

FOREST CITY COURIER

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THREE DIE WHEN CAR CRASHES INTO TRAIN FRIDAY

Ambrose Crofts, Boyce Martin and J. T. Heaton, of This County, Die In Accident at Kings Mountain.

Three men, employes of a Kings Mountain textile plant, were instantly killed Friday night at 7:30 o'clock when Southern passenger train No. 40, northbound, struck their automobile at a crossing on the city square in Kings Mountain and hurled it 150 feet down the track.

The victims: Ambrose Crofts, 58, owner of the automobile.

Boyce Martin, 27, a bridegroom.

J. T. Heaton, 28 and unmarried.

Witnesses of the crash said the car in which the men were riding, a small coach, started around another machine that had halted for the train and moved directly in front of the locomotive.

The impact demolished the automobile, throwing the fragments several coach lengths down the track. The three men were hurled clear of the wreckage and were dead when spectators reached them.

The train halted, while the bodies were carried to a Kings Mountain mortuary.

Chief of Police George Allen of Kings Mountain said it appeared to him that the men had driven directly in front of the train to their deaths.

Corner T. C. Eskridge, of Shelby after reviewing the evidence given by several eyewitnesses of the tragedy, ruled an inquest unnecessary.

All three of the men were employed in the dye room of the Margrace mill.

The car was owned by Crofts, but was driven by Martin at the time of the accident. The bodies of all the men were badly cut and mangled.

The three men were residents of Rutherford county; two of them being natives of the county. Ambrose Crofts resided at Spindale, but had been working at Kings Mountain several months. Boyce Martin was a former resident of Spindale, where he was employed. J. T. Heaton was a native of the Cane Creek section of this county, but had resided at Spindale several years, until going to Kings Mountain to work a short time ago.

The three men were traveling in Crofts' car and were headed toward Shelby, where they expected to get Martin's wife, a bride of three months.

Funeral services for the victims of the crash were held Sunday. Martin's body was taken to Mt. Olivet church, near Cowpens, for interment. Crofts was buried at Mt. Vernon, Forest City, R-3, while Heaton was buried at Cane Creek Baptist church near the Rutherford-McDowell line.

Funeral services for Boyce L. Martin, aged 27, were held Sunday afternoon at Mt. Olivet Methodist church, near Cowpens, S. C. Martin's old home church. The funeral services were largely attended, several hundred attending. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Martin is survived by his widow, to whom he had been married three months to the day of the accident, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Martin, formerly of Spindale, now of Kings Mountain, also the following brothers and sisters: Jessie Martin, U. S. Army, Honolulu, Hawaii; Erman Martin, Kings Mountain; Fred Martin, Kings Mountain, Mrs. Farrell Robbins, Forest City; Ruby Martin, at home.

Martin was a popular young man, and was held in high esteem by all who knew him. He was discharged from the United States army about two years ago, and following that was employed in the mills at Spindale, and more recently at Kings Mountain.

Crofts Funeral. Funeral services for Ambrose Crofts, 58 year old widower, was held at Mt. Vernon Baptist church, Forest City, R-3, Sunday afternoon at two o'clock, with Rev. D. J. Hunt in charge, assisted by Rev. C. L. Caldwell and Rev. T. M. Hester. Interment was in the Mt. Vernon cemetery. One of the largest crowds to

HARRIS STUDENT WINS SCHOLARSHIP

Ralph Smith Winner in Lenoir-Rhyne Declamation Contest Gets Medal and Scholarship.

Harris, March 30.—In a declamation-recitation contests held at Lenoir-Rhyne college, Hickory, Friday, March 27, Ralph Smith, representing Harris High school, was awarded a gold medal and scholarship to Lenoir-Rhyne college, valued at \$120.00.

There were in the oratorical class eighteen representatives from western North Carolina who competed for the medal and scholarship. Second place was won by a representative from Swannanoa high school. The contest was unusually good and competition was keen. This is the first time a Rutherford county boy has won this honor.

Officers Will Not Wear Uniforms

Senator W. K. McLean's bill to require law enforcement officers of Rutherford county to wear uniforms was killed in the Senate Tuesday night. Mr. McLean presented this measure last week, and by its provisions all officers in the county would have been required to wear a uniform had the bill passed.

ever attend a funeral in this county was present on this occasion.

Mr. Crofts was born in Cleveland county, but was reared in this county, and had spent most of his life in the Mt. Vernon community. On September 5, 1894, he was married to Louisa Eugene Carpenter, who preceded him to the grave eleven years ago. To this union were born ten children, nine of which survive, as follows: Mrs. Robert Harton, of near Forest City; Mrs. J. A. Crowder, Lattimore; Mr. P. L. Crofts, Spindale; Mrs. J. L. Lancaster, Concord; Mrs. R. P. Buchanan, Spruce Pine; Misses Lola, L. C., Rosa Lee and Mr. C. D. Crofts, who make their home with their brother, P. L. Crofts at Spindale. Seven grandchildren survive, also the following brothers and sisters: David Crofts, Spindale; P. H. Crofts, Bostic; Mrs. C. L. Freeman, Westminster community; Mrs. J. S. Carpenter, Mrs. J. J. Rollins, of the Mt. Vernon community; Mrs. C. G. Marsh, of Cliffside.

Mr. Crofts was a son of the late David Crofts. He joined the Mt. Vernon Baptist church at an early age, where he served as a deacon for a number of years. A few years before his death he united with the Smith Grove Baptist church.

The pall bearers were nephews of the deceased, and were Messrs. Vester Hardin, Charles C. Carpenter, J. B. Callahan, John Hardin, Angus Crofts, Hoyle Carpenter. The beautiful floral offering was borne by his nieces, who were Misses Pauline and Mary Elizabeth Crofts, Mattie and Beatrice Carpenter, Ada and Vatrice Hardin.

He was 57 years, eleven months and one day old at the time of his death.

Heaton Funeral. Funeral services for James T. Heaton, aged 28 were held Sunday afternoon at one o'clock at Cane Creek Baptist church, on Highway No. 181, near the Rutherford-McDowell county line. Several hundred friends and relatives attended the sad occasion, packing the small church to its limit, while many had to remain outside. Rev. M. M. Huntley, former pastor of the youth, was in charge of the service. Interment was in the Cane Creek cemetery.

Young Heaton was unmarried. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Enoch W. Heaton, of Spindale, two brothers and two sisters, Wesley Heaton, Rutherfordton; Albert Heaton, Union Mills; Lillie Mae Heaton, Spindale and Jamie Heaton, of Mooresburg, Tenn. Pall bearers were Messrs. Kelly Roper, B. F. Whitener, Ed Tomblin, H. W. Whitener, Hildred Higgins and Luther Hamrick. The flower bearers were Misses Lexie Hamrick, Hettie Burgin, Gracie Taylor, Flora Caldwell, Maude Beatty and Mencia Page, the last three from Kings Mountain.

JUST KIDS—The Toll of Friendship.

By Ad Carter



DUKE FUNDS TO AID SCHOOLS, HOSPITAL

Rutherford Hospital, Alexander School and South Mountain School Among Those Aided.

Distribution of \$714,453 to an even 100 hospitals and sanatoria of the Carolinas and \$148,722.44 to 49 orphanages of the two states was authorized at the regular March meeting in Charlotte Tuesday of the board of trustees of the Duke endowment.

The funds apportioned totaled \$861,175.44 and were distributed on a basis of the work carried on by the institutions during the past year. Because of the much greater demand on hospitals last year, the board's usual gift of one dollar for each free bed day made a much greater sum than usual. The total amount distributed to the orphanages and hospitals of the Carolinas last March was only \$640,000. Checks for the amounts donated Tuesday will be mailed out within a few days.

Of the above amount the Rutherford hospital will get \$6,096; Alexander Schools, Inc., Union Mills, \$3,109.80 and the South Mountain Industrial Institute, Bostic, \$938.60.

M. Hendrick Named College Trustee

Mr. Maurice Hendrick, of Cliffside was Monday night named one of the thirty-six trustees of the North Carolina State college, at a joint session of the senate and house committees of State college trustees. Mr. Hendrick was re-elected, his term having expired March 31.

The recommendations of the committee will be presented to the two houses of the assembly in the next few days for action.

If they are favorably acted upon the new trustees will serve until the proposed consolidation of State college with the University of North Carolina and North Carolina College for Women is effected.

The committee did not designate any specific term for the proposed trustees, but such action is anticipated before the report is filed with the two houses.

MR. MILSON BOSTIC WINS IN CIRCULATION CONTEST

Mr. Milson Bostic, of this city, has been awarded a bicycle as first prize in the Spartanburg Herald-Journal circulation contest. Mr. Bostic secured more subscribers for that paper than any other member of the carrier's force between Spartanburg and Rutherfordton.

Buy one for Easter: Giant grip buckle, belt chain and genuine leather belt, all for only \$1.00. Biggest belt value in town. G. F. Bradley, Jeweler.

WRIGLEY MAKES BIG COTTON BID

Chewing Gum Magnate Will Buy 200,000 Bales at Limit of 12 Cents Pound.

Chicago, March 31.—The William Wrigley, Jr., company has its bid in for 100,000,000 pounds of the southern state's cotton crop—at a price not to exceed 12 cents a pound.

William Wrigley, Jr., today announced formation of the Cotton Investment fund—through which all money collected from cotton state's sales of the company's chewing gum products between April 1 and December 1, 1931, will be used to purchase cotton on the American market.

12 Cents Is Limit.

Should cotton go above 12 cents the Wrigley company will get out of the market.

Cotton was 11.52 on the Chicago market today, for December delivery. In New York, it was 11.49, up four cents.

The plan is "in no sense an advertising stunt or gamble," Wrigley said. A similar project was effected last year by the Canadian Wrigley concern, through which wheat was accepted in payment for products.

City Registration Books Open April 4

The registration books for the registration of voters in the municipal election of May 5th will open Saturday, and will remain open until April 25th. Mr. J. E. Caldwell has been named registrar and may be found at the city hall from nine o'clock until sunset each day during the registration period. Messrs. G. V. Frye and P. N. Long have been named as judges of the election.

Attention is called to the fact that those who did not register for the sale of the town's light and water plants are not registered on the town's books, and must register if they wish to vote in the approaching election.

W. M. S. TO MEET AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The Woman's Missionary society of the First Baptist church will hold their regular meeting next Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the church. At this time Mrs. W. A. Ayers and Mrs. Fred Webb will make a report of the W. M. U. convention held at Gastonia recently. All the ladies of the church are cordially invited to attend this meeting.

PLAY AT HARRIS.

Harris, March 30.—Evangeline, a five-act drama, will be presented by the seventh grade of the Harris school at the school auditorium Wednesday evening, April 8th, at eight o'clock. There will be no admission.

RURAL SCHOOLS TO HOLD FINALS

Washburn, Hollis, Green Hill and Gilkey Among Schools Closing This and Next Week.

The commencement season for a number of the large rural schools of Rutherford county is close at hand. Most of these schools had a term last summer in order to allow their students to get out in time to help on the farm.

Washburn school located near Bostic, will close this week with exercises Thursday night, Friday, and Friday night. Thursday evening at 8 o'clock there will be songs by the school, a baby show by 12 girls and one boy; a trained animal show; a play, "Waiting for the Train," and the seventh grade exercises. Wilma Bridges is president of the seventh grade, Bennie Washburn is valedictorian; Miles Philbeck, historian; Glen Norville, Poet; Ethel Wells, prophet, and Oliver Melton, member.

Speaking Contest.

On Friday at 11 o'clock will be the declamation and recitation contest with the following speakers and subjects: "Peekin' thru the Window," Archie Philbeck; "Asleep at the Switch," J. D. Harrill; "The Gettysburg Address," Howard Jones; "The Black Horse and His Rider," Robert Philbeck; "Ain't She Cute," Nellie Jones; "A Little Child Shall Lead Them," Thelma Melton; "Mary's Big Sister," Sarah Randall; "When Sister Expected Her Beau," Jennie Mae Walker; "Johnnie's Opinion of Grandmother," Olene Walker; "Aunt Elmora's Hero," Foy White; "Mary Gray's Choice," Lucy Mae Norville; and "The One-Legged Goose," Edith Rollins. This will be followed by dinner on the grounds. In the afternoon, County Superintendent of schools, Clyde A. Erwin, will deliver an address.

Friday night at eight o'clock there will be three one-act plays, "Mother's Old Home," "A Regular Fix," and "Captain's Predicament."

Green Hill School.

Green Hill rural consolidated school will close April 8 and 9 with a program each evening at 7:30 o'clock. Wednesday night, April 8, the primary grades will present an operetta "Over the Garden Wall." This will be followed by a short play, "A Pleasant Afternoon," by the Grammar grade girls. The boys will present "The A. O. M. T."

Thursday evening, April 9, at 7:30 o'clock a comedy in three acts, "Bound to Marry," will be given by the 8th and 9th grades. This will be followed by the presentation of seventh grade diplomas, certificates and medals.

Hollis high school will hold its final exercises April 5, 9, and 10. On Sunday, April 5 at 3 o'clock the baccalaureate sermon will be delivered by the Rev. E. E. Snow, of Fallston.

On Thursday evening, April 9, at 7:30 o'clock the seniors will hold their class day exercises, while the intermediate grades will hold their recitation contest. Friday, April 10 will be commencement day with the high school declamation and recitation contest beginning at 10:30 o'clock. This will be followed by a picnic dinner on the grounds. At 2 o'clock, the Rev. L. B. Haynes, pastor of the Central Methodist church; Shelby, will deliver the literary address. Graduating exercises and the awarding of medals, diplomas, and other honors will take place.

On April 10 at 8 o'clock in the evening the high school play, "Poor Father," a comedy in three acts, will be given.

Gilkey School.

Gilkey high school's closing exercises will be held April 1, 3, and 3. Wednesday night, April 1, the primary grades will present an operetta "The Golden Whistle," while on Friday evening, April 3, at 8 o'clock the fourth and fifth grades will present a play, "The Rejuvenation of Uncle Hi."

Wednesday evening, April 8, at 8 o'clock the closing exercises will be held with the high school presenting a three-act comedy, "Beads on a String."

Mr. Chas. Byrd, of Wadesboro, spent the week-end here.

OUTLINE PROGRAM FOR OLDER BOYS' CONFERENCE

Conference Opens Friday, April 17, at Cliffside—Many Speakers of Note Expected.

The Seventh Older Boys' Conference, which will be held in Cliffside on Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18, is expected to be one of the best yet held in the county. According to Prof. Clyde A. Erwin, unusual interest in the conference is being shown in every section of the county, especially in the rural districts.

A tentative program has been outlined. This program, which is subject to change, is as follows:

Friday afternoon, four o'clock: organization meeting and election of conference officers, followed by an inspirational address by some speaker of note.

Friday night: conference banquet. Dr. D. W. Daniels, of Clemson college, will probably be the speaker at the banquet. It is hoped to have an orchestra, band or some other entertainment feature.

Saturday morning: address by some outstanding college student from some North Carolina college, followed by four 4-minute talks by Rutherford county boys.

Saturday afternoon: Baseball game between two college teams. If these teams are not available, it is hoped to secure a game between two professional or semi-professional ball clubs.

Saturday night: College glee club and reception.

It was agreed to dispense with the Sunday afternoon session this year, as these sessions have, heretofore, not been attended as they should.

All boys attending this year's conference will be expected to return to their homes each night, as no provision will be made for taking care of the delegates in the home of Cliffside.

GAS TAX UP ONE CENT WEDNESDAY

New Road Law Boosts State Levy to Rate Equal to Highest Paid by Any State.

Raleigh, April 1.—North Carolina's new road law went into effect Wednesday, and with it the sale price of gasoline was increased one cent on the gallon.

The act increases the tax on gasoline from five to six cents per gallon—a rate equal to the highest paid in any state of the union.

This increase was voted when the assembly passed the road law to take over and maintain all county roads as well as state highways.

The act provides that county roads be taken over July 1, when all county highway commissioners will go out of office. However, the law makes it illegal for county commissioners to buy, sell or dispose of any highway equipment which the state also takes over July 1, between now and that date.

Governor Gardner, who sponsored the new law in its trip through the assembly, predicted it "will meet the needs of our people in a manner even beyond the expectation of its advocates."

He said it would put the state in control of 47 chaingangs and 2,500 county prisoners. The law provides for convict labor where cheaper labor cannot be obtained for road work.

Seven members of the old highway commission, which was abolished at midnight, will continue in office as the new commission until one is named by the governor. With all road districts abolished by the act, the new commissioners will not be named on a district basis.

The seven remaining commissioners are:

R. L. Doughton, chairman; J. G. Stikeleather of Asheville; W. A. McGirt of Wilmington; C. B. Wheatley of Beaufort; Frank C. Kugler of Washington; J. Elwood Cox of High Point, and James L. McNair of Laurinburg.