

Rutherford County Offers Unequaled Opportunities To Manufacturers and Others

# FOREST CITY COURIER

16 Pages

FOREST CITY—"ONE OF THE TEN BEST PLANNED AND MOST BEAUTIFUL CITIES IN THE U. S. A." U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SURVEY.

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FOREST CITY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1930.

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## C. E. HUNTLEY VINDICATED OF UGLY CHARGES

Gar Burgin and Lee Philbeck Held Under Bond to Superior Court.

Parties Were Arrested Charged With Conspiracy to Burn a House.

At a hearing here Wednesday afternoon before Mayor V. T. Davis, Clarence Huntley, charged with conspiring to burn a certain dwelling house here was vindicated. At the same time Garfield Burgin was found to the November term of the Superior Court under \$1,000 bond. Lee Philbeck, who waived preliminary hearing, was released Wednesday morning under \$2,000 bond.

The charges against the trio was "conspiring together to burn and destroy a certain dwelling house located in Forest City with intent and purpose to collect insurance, and the said Clarence Huntley and Lee Philbeck did conspire with and together to employ one Gar Burgin to set fire to said building."

In order to vindicate himself Mr. Huntley demanded that a trial be held Wednesday, after Mr. Philbeck had waived preliminary hearing.

C. O. Ridings acted as solicitor, while Thomas Moss appeared for Lee Philbeck and M. L. Edwards for Clarence Huntley. Before hearing all testimony Mr. Ridings announced that he would not ask that Mr. Huntley be bound over to Superior Court, as there was no evidence that he was connected with the conspiracy.

Mr. R. A. Smith, the first witness, who resides in the house alleged to have been the one marked for burning, stated that he saw Philbeck and Burgin pass near midnight. Chief C. R. Price next went on the stand and related briefly what Burgin told him Saturday.

Gar Burgin was next placed on the stand and told of meeting Philbeck Friday morning, who asked if he wished to make some easy money. On inquiry it developed that he had a house he wanted burned, stating at first that it was located at Hendersonville. He agreed to the proposition, but said he had no intention of burning the house. His plan, he said, was to pretend that he would burn the house, find out its location and who the house belonged to, and trap the conspirators. He said he did not see Huntley, or talk to him. Lee Smart next went on the stand and said Burgin told him that some one wanted him to burn a house, and that he thought he would find out its location and catch the crooks. Walter Settlemyer, told of Burgin's visit to the barber shop Friday, and told him he had an offer to burn a house.

Each of the witnesses testified that Mr. Huntley had nothing to do with the transaction. At this point Mr. Ridings announced that he would not ask that Mr. Huntley be held.

Attorney M. L. Edwards, counsel for Mr. Huntley, requested that, in further interests of his client, other witnesses would be allowed to appear. Mr. G. B. Harrill was the first witness, and testified that Mr. Huntley had no interest in the house. The property, according to Mr. Harrill, belongs to Mr. Boyce Wilkie, and the Industrial Bank holds a mortgage on the house, while an insurance policy of \$1,000 is held by the bank. This testimony was introduced to show that Mr. Huntley had no interest in the property.

Crockett Butler, George Blanton and Hope Harrill testified as to the good character of Clarence Huntley. Lee Philbeck, who had earlier in the day waived hearing and was released on \$2,000 bond, was placed on the stand, and stated that Clarence Huntley had nothing to do with the conspiracy. His name was used in the conversation to give color to the trade, and had been used without the knowledge or consent of Mr. Huntley.

Mayor Davis then set the bond of (Continued On Last Page)

## Terrific Electric Storm Does Much Damage Monday Night

Crops, Telephone and Electric Lines Damaged—Barn Burned Near Ellenboro—Baby Shocked.

The severe electric storm of Monday night did much damage over the county. The rain, which fell in torrents about nine o'clock, and again at midnight, was a welcome relief from the heat of the past twenty-four hours, and was hailed with gladness by many. While the rain broke the long drought from which crops were suffering, it also did much damage to the crops.

The lightning played havoc with the telephone and electric lines in all parts of the county. Poles carrying telephone lines were blown down; lines were broken in many places by trees and branches of trees falling on them. The telephone and power company's crews were busy Tuesday in repairing the heavy damage. Telephone service in some parts of the county was demoralized temporarily. Tuesday morning the Ellenboro line was out of order.

At midnight Monday a scene of confusion greeted the passerby on Route No. 20, from the Cool Springs school to West End. The road was almost blocked in some places by the electric wires and poles which were blown down. Emergency crews working Tuesday night cleared the highway. A car belonging to Mr. E. Baber was damaged by a falling telephone post, while parked near the Cool Springs High school. The dance hall at the Dutch Grill was destroyed.

On Tuesday morning the right-of-way along a number of roads in the county were cluttered with advertising and bill boards, which were blown down by the heavy wind.

A small fire in the Spencer Mill, at Spindale, resulted when a line leading into the mill was hit by lightning. The fire was quickly extinguished, and before any considerable damage was done. Several motors and transformers were burned out, which placed part of the town in darkness, and interfered temporarily with the operations at the Spindale mills.

The principal damage wrought in the Avondale-Henrietta section was to the growing crops. Corn was broken down and blown over, while even cotton and smaller crops suffered heavily.

The eighteen months old child of Mr. and Mrs. Will Putnam, of near Henrietta, was severely shocked Monday afternoon about three o'clock. The child was on the porch, in its cradle, when lightning struck nearby,

### NOMINATED FOR STATE SENATE



Mr. A. C. Alexander, of Waverly Hall, Ga., who was recently nominated by the Democrats of the Eighth Senatorial District, of Georgia, as a candidate for the State senate. This nomination is equivalent to election in Mr. Alexander's district. Mr. Alexander is a native of Rutherford county, and is a brother of the late Hon. J. F. Alexander, of Forest City. He is engaged in the lumber business in Georgia.

### MASS MEETING HELD MONDAY

Rutherfordton, July 29.—Approximately two hundred people attended the mass meeting, held in the court house here Monday morning, to discuss ways and means of reducing the county tax levy. The commissioners were in attendance. Mr. W. W. Hicks was elected chairman. A few suggestions, practical and otherwise, were made as to methods to pursue in reducing the county's tax rate. A committee, consisting of one member from each township, was appointed to study the matter and make further recommendations at a later date.

injury to the child. It was rushed to Dr. Wiseman's office, and given medical attention. It regained consciousness after about thirty minutes.

A barn belonging to Mr. Charles Davis, of the Walls community, was struck by lightning and burned Monday afternoon at three o'clock. A mule in the barn was burned to death. Mr. Davis' loss is about \$500. Very little roughage and feed was in the barn at the time.

Heavy damage to crops, especially corn, was reported from Sulphur Springs township and in Golden Valley.

## AUCTION SALE OF THE FAIR GROUND PROPERTY TODAY

Harrill and King Selling Agents—Will Also Sell Valuable Rutherfordton Property.

Harrill and King, real estate dealers, will sell at auction on Thursday, July 31, (today), some of the most valuable property in Rutherfordton, also the Rutherford County Fair Grounds, near Spindale. This real estate is the property of the old Rutherford County Bank and Trust Company, and is being sold by order of the liquidator, John D. Biggs.

This property includes the building formerly occupied by The Rutherford County Bank and Trust Company, and all the equipment. Located in the heart of the business section of Rutherfordton, this building presents a fine opportunity for some investor, as it is the most valuable piece of property in the town. This property will be sold at eleven o'clock Thursday morning.

On the same day, at two o'clock, the Rutherford County Fair Ground will be sold. This piece of property includes about five hundred acres of land, the race track and grand stand, the exhibition hall and the stock and poultry barns. In addition, some of the fair ground land along the highway has been subdivided into lots and small farms. Included with this property is also an eight room, two story building which will be sold.

### A GIRL AND A BOY.

Born to Dr. and Mrs. R. R. Howes on Monday, July 28th, a lovely little daughter, weighing 7 pounds. Mother and baby both doing nicely.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Horn, July 29, a fine boy.

### SHELBY GIRLS MISS 'QUAKE BY 4 HOURS

Shelby, July 29.—Two girls, Misses Nancy Suttle and Kathleen Hord, missed the earthquake disaster in the Naples section of Italy by about four hours, according to cabled information received by their relatives here. Misses Suttle and Hord are on an European tour with one of Miss Boyte's parties out of Charlotte.

### OPENING FURNITURE STORE.

Messrs Clyde Hardin and Carl Huntley will open a new place of business here Saturday morning. They have purchased a large bankrupt stock of furniture, and will open up in the old Cooper stand.

## Fred E. Webb Dies Tuesday In Atlanta

Passes In U. S. Veterans' Hospital—Death Shocks Entire County—Funeral Today (Thursday) At 10 A. M.

### J. H. THOMAS IS CRITICALLY ILL

Suffers Stroke Thursday Afternoon at Sale—Condition Critical.

Mr. J. H. Thomas suffered a stroke of paralysis Thursday afternoon while attending a sale of property of the Farmers' Bank and Trust Company, of which he was at one time president.

Mr. Thomas was standing in a local grocery store at the time he was stricken, falling to the floor immediately afterwards. He was rushed to his home and medical aid summoned. It is feared that his condition is critical. He has been in ill health for some time.

Mr. Thomas came to Rutherford county from Kentucky in 1910 and organized the Caroleen Savings Bank at Caroleen. In 1915 he helped organize the Farmers' Bank and Trust Company, which was consolidated with the Caroleen Bank. The same year Mr. Thomas and his associates acquired and merged with the First National Bank of Forest City. Later on another National Bank was formed in Forest City and this was also merged with the Farmers' Bank, which at one time was the strongest county bank in the tenth district.

Mr. Thomas was also connected with several large lumber companies and one of the outstanding business leaders of the county.

For the past several months, on account of ill health, Mr. Thomas has not been taking an active part in any business.

### Improving.

As The Courier goes to press information to the effect that Mr. Thomas' condition is slightly improved was received.

## MR. E. O. THOMAS HEADS BUICK CO.

President and General Manager of Thomas Buick Co. at Asheville.

Mr. E. O. Thomas, general manager of the Forest City Motor Co., has entered the automobile field at Asheville and has been made president and general manager of the Thomas Buick Co., in that city, effective July 21. Formal opening of the new company was held last Saturday in the newly decorated show-rooms on Cox street, Asheville, in conjunction with the first public showing of the new Buick eight. Mr. Thomas expects to remove his family to Asheville in the early future and make his home in that city.

The Forest City Motor Co., will continue in business in this city, as heretofore, with the same personnel, except that Mr. Thomas will devote practically all of his time to the Asheville concern, but retaining his interest in the business here.

Mr. Thomas is thoroughly versed in every detail of the automobile business and in addition is possesser of a genial personality that makes friends for him wherever he goes. His many friends here are assured of his immediate success in his new field of endeavor.

Mr. J. V. Ogburn, of Smithfield, joined his family here Saturday for a visit to Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Jones. He was accompanied by Mr. Hubert Ogburn, of Sanford, who spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jones.

Mr. Earl Harris, of Charlotte, spent a few days here last week on business.

Mr. Fred E. Webb, aged 43, died Tuesday morning at 8:20 o'clock in Atlanta, Ga., where he had been since July 18, undergoing treatment. He had been in ill health for some time, and on July 18, entered the United States Veterans' Hospital in Atlanta, for treatment. His death was caused from a complication of ailments.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Minnie Carpenter Webb, two children, Lois and Fred, Jr., his mother, Mrs. Mary A. Webb, and one sister, Mrs. John W. Daniel, of Lincolnton.

Mr. Webb had been prominently identified with the business life of Forest City for a number of years. He was connected with the Reinhardt Drug Company, of this city for about fifteen years, and sold his interest in that place of business in 1926. He was one time director of the First National Bank, of this city, and prior to that was a director in the Farmers' Bank. After the consolidation of those two banks he again became director in the Farmers' Bank. At the time of his death he was a director in the Forest City Building and Loan Association, and a member of the City Council.

Mr. Webb was a member of the Forest City Methodist church, where he joined a number of years ago.

He served in the World War as a soldier in the Thirtieth Division, and was a member of the Willis Towery Post of the American Legion. After being discharged from the army in 1919 he returned to Forest City. He was married to Miss Minnie Carpenter, of Cliffside, in June, 1925.

Mr. Webb was born July 29, 1887, and died July 29, 1930, death claiming him on his birthday.

In the passing of Mr. Webb, Forest City loses one of its most prominent and useful citizens. He was a man of many fine qualities and possessed a warm and kindly disposition, these excellent traits bringing to him scores of warm and admiring friends. He was generous, friendly and honest to the core and stood ever ready to help a friend or any one in distress. His popularity was attested in the last race for City Councilman, he having been given a large vote after having been persuaded by his friends to enter the race. They wanted him on the board because they knew he was eminently qualified for the place and would give his duties in this position the same honest and efficient service that he rendered in every walk of life.

The cutting off of his useful career just in the prime of a most promising life will be a great loss to friends and the community at large. The Courier most sincerely joins the host of friends in extending condolences to the stricken family.

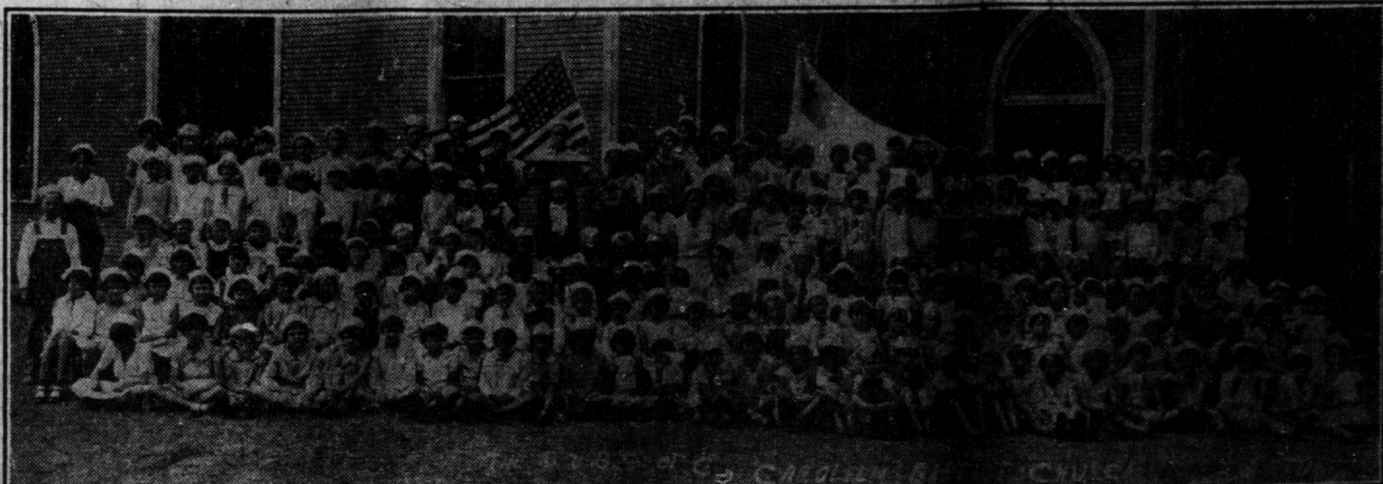
### Funeral Arrangements.

Funeral services for Mr. Fred E. Webb will be held this morning (Thursday) at ten o'clock, at the Forest City Methodist church. Rev. M. F. Moores will be in charge of the service, assisted by Dr. W. A. Ayers. Immediately after the service here the body will be taken to Pleasant Grove Methodist church for interment.

The active pallbearers will be Messrs. Spurgeon Moss, F. R. Wilkins, R. L. Reinhardt, Grover McDaniel, Bryan Harrill, Foy Horn, Charles Flack and Grover King.

Honorary pallbearers will be Dr. W. C. Bostic, Sr., Dr. W. C. Bostic, Jr., W. E. Hall, Jr., E. L. Horn, B. Higginson, Ben Higginson, J. H. Campbell, Charles Moore, Les Ewing, Broderick H. Young, H. Young, and J. W. Jones.

## Daily Vacation Bible School Henrietta-Caroleen Baptist Churches



The above pictures show the groups of children taking part in the Daily Vacation Bible School activities at the Henrietta and Caroleen Baptist churches. This school was held at both churches from July 7 to July 18, and during the ten days a total of 415 children were enrolled, 209 at Caroleen and 206 at Henrietta.