

# Six Dead, Thirteen Injured, At Shelby

## MANY MIRACULOUS ESCAPES AS SHELBY BUILDINGS TUMBLE

### Strange Providence Saves A Number of People Trapped by Falling Steel and Timber During Collapse of Walls in Neighboring Town

Shelby, Aug. 28.—In the aftermath of Shelby's newest disaster, came stories of miraculous escapes from death.

As tons of brick came hurtling down, carrying heavy beams and steel supports, nobody had time to flee. Those who escaped were more fortunate than their fellows.

One of the most remarkable stories was that told by W. C. Lutz, who had charge of the squad of workmen in the basement of the McKnight building. They were lowering this basement for a bowling alley.

"There was a roar," said Mr. Lutz. "It grew louder. We started to run and I looked up and saw the ceiling caving in. I had presence of mind enough to throw myself against a wall that divided the basement and that was all that saved me."

"I don't remember what happened for the next few moments. I found myself imprisoned. The low wall had held the beam off me and, while I could barely move, I was uninjured. "They tell me I was in there two hours. I haven't any idea how long it was but I found them digging and finally they opened a hole big enough for me to crawl through."

Another remarkable story was told by Hobson Austell, a bank employe. "It sounded like lightning had struck the building. I started to run but before I had taken more than a step or two, I was knocked down. I crawled under a heavy table and that saved me. As soon as the brick stopped falling, I ran out."

Mr. Austell received only a minor injury to his hand, received when he fell as he reached the exterior of the building.

Mrs. J. W. Harbison, wife of a Shelby surgeon, had a somewhat similar experience to Mr. Austell's. When the first indication of a collapse came, she ran for the door of the bank but was knocked down. She, too, crawled under a desk and tons of debris fell where she had been lying. She was unconscious for some time.

The next thing she knew, a stranger was touching her on the shoulder, telling her it would be safe for her to leave. She had a slight injury on the head.

Everett Dellinger, brother-in-law of Basil Goode, grocery store owner, was keeping the store for Mr. Goode when the collapse came.

"I heard a strange noise and saw the ceiling falling. I threw myself under the counter and timber and brick fairly covered me."

"I found myself in an almost airtight compartment, unhurt, but I realized I ought to have more air and I pulled away at the weather boarding. I found that a two-by-two piece was holding the weight off me and that a negro near me was hacking away at it. Everytime he hacked, it seemed that the debris came closer me."

Mr. Dellinger heard negroes near him talking and he asked them if they could get out. He says they answered that they couldn't and that the only thing to do was to pray.

Finally, someone on the outside made an opening and he saw a friend. He cried to him and the rescuers soon made a hole large enough for him to get out.

C. N. Ferree, manager of the clothing department of Gilmer's Inc., a department store, had been on the second floor of the Gardner building above the bank just a moment before the collapse. Gilmer's occupies

## W. W. HEMPHILL DIED FRIDAY

### Well-Known Man of Bridgewater Succumbs to Long Illness. Funeral Saturday

Bridgewater, Aug. 27.—Mr. W. W. Hemphill, aged 72, died at his home near here Friday. He had been in declining health for sometime. A sudden attack of heart trouble Friday caused his death.

Funeral services were conducted at his late home Saturday. Rev. John S. Wobd, of Forest City, assisted Mr. Hemphill's pastor in the obsequies.

Mr. Hemphill is survived by his widow, and five children, as follows: Mrs. Ed. Geer, Rutherfordton; Mrs. W. J. Moss, Charlotte; Miss Myrtle Hemphill, Forest City and two sons at home.

Mr. Hemphill was a well-known citizen of his county, and a faithful member of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Hardin and family spent the week end in Rock Hill, S. C. the guests of Mrs. Hardin's brother, Mr. W. D. Mintz. They also visited their son Mr. Paul Hardin, in Charlotte.

We know of no picture more beautiful than that of the mother seated by the fireside reading bedtime stories to the children before she tucks them away for the night.

the entire second floor of the building.

He reached the door which cut off the end of the building from the center part just as the noise of the falling building started.

He ran down the steps, not realizing what had happened until he reached the street.

Carl Blanton, who along with his father Zeb Blanton, was crushed in the cave in of three buildings here today, was in the bank along with his father in the attempt to arrange for a little home for the bride he hoped to take home with him in a few days.

The elder Blanton, who was the worst mutilated, the top of his head being mashed off, lived on the big farm owned by Charles and George Blanton, heads of the First National Bank, and to them he brought his son who was seeking a farm home of his own.

Fred Bowers, young filling station proprietor, owes his life to a Coca-Cola. Bowers had just driven his roadster to the curb in front of the bank and had started in when he noticed that the bank lobby was crowded. "I'll go get a dope first," he thought to himself, and he had not taken six steps when the building toppled in. "I never did get the dope, but what a dope it was," he said.

J. D. Lineberger, Shelby business man and one of the owners of the S. & W. Cafeteria chain who was in the bank when the crash came, states that the wall curved in suddenly like a whip, then all crushed down at once.

"I dashed for the door," he said. "I hung up for a second, then I fell into the street, just as the wall caved in on Carl Blanton just behind me."

## AUGUST TERM SUPERIOR COURT NOW IN SESSION

### Judge Michael Schenck Presiding Over Civil Session of Superior Court This Week

Rutherfordton, Aug. 29.—The August term of superior court for trial of civil cases, convened here Monday morning at 10 o'clock with Judge Michael Schenck, resident judge of the Seventeenth Judicial district, presiding.

Two important cases were set for Monday, J. A. Hampton, administrator of Paul Hampton, deceased, and Gertrude Philbeck against Garland and Dinwiddie, Inc., and the Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. These cases arose out of the accident near Ellenboro last December when Paul Hampton, young Ellenboro school teacher was killed and Miss Gertrude Philbeck, of Ellenboro, injured when the car in which they were riding crashed into the rear of a parked truck, alleged to be the property of Garland & Dinwiddie, Inc., transporters for Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. The case of Hampton went to trial and evidence was heard and argument begun. Counsel stated that an agreement had been reached and a compromise judgment was signed whereby J. A. Hampton recovers \$3,500.00 and cost. The case of Miss Gertrude Philbeck against Garland & Dinwiddie and the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co., was compromised on the payment of \$750.00 by the defendant. The defendant was taxed with the costs of the case.

On Tuesday the case of A. L. Hardin against W. E. Moore, administrator of T. C. McBrayer was heard. In this case a compromise judgment was signed and the plaintiff recovers of the defendant the sum of \$500.00 in full satisfaction of all claims and demands against the McBrayer estate, the defendant to pay costs.

Three divorces were granted, as follows: Vonnie Taylor vs. Ernest Taylor; Wofford Miller vs. Venie Miller and Beuna Ferree vs. V. L. Ferree.

## RUTHERFORDTON-SPINDALE SCHOOLS OPEN MONDAY

Spindale, Aug. 28.—The Rutherfordton-Spindale-Ruth schools will open Monday, September 3. All indications point to a fine term during 1928-29. Prof. B. L. Smith will again superintend the school system. The Spindale elementary school will be in charge of Mr. Wendall Eaves, as principal. Mr. Paul Huss, of Cherryville, has arrived and will be principal of the Ruth school. Mr. Huss, a Carolina graduate, was superintendent of the Crouse school last year. Prof. W. R. Hill is principal of the Rutherfordton elementary school.

## SPINDALE BAND TO GIVE CONCERT HERE FRIDAY

### Program Will Begin at Eight O'clock on The Plaza—Good Program Arranged

The Spindale Band will give a free, public concert on the plaza in Forest City Friday evening, beginning at eight o'clock, according to the director, Mr. D. C. Cole. This concert will, in reality, be a 'good will' concert.

The Spindale Band is proud of the part it took in helping Forest City win the state high school baseball championship at Chapel Hill in May. The Band was a part of the Forest City delegation that went to Chapel Hill and the organization played no small part in boosting the team on to victory.

The Spindale Band is now classed

## COOL SPRINGS SCHOOLS OPEN MONDAY MORNING

### Parents Are Urged to Start Children First Day and Continue Them in School.

The Cool Springs Township Schools will begin active work Monday, September 3rd. All the pupils are urged to have books the first day. In order to do efficient work pupils must have books. Many parents have bought books this week for their children. These parents are very much interested in the progress of their children. If records could be kept on the children of parents who buy books on time or ahead of time, it is believed that the record would show most of them on the passing list.

The farmers are especially urged to start their children the first day. Some of the parents may reason with themselves in this manner: "It will be only two weeks before my children will have to begin picking cotton. I will just keep them out of school until I am thru picking cotton and then start them to school." This kind of argument is unjust to the children. Begin them on time and when cotton opens the boys and girls who live on farms will be dismissed at noon each day. In some special cases pupils will be excused from school a week or more in the cotton picking season, provided they start at the first of school. The principals and superintendent will be glad to cooperate with all the farmers during the gathering season provided the parents show that they want to keep their pupils in school as much as possible. The farmers in most cases have been very much interested in the progress of their children. Most of them will start their children to school next Monday.

It is hoped that the compulsory school law will not have to be used this year. This law was not made for ninety-five per cent of the parents. It was made for those who really do not care to send their children to school. In some cases in town where the pupils do not have to work, parents keep the children out of school. It is hoped that the parents of pupils under fourteen years of age will see the principals of the respective schools, in case it is impossible to begin children on the first day.

## MISS NELL YOUNG TO OPEN KINDERGARTEN

Miss Nell Young will open a kindergarten Monday September 3, in the Methodist Sunday school building. Miss Young has had special training in kindergarten work and she will have all modern equipment. She expects to furnish transportation for children who cannot come alone. Those who have not already enrolled are requested to call Miss Young this week. She will take all children between the ages of three and six.

## COLLAPSE OF BUILDINGS TUESDAY MORNING BRINGS SORROW TO FRIENDLY CITY

### Shelby Grieves as Sorrow Reigns Through City—Known Death Toll Stands at Six—Others Probably Under Wreckage—Thirteen Injured

## ALEXANDER NEWS OF LATE INTEREST

### Womens' Missionary Union Holds Meeting at Alexander Church—Locals and Personals

Alexander Mill, Aug. 29.—The Sixteenth Annual W. M. U. meeting of the Sandy Run Association met with the Alexander Baptist church Tuesday night and Wednesday.

Rev. R. C. Smith of Cliffside preached the annual sermon Tuesday night. On Wednesday morning Miss Gertrude Mattison, W. M. U. Field Worker, gave the address. On Wednesday afternoon Mrs. J. H. Den of Ridgecrest spoke on the Relief Annuity Fund. Several other speakers gave interesting numbers on the program.

The Alexander Women did their best to welcome all of the visitors to our town.

Miss Lamb, of Siler City, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Allison.

On last Sunday morning Rev. Marion Blanton preached here for Rev. C. C. Matheny who was away in a meeting. Mr. Blanton used for his subject, "Personal Soul Winning."

Miss Kate Mae Hamrick is spending a few days with her parents. Mrs. Hamrick has been attending summer school in Jefferson City, Tenn.

## BOILING SPRINGS JUNIOR COLLEGE OPENS MONDAY

Boiling Springs, Aug. 28.—Boiling Springs operating for the first time this fall as a junior college will open its doors Monday.

The trustees met Monday and established a loan fund for worthy college students. This money will be loaned to boys and girls who could not attend college otherwise.

The trustees also authorized the construction of a new gym, the contract of which will be let this week.

The college department will be placed on the accredited list of colleges, and all students attending there will be given full credit by the State Board of Education. Miss Katherine Goggans, former teacher of music in the Cool Springs High school, will be director of music at Boiling Springs. Several students from Forest City and surrounding communities will be in school there this year.

## FARM MEETING

There will be a meeting at the farms of Mr. B. G. and Henry Moore on Friday, August 31 at 9 o'clock.

This meeting is to study the application of fertilizers on cotton. There is also some variety tests.

Mr. Homer H. B. Mask and Mr. Boyd, from Raleigh, will be at the meeting and speak. Messrs. Moores will serve refreshments.

Mrs. Thomas W. Dillingham, who has been spending the summer with Mr. and Mrs. J. Worth Morgan, returned to her home in Washington, D. C., Monday.

In the mail order catalogue did you see any mention of company investments in Forest City? Did you ever see one of your neighbor's names on the company payroll or the corporation's name on the city's tax rolls?

When some men do you favors they never let you forget it.

## LATEST REPORT FROM SHELBY

According to a report received by The Courier from the Cleveland Star, of Shelby, at 3:30 p. m., Wednesday, the death toll of Shelby's disaster was still the same. The work of removing the wreckage is going forward rapidly, and at that time had been practically cleared up. There was no anticipation of finding more bodies in the debris. No new developments were reported from the Shelby Hospital. Miss Marguerite Callahan, one of the most severely injured, was resting comfortably, and her chance for recovery is good. Miss Callahan was formerly a resident of Forest City.

Disaster struck Shelby with a heavy hand Tuesday morning when the wall of three business buildings occupied by the First National Bank, Goode Grocery Co., and a tailor shop, in the heart of the city, toppled in, burying a score or more of employees, killing at least six and injuring thirteen.

Those known dead are Miss Ora Eskridge, executive clerk of the First National Bank; Guy Green, 23, bank clerk; Alex Hoyle, 24, bank clerk; Zeb Blanton, 60, a farmer who lived five miles west of Shelby; Carl Blanton, 26, his son; Clyde Carpenter, of Casar.

Thirteen were injured and as The Courier goes to press eight of the injured are in the Shelby Hospital, two or more of them being in a very serious condition.

The accident occurred practically without warning Tuesday morning about 9:30. An excavation was being made under the McKnight building on West Warren Street. The basement was being deepened and lengthened in order to place a bowling alley in it. The work of excavating was completed last Saturday but the gang of workmen under Mr. Lutz was engaged in smoothing the walls and flooring when the crash came. The entire building above seemed to slip into the basement. It is reported that the excavation was made too close to the foundations of the adjoining building.

Shortly after the disaster volunteer crews of workmen, assisted by the chaingang force, began the task of tearing away the debris and searching for the bodies of those under the mass of wreckage. Capt. Peyton McSwain's company of National guardsmen were called out to assist in keeping order and to keep the milling mobs back out of danger. Various reports placed the dead at from fifteen to thirty, but as The Courier goes to press the death list had reached six. It is probable, it is said, that other bodies may be found in the wreckage. It was definitely reported late Tuesday that two persons were missing and that they were seen to run into the alley before the crash. The crews, working on shifts, have not cleared the alley yet.

## To Investigate Disaster

Mayor Dorsey announced Tuesday afternoon that he had ordered an inquest to be called to fix the responsibility for the disaster. The property loss, it is reported, will exceed \$100,000. As The Courier goes to press volunteer crews continue to remove the wreckage and search for bodies of other victims believed to be buried under the huge mass of tangled steel, timber and brick.