevent the disease. So why have this dirty, loathsome disease in the family when it can be so easily prevented? Even when in a mild form 'and no worse than

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WINTER-COVER CROP BENEFITS EXPLAINED

STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WRITES LETTER

Shows Importance of Cover Crop in Winter For Good Results On Next Year's Crop.

The unprecedented drought which prevailed in some sections of the State last summer is an object lesson as to the value of organic matter or humus in the soil, as it is a well known fact that in addition to other desirable qualities decaying organic matter or humus increases the water holding capacity of all soils.

For the protection of the soil and to provide against the disastrous effects of a possible drought next summer farmers should put in winter-cover crops. The best crops for this purpose are the clovers, vetches, and small grain crops. On land where the clovers and vetches will grow successfully they are better than rye or other small grain crops, but where they will not grow it will be advisable to sow rye.

For best results these crops should be put in as quickly as possible, especially in the western part of the state. Prepare the land by disking and harrowing and sow 15 pounds clean crimson clover seed per acre, and if convenient, sow also 300 pounds Acid Phosphate per acre, as that will help to insure a stand of clover. Some sow in addition to this one pound of turnip seed per acre, preferably the Cow-horn variety, claiming that the turnip leaves protect the young clover plants in their early stages. It can do no harm to sow the turnip seed as these crops are intended to plow under next spring to improve the soil.

The seed should be covered with a cultivator or with a harrow about one inch deep. In the western part of the state these should be put in at once so as to make sufficient growth to withstand the winter.

In the Coastal Plain section Bur Clover is also fine for a winter-cover crop. The seed of this is usually purchased in the rough or bur and should be planted at the rate of from three to four bushels of the burs per acre, and covered about one inch deep. These should go in at once. Acid phosphate can be used with these to advantage.

Hairy vetch also makes a fine winter-cover crop, and will succeed in almost any part of the state on well drained land, especially where Partridge or Mountain peas grow. If sown alone sow at the rate of 30 pounds of seed per acre, and if with rye or other small grain, one bushel of small grain and 20 pounds of vetch per acre. They should be sown at about the same time as crimson clover and covered from one to two inches deep.

Where none of these crops will grow successfully sow rye at the rate of one and a half bushels per acre. You want a heavy growth to protect the land and to add a great quantity of vegetable matter when turned under next spring.

Turn under two or three weeks before you wish to plant the crop which is to follow. Rye especially should not be permitted to get woody before turning under. Better turn it under as soon as the heads begin to appear than to wait until it is grown. If it gets full grown and dry weather follows it would leave the land so open and loose that the crop following it would suffer more than if no rye was put on the land.

All these crops should be disked well and thoroughly cut up before plowing under next spring. Good results may be expected only when they are well mixed with the soil before the crop is planted.

If anyone doubts the benefits to

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