

DEATH CLAIMS SPLENDID YOUNG EXECUTIVE OF FLORENCE MILLS

Mr. J. M. Edwards Died At the Charlotte Hospital Monday, at 5:35 P. M.

Hemorrhage of The Brain Proves Fatal to Prominent Young Forest City Business Man.

Stricken suddenly at a local drug store about 5:30 p. m. Tuesday, December 28, with what physicians at that time diagnosed as sinus trouble, Mr. J. M. Edwards lost ground steadily until death relieved his sufferings at the Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital at Charlotte at 5:35 p. m. Monday, January 3.

Mr. Edwards had been complaining of a cold, but had been at his office at Florence Mills until about 5 o'clock last Tuesday, when he went into the drug store. Talking with friends, he suddenly staggered and threw his hands to his head. Loving hands seized him before he fell and he was immediately hurried to his home on East Main street and physicians hastily summoned. By this time he was suffering intensely and became unconscious, rallying at times, but was a very sick man. From that time until Friday, he at times rallied, but gradually grew worse until attending physicians deemed it necessary to send him to the Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital at Charlotte.

A desperate effort was made to save his life, but when hemorrhage of the brain developed, hope was almost abandoned. He became unconscious at 2 p. m. Saturday and never rallied, gradually sinking until death relieved his sufferings at 5:35 Monday afternoon.

His devoted wife and many friends were constantly in attendance from the time he was taken to the Charlotte hospital, and every effort was made to save his life. The best professional skill and loving hearts were unable to save the life of one of Forest City's foremost young business men, and all were bowed down with grief when the final summons came.

Nothing in years has so shocked the city and the county as the sudden passing of this fine young man. He had endeared himself to hundreds and there are none but called him friend. Devoted to family and friends, a man of sterling character and amiable disposition, high in the councils of the M. E. Church and a Mason of high rank, Mr. Edwards had reached an eminence in the affairs of the county seldom attained by a man of his youthful age.

In another column a short biographical sketch relates some of the activities of this splendid young man, who was always active in every movement for the welfare of his fellow-man or the upbuilding of his town or county.

Besides his wife, he leaves four children and his devoted parents, to mourn the passing of a devoted husband and father and dutiful and loving son. The deepest sympathy goes out to them in their bereavement.

SCHOOLS RE-OPEN FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS

The Cool Springs schools opened Monday, January 3, after a vacation of twelve days. It seemed that most of the students were ready for work, as a large number were at the different schools earlier than usual. The interest of the students in their school work is more noticeable this year than usual.

All the teachers were back ready for work Monday. This is very good, considering the number of teachers in the Cool Springs Township system. Also Miss Jefferies, the new teacher, who will take Mrs. J. W. Morgan's work, reported for work. Mrs. Morgan is giving up her work, since her mother's health isn't very good.

Ladies, don't forget those new satin hats, \$5 values, are now going at \$3.75. Mrs. E. E. McCurry.

Funeral Services Held At Methodist Church Wednesday Morning

Banks and Many Business Houses Closed as Mark of Respect to Deceased—Burial at Marion.

Funeral services for Mr. J. M. Edwards were held at the Methodist Church at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning. The edifice was inadequate to house the immense throng that gathered to pay homage to one of Forest City's best beloved and most popular young men.

Rev. M. F. Moores, pastor, had charge of the services, and in well chosen words paid tribute to one of his leading members. Dr. John S. Wood and Capt. B. L. Smith made short talks. Miss Lillie Maude Bell and Harry Kendrick sang beautiful solos and the choir sang "It Is Well With My Soul." The floral offerings were beautiful and expressive of the love and esteem held for the deceased.

The funeral cortege left this city for Marion, following the services here, a large number going from here to be present at the interment. Short services will be held at the church at Marion, after which the interment will take place there. Marion and Forest City Masonic lodges will have charge of the rites at the grave.

Active pallbearers were M. H. Hewitt, N. H. Welch, J. A. Wilkie, E. G. Abernethy, Ernest Roberson, E. O. Thomas.

Honorary pallbearers were Ernest House, W. Lester Morris, Leon Neal, H. F. Little, Will Pless, Jr., Oscar Adkins, Marion; J. H. Thomas, F. I. Barber, T. G. Stone, J. W. Dalton, G. C. King, B. B. Doggett, Clyde A. Erwin, Dr. J. S. Wood, R. L. Reinhardt, Dr. A. C. Duncan, Capt. B. L. Smith.

HIGHWAY 20 NOW KNOWN AS No. 74

Highway 20, routed through Shelby and one of the best known highways in the state, is now to be known as Highway No. 74, it is learned.

Back in November road officials decided on a re-routing and renumbering of the North Carolina highways to blend with the national routes. Through the medium of the Charlotte Observer it is learned that the new markers are being erected and that old No. 20 will soon be history. No. 20, or No. 74, runs from Wilmington to Asheville by way of Charlotte, Gastonia, Shelby and Rutherfordton. A new system of markers is being used, it is said.

No. 10 the other cross-state highway, is now to be known as No. 70 and will be a part of a highway that practically traverses the continent.

DR. CARL H. VERNER LOCATES IN FOREST CITY

Dr. Carl H. Verner, of Stanley, has arrived in Forest City and will be associated with Dr. A. C. Duncan in the practice of medicine and surgery. He and his family have moved into the former residence of Mr. B. B. Doggett in the West End.

Dr. Verner is a graduate of the University of Georgia and in 1912 graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Atlanta. He served his internship at Grady Hospital, Atlanta, after which he was with the Rockefeller Foundation for three years. Since then he has been engaged in the general practice of his profession and has met with marked success. He is a man of the highest character, proficient in his profession, and will be welcomed to this city.



J. M. EDWARDS

Mr. J. M. Edwards, Secretary of the Florence Mills, was born in Sylacauga, Ala., in 1894. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Edwards, who yet live in Sylacauga. He was graduated from the University of Alabama at an early age and accepted a position with the Little Corporation. His first position was with the Clinchfield Mills, at Marion, N. C., where he served for seven years. While there he married Miss Annie Baber, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Baber.

He was transferred to the Florence Mills in 1919, as secretary of that institution. For seven years the responsibility of the daily routine of operations of this major industry has rested upon the able shoulders of Mr. Edwards, who was one of Forest City's most progressive and successful young business men.

Mr. Edwards was prominently identified with the commercial and civic life of Forest City and Rutherford county, being director and president

of the Forest City Building & Loan Association, president of the local Kiwanis Club, a member of the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Forest City, and Director in the Industrial Bank. Mr. Edwards was also active in church circles, being deeply interested in the moral advancement of the community and ever ready to join in any efforts for its cause. He was chairman of the Board of Stewards of the Methodist church. He also held high position in Masonic circles, being District Deputy Grand Master of this district. Although a young man, insofar as actual years were concerned, Mr. Edwards was, nevertheless, a veteran in service for his community and has had a most active and constructive career. He was public spirited and an advocate of progress. He was found at all times ready to join in with any agencies or institutions, giving liberally of his time and investing his means in efforts to make a bigger and better Forest City and a greater Rutherford county.

SUBSCRIPTION OFFER EXTENDED

The Courier to Give Holiday Rate of One Dollar Per Year During January.

So that no one of our many subscribers may be disappointed in not taking advantage of our Holiday Rate of One Dollar per year, made during the month of December, we have decided to extend this liberal offer during the entire month of January. As stated before, this offer applies to subscribers in the county only.

It has been thought best to extend this offer because so many have been so busy with the preparation for Christmas that they failed to find time to attend to the matter of renewing for their county paper, and will be disappointed in not getting advantage of the special rate. We want every one to enjoy this special rate. It is a saving of one-third on the price of the paper, which is \$1.50 a year. Many county papers, not printing as much local news as The Courier, charge \$2 per year for their newspapers. We feel that there is no one but will appreciate the remarkable holiday offer of One Dollar. Be sure to be prompt in renewing, for the regular \$1.50 rate will positively go into effect Feb. 1st.

Printing twelve or more pages weekly, The Courier must maintain the \$1.50 subscription price, or lose money. Therefore, we will positively go back to this regular price Feb. 1st. Every subscriber should avail themselves of our holiday offer—Now. Don't delay. Send in your dollar and let us renew your subscription for one year.

All new satin hats, worth \$6, now selling at \$3.75. Mrs. E. E. McCurry.

FUNERAL SERVICES FRIDAY FOR MR. CLYDE HOLLAND

Victim of Automobile Accident Dies Thursday in Rutherford Hospital. Funeral Services Was Well Attended.

Funeral services for Mr. Clyde Holland were held Friday afternoon at Mt. Pleasant Baptist church, with Rev. W. L. Buchanan in charge. Mr. Holland died Thursday at the Rutherford Hospital from injuries received in an automobile accident near Forest City late Monday afternoon, December 27th.

Mr. Holland was the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Holland, of near Forest City. He was about twenty-five years of age, and unmarried. He is survived by his parents, four brothers, Messrs. R. B. Holland, of Atlanta, W. D. Holland, Alexander Mills, S. H. Holland, of near Forest City and C. M. Holland, Jr., of Henrietta; four sisters, Mrs. Lula Hamrick, Mrs. Myrtle Robbins, of Forest City, R. I. Mrs. Leona Tate and Miss Mary Sue Holland, who reside with their parents.

Mr. Holland had been an employee of the Forest City Oil Mill for nearly two years and has been a faithful and diligent worker and had repeatedly been commended for attention to duty. He was a young man of excellent character and his many fine qualities won him numerous friends in Forest City and the community in which he lived.

The funeral services were well attended Friday, hundreds coming from all parts of the county to be present at the ceremony.

Mr. Holland was injured late Monday afternoon, December 27, near the Forest City Oil Mill, when the car which he was driving ran into a wood wagon. A friend, Mr. Frank Adams, who was in the car with Mr. Holland, received a broken arm. At latest reports he is convalescing nicely.

PLAN OF FARM DIVERSIFICATION GETS APPROVAL

Farmers and Business Men of County Met Tuesday and Discussed Farm Problems.

A mass meeting of the farmers and business men of Rutherford county, about one hundred and fifty in number, was held in the Kiwanis Hall, Forest City, Tuesday morning at 10:30. The object was to launch a plan of diversified farming throughout Rutherford county.

Mr. E. S. Millsaps, district agent, Farm Demonstration Work, of Statesville, was present and addressed the gathering. He discussed the plan adopted by the state for the reduction of acreage of cotton. The plan of this reduction is to accomplish same by an additional acreage of feed and food crops and more livestock raised to consume these crops. This will necessarily mean a smaller acreage to cotton.

Mr. Millsaps also discussed the need of farmers growing food and feed crops as means of accumulating wealth. He stated that Rutherford county was peculiarly situated in that the Farmers Federation was prepared to take all diversified crops and pay cash for them at Spindale or other points. Rutherford county is fortunate in that respect, as many other counties, not having these facilities, cannot market those crops so successfully.

The county committee held a short meeting following Mr. Millsaps address and adopted the six points of the state agricultural farming program. They are:

- 1—Grow ample food to feed the family.
- 2—Grow all the feed needed.
- 3—Keep up the fertility of the soil.
- 4—Plant high-yielding quality cotton and care for it well.

MR. CHAMP GEER KILLED IN AUTO WRECK IN GEORGIA

Wreck Near Albany, Ga. Fatal to Rutherfordton Contractor. Mr. W. G. Wilson Injured.

Albany, Ga., Jan. 2.—Mr. C. D. Geer, of Rutherfordton, N. C., was instantly killed and Mr. Frank E. Haines, of Asheville, and Mr. W. G. Wilson, of Rutherfordton, were seriously injured late today when their automobile overturned in a collision with a machine occupied by negroes seven miles south of here. The negroes, none of whom appeared to have been hurt seriously, fled.

The accident was said to have occurred when the negroes' automobile turned from a side road into the Dixie Highway without warning directly in the path of the other car. Both machines were demolished.

Mr. Geer was dashed to the pavement on his head and pinned under the automobile. Mr. Haines, who was driving, and Mr. Wilson, were thrown clear, the former suffering internal injuries and the latter a broken jawbone and severe bruises.

Papers found in Geer's pockets indicate he was connected with the Wilson Construction Company, of Rutherfordton, and it is understood the three were en route to Tallahassee, Fla., to enter competitive bids on a paving contract.

Mr. Geer was senior member of the Geer, Wilson and Keeter grading contractors, and is also a member of the firm of Wilson Construction Company, of Rutherfordton. Mr. Geer was one of Rutherford county's big, broad-minded and progressive citizens; loved, appreciated and recognized for his loyal support in any public or civic campaign or movement designed for the upbuilding of the town, county or section. He was a director of the Citizens Bank & Trust Co., of Rutherfordton. For fourteen years he was a member of the board of trustees of the Rutherfordton schools. He was one of the leading and most active figures in the Methodist church, being a steward, a trustee and president of the Men's Bible Class. He was also prominent in civic and fraternal circles, holding membership in both the Rutherford County Club and Rutherfordton Kiwanis Club, and was a Mason of High rank, and K. of P. and a Junior. He was a native of Rutherford county and has been engaged in contracting work here for the past twenty-six years, having begun in 1900.

Funeral services were conducted from the Rutherfordton Methodist church Wednesday afternoon, the pastor, Dr. W. R. Ware being in charge. Interment followed in the Rutherfordton cemetery. One of the largest crowds ever attending a funeral in Rutherfordton was present, showing the high esteem in which Mr. Geer was held. Other pastors of the city were present and assisted with the service. Western Star Lodge, A. F. & A. M. were in charge of the burial service.

Mr. Geer is survived by his wife, three children, Mrs. Arthur Harrill, Mr. Glenn Geer and Miss Neal Geer, of Rutherfordton, and one brother, Mr. Hamp Geer, of Rutherfordton. Two sisters, Mrs. Burgin, of Greer, S. C., and Mrs. A. E. Keeter, of Oklahoma.

5—One-fourth less cotton acreage in 1927, with average yields and present surplus would more than supply average requirements.

6—Grow at least two cash crops per year.

This program is one adopted by the state of North Carolina and every cotton growing county in the state who follows the above plan will have a good living, keep out of debt, and have something left over at the end of each year.

Follow-up meetings will be held over the county in each township, beginning at an early date, in the interests of this movement.

LIBERTY ST. NEWS

Forest City, Jan. 4.—Rev. and Mrs. J. N. Randall and two children, Lenora and Miriam, of South Gastonia, and Mrs. J. M. K. Randall, of the Oak Grove community, spent Wednesday night with Mr. and Mrs. Dorsey Randall.

Misses Carrie Selvey, Marie Hollifield and little Margaret Selvey spent the week-end with Mrs. Mamie Leigh Wood, of Avondale.

Mrs. Dorsey Randall and two little daughters, Mrs. Stella Hollifield, Marie Hollifield, Carrie and Margaret Selvey and Mr. Robert Towery and little Gertrude Towery took dinner with Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Frasier last Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Smart and two children spent Wednesday of last week with Mrs. Dorsey Randall.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Towery and children, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Kiser and children spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Furman Toney.

Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Frasier spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Dorsey Randall.

Messrs. Welch, Burnette, Hamrick and Smart motored to Charlotte Monday night to see Mr. Edwards, who was there for treatment. When they got there Mr. Edwards was dead.

Friday night, January 8, at 7:30 p. m., the fast Fallston High School basketball team will invade Forest City. This will be one of the best games of the season. This game is not mentioned on the season tickets but persons who hold season tickets will be admitted to this game, too.

The Cool Springs basketball team has new uniforms ordered and it is expected that they will be ready for this game. The uniforms are old gold trimmed in black.