

J. R. HUNSINGER KILLED--HIT BY C. C. & O. TRAIN

DEATH OF SECTION FOREMAN IS SHROUDED IN MYSTERY

Seen Lying On Track By Engineer W. P. Simpson, But Not In Time to Prevent Engine Hitting Him.

CASE OF FOUL PLAY CONSENSUS OF OPINION

Dead When Train Crew Reached Him

Body Found To Be Almost Cold. Blood From Wound In Forehead Had Caked On His Face. Depot Was Robbed and Murder Suspected.

Complete mystery surrounds the tragic death of Mr. J. R. Hunsinger who was struck by fast freight train No. 95 on the C. C. & O. railroad just north of the station in this city at 3:00 o'clock Sunday morning.

The problem that may never be solved is the question as to just how Mr. Hunsinger met his death.

Here are some of the theories advanced:

That he was struck on the head by negroes who broke into the station earlier in the night, and his body placed on the railroad track to cover the crime.

That after being attacked by the negroes, he staggered up the railroad, finally falling in the position observed by the engineer just before the train knocked his body from the track.

That he was under the influence of liquor, sat on the track to rest and fell asleep.

Train No. 95, northbound, was in charge of W. P. Simpson, conductor and P. M. Palmer, engineer. Mr. Palmer stated that he saw the body of Mr. Hunsinger lying on the track, but that he did not have time to bring the train to a stop before striking him, a curve obscuring his view until he was very close to the prostrate man. Mr. Hunsinger was lying with his body outside the rail, with his arm under his head, as if for a rest. A bolt on the cowcatcher struck Hunsinger in the head, knocking him from the track and fracturing his neck at the base of the skull.

The train crew, immediately after bringing the train to a stop, hastened to the side of the stricken man. An examination revealed that he was dead. It also became apparent that the body was almost cold, especially in various parts. Blood from a wound in the forehead had caked upon the face. A wound in the top of his head and another near the base of his skull was bleeding.

Conductor Simpson hastened to the depot to call the agent, Mr. A. R. Beam, and the company surgeon, Dr. C. C. Bostic. Both of these gentlemen arrived not later than 20 minutes after the accident.

Dr. Bostic examined the dead man and also noted the condition of his body. He found the blood from the wound on his forehead had congealed and that his body was cold in places—a striking coincidence, considering the fact that only about 20 minutes had elapsed since the dead man was struck by the train. Dr. Bostic found that blood was flowing from the other two wounds.

Coroner C. M. Roberson was summoned. A jury was at once empaneled, composed of the coroner and Messrs. M. E. Dorsey, H. B. Doggett, B. B. Green. The body was viewed and then ordered taken to Mr. Hunsinger's home, near the station.

After discussion and upon the statement of some of Mr. Hunsinger's relatives that he was slightly under the influence of liquor earlier in the night, the jury returned a verdict that Hunsinger met his death by being struck by the train while under the influence of liquor.

Dr. Bostic told the reporter that

after the most searching examination of the dead man's body, he found no evidence of liquor—not even the slightest trace of the odor of drink. The jury was only influenced by the statement of relatives that the man had been drinking. We are informed that these parties later denied that Mr. Hunsinger had been drinking. Possibly in the excitement of the case they made the statement unwittingly.

The story leading up to the tragedy is one of mystery and surmise. Mr. Hunsinger, who lived with his family near the C. C. & O. depot, had taken his wife and children to the home of his father-in-law, Mr. A. J. Bryant, at Harris station, Saturday night. He left their home in his car at a late hour, coming back to his residence, arriving, it is thought, about 1:00 a. m. It was found that he changed his clothes and left the car at his home. Further, no clue has been found as to his movements.

The depot has been broken into several times in the past few months. It frequently happened that Mr. Hunsinger, who was an employe of the road, would go to the depot during late hours of the night for an investigation when he saw lights or heard noises at the depot.

The most generally conceded opinion now is that Mr. Hunsinger heard the noise or saw the lights when the depot was broken into Saturday night. This happened after 1:00 p. m. The conductor of Southbound train, passing the station here at 1:00 o'clock, wired Station Agent Beam next morning that he noticed three negroes at the station when he passed. The station was broken into that night and the natural theory is that this gang of negroes did the work.

What more natural than that, being surprised by Mr. Hunsinger, one of the gang struck him with the same bar that was used in prying open the door. Then he either staggered up the track and fell in the position his body rested when the passing freight knocked him from the track, or, that the lick from the negro stunned him and the gang placed his body on the rails so that a passing train might strike him and cover their crime. If this theory is incorrect, how can the coldness of his body and the coagulated blood on his face be accounted for?

Officers are working on the case and have found that three negroes, claimed by another negro to have been at the depot Saturday night, have disappeared. A strong effort will be made to capture these men, as they may throw much light upon the case—even though they are not guilty of crime.

Mr. J. R. Hunsinger, the victim of an atrocious crime or a deplorable accident—as the case may be—was about 32 years old and had been employed by the C. C. & O. Railway Co., for a number of years as section foreman. He resided with his family near the C. C. & O. depot. He was a steady, reliable man and held the confidence of his employers. He was a member of the Woodmen's lodge and also a church member. He was reared in the Harris section of this county, his mother, now living in that community. He also leaves his wife and five children.

Funeral services were conducted at Sulphur Springs church at 3:00 o'clock Monday afternoon in the presence of a large crowd.

The untimely death of Mr. Hunsinger is deeply deplored on all sides, and if foul play figured in his death, the culprits will be brought to stern justice if vigilant efforts upon the part of law officers count for anything.

It is said that several negroes tried to break into the storeroom at Wood-

CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL COINS

To Be Released Through National Bank—Help the Cause

The first consignment of Confederate Memorial Half Dollars, minted by the United States Government as a "tribute to the valor of the Soldier of the South," which are to be simultaneously released through the nation on July 3rd, has been received by The National Bank of Forest City, according to an announcement made today by M. W. Harris, cashier.

"Citizens of Forest City now have the opportunity of making sure of obtaining some of these coveted Memorial coins on their national distribution July 3rd," said Mr. Harris, "by immediately purchasing coin certificates, redeemable for the actual half dollars on July 3rd.

"As less than two million of the Memorial coins are available to the entire South at this time, the Southern Bankers Committee, arranging details of their distribution has allocated only a limited number to each city and county in the various Southern States. Once these quotas are exhausted no further coins are obtainable.

"The issuance of these commemorative coins by the National Government is an event of the greatest significance to the South. It is a gesture of friendliness on the part of the nation to which the South will spontaneously respond.

"Not only do these coins have a high sentimental value through this national recognition of our Southern heroes, but they also possess an additional worth, since the modest premium at which the coins are sold goes to the completion of the great monument to the Confederacy being carved at Stone Mountain, Georgia."

It never gets too hot at Woodland Swimming pool. Open nights. 35-3t

MASONIC PICNIC AT HAZELHURST

To Celebrate 101st Anniversary—Plans Forming For Big Event Aug. 6th.

District Deputy Grand Master J. M. Edwards, of Forest City, is laying plans for the 101st Anniversary of Masonry in Rutherford county with the annual picnic at Hazelhurst Farm, which will take place on August 6th this year. He expects to have Grand Master Leon Cash, of Winston-Salem, and Dr. W. C. Wicker, of Elon College, Educational Field Secretary, present for the occasion.

There will be an Educational Meeting held at Rutherford courthouse on the night of August 5th under the direction of Dr. Wicker and the public will be invited to attend.

MR. HUGH WHISNANT NEW MANAGER ELECTRIC CO.

Mr. Hugh Whisnant, who has been connected with the Electric Service Co., for some time, has been named manager, to succeed Mr. R. L. Nichols, resigned. The appointment is a good one and the company's business should increase under Mr. Whisnant's management.

Mr. L. W. Gardner, manager of the Shelby plant, says he will give the Forest City branch more of his time than formerly, to help take care of the increasing business.

land Swimming Pool Saturday night and were driven away by shots fired by the proprietor, Mr. R. K. Webb. Possibly this same gang later broke into the depot at the C. C. & O. station.

CHAUTAQUA TO RETURN NEXT YEAR

Closed Engagement Last Friday Night—Not Up To Standard.

Redpath's Chautauqua came to a close Friday night, after a successful five-days' engagement. While the chautauqua was a success from a financial standpoint, ticket sales exceeding that of any previous year, there was considerable complaint that the program had deteriorated from previous years. And again, the management had failed to take into consideration the growth of Forest City, thereby not providing adequate seating arrangements. On several nights seats ran out and quite a number had to provide their own chairs or stand. However, Redpath's is a great organization and provide sterling entertainment as well as take good care of all arrangements, therefore we may expect an improved program and more generous and comfortable seating arrangements next year. The matter has been called to the attention of the home office and all can expect a bigger and better chautauqua next year.

The public spirited men of our city who guarantee the return of the chautauqua are to be commended for their efforts to provide this feature for the citizens of town and county alike. The Chautauqua is county-wide in scope and provides a wholesome, educational and pleasing program that should appeal to every one.

The chautauqua is sponsored by the ladies of the Woman's Club. These good ladies realized about \$100.00 this year from the sales of tickets.

The Cleveland News announces that the chautauqua will not return to Shelby next year, because no individual organization would make the required guarantee. That the Forest City business men should assume this obligation will be doubtless appreciated by the people of our county.

COUNTY CLUB MEET IN FOREST CITY

Rutherford County Bankers to have Charge of June Meeting—Hon. Felix Alley to Speak.

The next regular meeting of the Rutherford County Club will be held in the Kiwanis Hall in Forest City, Tuesday, June 16th, at 1:00 p. m. The bankers of Rutherford county will have charge of this meeting.

The dinner will be served by Mesdames Biggerstaff and Blanton, of Forest City.

The principal speaker will be Hon. Felix Alley, of Waynesville. Mr. Alley is a polished speaker and orator, a lawyer and statesman. He nominated Locke Craig for governor of North Carolina in 1912.

It is possible that short talks will be made by some of the county's bankers.

Music for the occasion will be furnished by Moore's Orchestra.

COCA-COLA STARTS BIG ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

With this issue the local Coca-Cola plant, through the D'Arcy Adv. Co., starts a big advertising campaign in The Courier boosting Coca-Cola in bottles. Local dealers throughout the county should feel immediate benefits from these advertisements. The popular drink is in much demand all over this section.

RECEPTION AT THE FOREST CITY METHODIST CHURCH

Every member of the Methodist church living in Forest City is cordially invited to attend a reception at the First Methodist church Friday evening, June 12 at eight o'clock, given in honor of the new members. Come whether your membership is here or not.

CHIMNEY ROCK DIRECTORS ELECTED

Dr. L. B. Morse Makes Financial Report—Enthusiastic Meeting.

Chimney Rock, June 9.—A large and representative crowd attended the stockholders annual meeting of Chimney Rock Mountain, Inc., this afternoon at the pavilion, to which point the meeting was moved after it was found that no other place would comfortably accommodate the number present.

The features of the meeting were the election of 16 directors to serve for the ensuing year, or until their successors are qualified, and hearing the reports of the officers for the past year. The main reports were those of Treasurer J. H. Thomas, Secretary S. E. Elmore and chiefly the annual message of President Lucius B. Morse.

The directors elected, all unanimously, are as follows: Dr. L. B. Morse, Kenneth S. Tanner, Willis J. Milner, Jr., S. E. Elmore, J. H. Thomas, B. B. Doggett, T. F. Oates, Dr. M. H. Biggs, E. O. Thomas, M. O. Dickerson, Jr., Dr. L. V. Lee, Charles C. Blanton, Frank Cox, E. W. Ewbank, F. Pickens Bacon and Walter P. Taylor.

The report of President Morse was comprehensive and afforded all stockholders an opportunity to hear of the many accomplishments of their corporation during the past year and questions were invited at all stages where additional information was desired upon any particular point.

Among the outstanding feats was that of financing the contract for building a solid concrete dam, 104 feet high, and 585 feet across the top, accommodating a scenic highway across to form a portion of the 27 mile shore line drive around Lake Lure when created by the building of the dam. This financing of a body of water covering 1,500 acres and generating 13 1-2 kw annually, without a cent of cost to the parent corporation and without mortgage on any of the property outside of that 1,500 acres inundated by the head waters after the dam is completed.

The main point in this financing was the making of a contract with the Blue Ridge Power company for the sale of the future generated hydro-electric energy at a very advantageous figure, which auditors calculate will not only retire the cost of the dam, but completely finance itself in ten years free and clear, owned by the parent corporation as a going hydro-electric public service corporation without cost to any stockholders in Chimney Rock Mountains, Inc., which now owns all the voting stock of the subsidiary building the dam.

A Strong Feature.

Another strong feature was that of so arranging all the development work this summer to proceed at full speed without interfering with traffic on state highway number 20, which passes the site of the dam. This is accomplished by a short detour of 3,900 feet and half of this is new permanent highway and every foot of it is in excellent shape. Engineers say that when traffic is turned into the detour two weeks hence that the actual running time around the detour will be three minutes quicker for the 3,900 feet than the present state highway and equally as good surface.

CONTRACTS LET FOR WATER AND SEWER WORK

Contracts were let at a sitting of the Board of Aldermen Tuesday evening for extensive improvement work on water and sewer construction. The new work, made necessary by the growth of the city, calls for an outlay of about \$38,000.

Quite a number of bidders were present. The sewer improvement contract was let to Mr. Geo. B. Dean, of Lincolnton, at \$16,000. The water improvement contract was awarded to Boyd and Goforth, of Charlotte, at \$22,000.

Both contractors expect to begin work at an early date.

Engineers are also busy making a new survey and map of the city.

BOY SCOUT CAMP LOCATED AT TRYON

Piedmont Council, B. S. A. Accepts Offer Made By Lake Lanier Corporation.

The following report of the executive board meeting of the Piedmont Council Boy Scout Officials, held in Gastonia last week will be of great interest to the Boy Scouts of Rutherford, Cleveland, Gaston and Lincoln counties:

"The executive board of the Piedmont Council, Boy Scout of America, in session Thursday night at the general Scout headquarters accepted the offer of the Lake Lanier Corporation of a permanent Boy Scout camp on the shores of this wonderful new lake development and will operate a Scout training camp there this summer.

"According to R. M. Schiele, scout executive, this site near Tryon offers the greatest possibilities of any country inspected by the camping committee and himself in many sections of Western North Carolina. Plans for the development of the camp will move forward rapidly and it is expected that hundreds of boys will take advantage of this wonderful camping opportunity this and the other summers to follow.

"Through the generosity of the Gastonia Rotary Club the Scouts will have the use of a number of tents and steel cots until camp buildings are erected, thereby making it possible for the Piedmont Council to open the camp at an early date.

"The plan of the camp will call for troops to come to camp as units under scoutmaster leadership. A definite program of scouting and camping activities will be staged and every opportunity will be given the boy for a good time in the out-of-doors with every possible safeguard for his health and safety.

"A professional cook will be employed and well balanced meals will be served. The cost of the camp to the boy will be on the basis of one dollar per day. This charge will cover the cost of the food while the physical operation of the camp will be financed by the Piedmont Council.

"The camp being located near Tryon will make possible the supply of fresh food and ice, medical service in emergencies and an atmosphere of a pleasant and helpful association. Already the people of Tryon have manifested their interest in the development of a Boy Scout camp and it is expected that the city of Tryon will contribute in many ways to the success and the building of the camp.

"Announcement of the dates of the camp will be made public during the coming week."

KIWANIS CLUB NOTES

The regular weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club was held Monday night with a good attendance.

Several visitors were present, among them being Mrs. J. H. Thomas, Mrs. R. W. Minish, Mr. Waiker and Supt. W. R. Hill.

Prof. Hill, who was recently re-elected as county superintendent, was introduced by Prof. J. W. Eaks, who styled him "the best County Superintendent in the State," amid applause.

The matter of a children's clinic, presented by Mesdames Thomas and Minish, was discussed and the help of the club promised the ladies.

Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Minish delighted the club with their musical program.

The attendance prize was awarded to Mr. J. M. Edwards.

Farmers' night will be observed at an early date.

THE HAMILTON PLAYERS COMING TO FOREST CITY

The Hamilton Players are coming to Forest City for one week, beginning Monday, June 15. This high-class aggregation have their own big comfortable tent, which will be erected on the public square, Ladies' night, Monday. Popular prices will prevail.

See their big ad in this paper.