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Vivid Pen Picture Of Fearful Disaster In The School Building

Up to This Morning 165 Bodies Had Been Taken From Ruins - Several Children Missing - Cause of Fire Mystery.

Graphic Description of Panic That Followed Outbreak of Fire And of the Terrible Loss of Life.

By Associated Press. Cleveland, O., March 5.—One hundred and sixty-five lives, all but two of them were children between the ages of 6 and 15, are known to have been lost in the fire which yesterday destroyed the public school in North Collinwood.

Several others still are missing and their bodies may possibly be in the ruins.

Identifying Bodies. It probably will be several days before the exact number of the dead is accurately determined.

Of the 165 bodies recovered, 108 have been identified. The remaining bodies are so blackened by fire and smoke, so battered and bruised by trampling feet that it is only by means of some article of wearing apparel that their identity can be ascertained.

The cause of the fire, which, aided by a frantic panic, narrow hallway and doors which it is claimed, by many, were made to open inward, still is a mystery.

It was at first supposed it came from an overheated furnace or an exhaust boiler in the basement. It has been established there was no explosion.

Was it incendiary? E. R. Gardner, member of the school board, is positive in his assertion that the fire was of incendiary origin. There were no electric lights in the portion of the building where the fire started. There were between 310 and 350 pupils, the school was overcrowded.

The teachers retained their self-possession and showed great courage in the face of imminent death.

Horrible Sight. The extreme horror, the scenes enacted around the rear door of the Essex school house had few parallels. Little school children lay six and eight deep, while men and women struggled with desperation to rescue them until they were compelled to give way before the flames and smoke.

Watched Children Burn to Death. One woman found her daughter in this press and tried to keep the flames away, but the child was burned to death while the mother looked on.

The front door never was fully opened, but a dense pile of little bodies lay in the blackened wreckage around this point.

When the fire broke out the teachers promptly formed the pupils in columns of march, according to the fire drill, but when the head of the column was nearing the front door a rush of flames met it and some of the children dashed at the door in an effort to open it, while others turned and fled wildly up stairs.

The column above kept pressing down and within a few seconds there was a full panic and struggle on the stairway and behind the half closed front door that nothing could stop, which cost the lives of all caught within it.

The Worst Tragedy. A far worse tragedy was enacted at the door in the rear. This, it is claimed, opened inward like the front door. In order to reach this entrance the pupils were compelled to march down the stairway, make a sharp turn in the narrow hall and so to the door. It was the lack of space in the hall and the sharp bend at the foot of the stairs that cost so many lives at this point.

Bodies Trampled. Flooding from the fire in front, the children came rushing and tumbling down stairs in a frenzy of terror. At the bottom of the stairs somebody tripped and fell. In another instant others were down and in less time than it can be told the doorway hall and foot of the stairs were packed with little bodies, wedged so tight that the rescuers struggled and fought until their own hands were severed almost to cinders and still could save no child from out of the pile and could save no lives beyond a few that they lifted from the top.

All the while, until death closed their lips, the children were shrieking for aid.

A few of the women stood by holding the hands of the little ones until the flames drove them away.

While agonized men were struggling at the doorways and frantic mothers were standing by, they could not smoke rising up from the floor and floating away above the heads of the children. Outside women dropped to the ground in swoons.

So great was the mass of children at one point that when the floor fell through the top of the heap of

blackened bodies reached from the basement floor to the level of the ground. Dead May Number 180. As the day wore on the belief became general that the number of dead will reach 180.

Second Tragedy Was Threatened

By Associated Press. Grand Rapids, Mich., March 5.—Grand Rapids was threatened with a repetition of Cleveland's tragedy of yesterday, on even a larger scale, when fire broke out in the Central High School, while 1,200 pupils were in midst of their morning work.

The signal for the fire drill was given as the children marched out in perfect order, the building being emptied in two and one-half minutes. The damage by fire was light.

Note from Blackhand. By Associated Press. Birmingham, Ala., March 5.—Chief of Police Bodeker, of Birmingham, received through the mail, with a Bessemer, Ala., date and postmark, a note reading: "Chief Bodeker; we give you one week to quit a job; you find a knife if you don't. On the reverse side of the note was a hand in black ink.

To Investigate Charges. By Associated Press. Washington, D. C., March 5.—The house committee on rules decided to report favorably the resolution by Rep. Lilley providing for appointment of a committee to investigate the charges of corrupt influence in connection with the authorization of submarine torpedo boats.

In Honor of Senator Proctor. By Associated Press. Washington, D. C., March 5.—The senate and house adopted resolutions of regret and adjourned out of respect to the late Senator Proctor, committees were appointed by the two bodies to accompany the remains to Vermont.

Gov. Glenn and Dr. Kilgo to Speak. Special to The News. Winston-Salem, N. C., March 5.—Governor R. B. Glenn and Dr. J. C. Kilgo, president of Trinity College, have accepted invitations to address the Forsyth County Teachers' Association here Saturday.

Election Of S. C. Senator

Special to The News. Columbia, S. C., March 5.—The first ballot in the joint session of the legislature for United States senator resulted today as follows: Gary, 69; Walker 43; Coker 29; Mauldin 16; scattering 6. The vote necessary to a choice is seventy-nine.

Second Ballot. The second ballot resulted, Gary 68; Walker 51; Mauldin 19; Coker 13; Jones 5; Holiday 1.

A Mysterious Meeting. Special to The News. Salisbury, N. C., March 5.—At the meeting called by Mr. Morton, of Wilmington, to be held at 4 o'clock, a number were present. The list of names is unobtainable. Secrecy seems to be round the gathering up to this hour. Whether the meeting will be public or behind closed doors is not known. It is regarded as an anti-prohibition gathering.

King Leaves London. By Associated Press. London, March 5.—King Edward left London for Biarritz for a month's holiday, after which he will make a cruise of the Mediterranean in company with Queen Alexandra.

Fish Hatcheries. By Associated Press. Washington, D. C., March 5.—The house committee on merchant marine and fisheries agreed to report favorably bills to establish fish hatcheries in South Carolina and Florida.

Gen. F. A. Harmond Dead. By Associated Press. Grandford, Conn., March 4.—General Frank A. Harmond, who gained his title in the Confederate service, is dead at his home in Stacy Creek. He was aged 79 years.

German Car Withdrawn. By Associated Press. Ormond, Fla., March 5.—Before the hour scheduled for the start it was announced that the German car had been withdrawn and the 120-horse power American car, driven by Harry Shefts, could not start.

Will Electrocute Them. By Associated Press. Richmond, Va., March 5.—The senate concurred in the house bill today for the execution of all death sentences at the penitentiary here by electricity.

Miss Sadie Stanback, of Mangum, is the guest of Mrs. Isaac Perso Caldwell.



"WHAT DO WE CARE ABOUT A STRONG PARTY ORGANIZATION? WHAT WE WANT IS 'PIE'!"

Federal Vs. State Court

Special to The News. Columbia, S. C., March 5.—A clash between the state of South Carolina and Judge Pritchard seems inevitable.

Governor Ansel today sent a special message to the general assembly, in extra session, urging it to pass legislation preserving the state authority and protect the dispensary funds from federal court interference.

Will Hold Special Election for School Tax

Special to The News. Salisbury, N. C., March 5.—At the regular meeting of the board of county commissioners this week the citizens of Unity township petitioned the board for the privilege to hold a special election for the purpose of voting a special school tax and their request was granted.

The citizens have also made a proposition to assist the county in macadamizing three miles of public road in their section and their proposition was accepted.

Guilford Republicans to Hold County Convention

Special to The News. Greensboro, N. C., March 5.—The republican factions here are hard at work this week, getting things in shape for the primaries Friday, and the county convention Saturday. These meetings are to select delegates to the state convention and interest attaches by reason of the split on Cannon and Taft.

The Cannon boomers declare that they will have Guilford delegates instructed for Uncle Joe, while the Taft element say that by Saturday there will be no Cannon men worth speaking of. The practical fight here is the old one on State Chairman Adams, the line-up being just as it was two years ago, except that Blackburn is not permitted to do any leading.

Mr. R. H. McNeil, of Wilkesboro, credited with being a side partner of ex-Senator Butler, was here last night. He is strong for Taft, and is advocating the sending of Judge Fyches, of Statesville, as a delegate to the national convention. Judge Fyches is a great admirer of Taft.

The Report of The Southern

Special to The News. Raleigh, N. C., March 5.—The report of the Southern Railway Company of North Carolina business for the quarter ending December 31, 1907, has just been filed with the corporation commissioner and shows a grand total of earnings for the month of the quarter: October, \$1,217,482.52; November, \$1,021,778.09; December, \$896,869.43. Of the sum total of the above \$3,096,222.51 was intra-state earnings.

The Southern is the only road in the state that has yet filed its report for the last 1907 quarter although these reports were due February 1.

Lunatic Taken to Virginia. Special to The News. Salisbury, N. C., March 5.—W. J. Disbaron, the unfortunate young white man who was taken from a train here several months ago a raving maniac, and who has been confined in jail since his people in Danville claimed they were unable to care for him, was yesterday taken to that city and placed in charge of his relatives. There is no improvement in his condition.

Died in Jail. Special to The News. Wilson, N. C., March 5.—Old man Lewis, who last Saturday shot his wife, died in jail here early this morning.

To Confer Over Freight Rates

Special to The News. Raleigh, N. C., March 5.—Chairman Franklin McNeer and Secretary Henry C. Brown, of the corporation commission have gone to Washington to confer with the interstate commerce commission relative to the suit against the Norfolk and Western Railway Company, alleging unjust, unreasonable and excessive freight rates charged to North Carolina points, Winston-Salem and Durham compared to Virginia cities.

General Manager C. H. Hix, of the Seaboard Air Line, files with the corporation commission a petition to be allowed to discontinue the shoo-fly between Raleigh and Weldon, on the ground the train operated is a losing proposition.

The report shows that it costs 13 cents per mile more to operate the train than the earnings per mile; that is 62 1/2 cents cost and earnings only of 49 1/2 cents a mile.

Raleigh business men are opposing its discontinuance. A charter was today issued the Winston Drug Co. at a \$10,000 capital subscribed by T. L. Farrow, Jr., and others.

Boy Killed His Father

Special to The News. Wilson, N. C., March 5.—A fearful tragedy occurred in this county this morning when Cad Pages, prominent farmer, while beating his wife, was shot and killed by his 15-year-old son, Ernest.

It is said the old man was drunk. Coroner's jury is holding an inquest this afternoon, and it is the opinion the boy will be considered justifiable in his deed.

Light Thrown on Black Murder

By Associated Press. New Orleans, La., March 5.—According to a telegram received here by the police, George Hamilton and Charles Weatherbee, the young men who were recently arrested here on the charge of smashing show windows, are wanted for murder in Norfolk, Va.

Following is the message: "Rome, Ga.—George Hamilton, alias 'W. Wall' and Charles Weatherbee, alias 'T. C. Folker,' wanted for murder. Large reward. Let me know on way. (Signed) G. E. Berry."

The arrest of Hamilton and Weatherbee came as a sensational climax to a series of daring robberies perpetrated in the heart of the business section by persons who selected jewelry windows as the scene of their crimes. Several hours after receiving the message from Rome, Inspector O'Connor was called up by R. B. Berry, of Chattanooga, Tenn., who, through the long distance said he positively identified the published pictures of Weatherbee and Hamilton as the men who murdered his brother, A. H. Berry, in a hotel in Norfolk, October 20th, 1907, and robbed him of \$2,500 in money, and a valuable diamond ring and some small trinkets. Hamilton and Weatherbee deny the charge.

Story of the Murder. Rome, Ga., March 5.—The murder being investigated by the New Orleans police, in connection with the arrest of Hamilton and Weatherbee, was committed in Norfolk, Va. A. H. Berry being a young man of Rome, who had gone to Norfolk to see the Berry being an exposition. Berry was found in his night clothes with stab wounds in his neck and evidences of having been struck over the head with some heavy weapon. One of the men in New Orleans is supposed to come from Dalton, Ga., while the second is said to be a resident of Monroe, Va. The elder Berry accompanied the detectives to New Orleans late last night

Opinion Of Supreme Court

Special to The News. Raleigh, N. C., March 5.—Opinions are delivered in 16 appeals by the supreme court as follows:

Manning vs. Fountain, Edgcombe. Error. Sherrod vs. Newsome, Edgcombe. Affirmed.

Clothing Co. vs. Bagley, Martin. Affirmed. Avery vs. Lumber Co., Craven. Affirmed.

Caho vs. N. & B. railroad, Pamlico. Affirmed. Gilikin vs. Canal Co., Carteret. Affirmed.

Sutton vs. Jenkins, Pitt. New trial. Whitehurst vs. Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, Affirmed.

Geroch vs. Telegraph Co., Bertie. Affirmed. Young vs. Lumber Co., Halifax. New trial.

Canal Co. vs. Burnham, Camden. Reversed. Carr's will case, New Hanover, dismissed under rule 17.

Mills vs. Harrison, Wilson. Dismissed for failure to print. Chance vs. Atlantic Coast Line, Martin. Per curiam affirmed.

Daughtridge vs. Batchelor, Nash. Action abated. Furniture Co. vs. Mercer, New Hanover. Dismissed at appellants cost.

Appeals to be Called. On next Tuesday March 10th the appeals from the fifth judicial district will be called for argument in the supreme court in the following order:

State vs. Southern Railway. Motion to State costs. Yelverton vs. Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. (Settled.)

Bryan vs. Eason. Bank vs. Jones. Goodwin vs. Cotton Mills. (Defendant's appeal.)

Goodwin vs. Cotton Mills. (Plaintiff's appeal.) Whitfield vs. Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

Jones vs. Life Assurance Society. Perry vs. Perry. Motte vs. Irwin.

Corporation Commission vs. Southern Railway. Walker vs. Taylor.

Watson vs. Manufacturing Co. (Plaintiff's appeal.) Battle vs. Lewis.

Overman vs. Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad. Watson vs. Manufacturing Co. (defendants appeal.)

Thinks Anarchist Was Alone in His Attempt

By Associated Press. Chicago, March 5.—Lazarus Averluch was alone in his attempt to take the life of Chief Shippy. Three days and nights' hard work on the case has brought me to this conclusion. I am going ahead, however, arresting all his friends I can find, in the effort to sift this thing to the bone."

Assistant Chief of Police Schuetzler, who has taken charge of the anarchist situation in Chicago made this statement last night.

Watch For Insane Man. Special to The News. Winston-Salem, N. C., March 5.—Sheriff Ziegler is in receipt of a letter from the superintendent of the state hospital at Morganton, requesting him to look out for and arrest Francis Hanes, one of the four insane men who escaped from the asylum Monday night.

Celebrate Their Golden Wedding. Special to The News. Winston-Salem, N. C., March 5.—Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Bitting, of Rural Hall, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last Monday. They were married in Raleigh, March 2, 1858.

Assistant Postmaster Bradford is suffering with an attack of the grip.

Nebraska Democrats Endorse Hon. Wm. J. Bryan For President

Prohibition Campaign Begins in Salisbury

Special to The News. Salisbury, N. C., March 5.—Miss Elizabeth Moore, organizer of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, will speak to the ladies of this city in the auditorium of the First Baptist church tonight. The meeting is held under the auspices of the local Anti-Saloon League, and is the first movement to enlist the good women in the temperance campaign. The league is preparing for an aggressive campaign. Among those who will take the stump in Rowan are ex-Governor Aycock, Governor Glenn, Mr. John A. Oates, and Judge Jeter C. Pritchard.

New York Bank Scandal

By Associated Press. New York, March 5.—Misconduct of affairs of the Oriental Bank, which is in the hands of receivers, is charged in the report written by examiners employed by the receivers and made public today. The report says: "The bank has been conducted in the most slipshod, loose, unbusinesslike manner, and has been permeated with irregularities, frauds and crime."

Defy Nine-Hour Law

By Associated Press. Montgomery, Ala., March 5.—Contending that the Southern Railway in Mississippi is state and not an interstate line management, according to a report from Mississippi, it has refused to obey the nine-hour law. The orders have been sent out, it is said, to all station agents and operators to proceed as they have been in the past.

Tokio Exposition

By Associated Press. Washington, D. C., March 5.—The house committee on arts and exhibitions today decided to report favorably the bill appropriating \$500,000 for participation of the United States in the exposition at Tokio, in 1912.

Member of A. P. Staff Dead

By Associated Press. Washington, March 5.—Francis Carroll Martingale, a member of the Associated Press staff of the Washington office, died after an illness of several months.

Cottages For Reformatory

Superintendent Thompson and Mr. Cook, of Concord, Consulting With Local Architects Over Proposed New Buildings

That work is soon to begin on the Stonewall Jackson Reformatory and Manual Training School at Concord, Mr. Walter Thompson, who will be the superintendent, and Mr. J. P. Cook, of Concord, who is really the father of the reformatory idea in North Carolina, having advocated it for years before there was the slightest hope that the state would establish one, were here yesterday on an important mission. They consulted with two of the city's architects about bids on two cottages to go up at an early date.

Mr. Thompson in speaking of the matter to a News man last night, said that the cottages, which would really be large dormitory buildings, would be of brick. They will be three stories high, counting the basement as one story. On the first floor there will be a large dining room, kitchen, reception or sitting room, and living rooms for the superintendent and his family.

On the second floor will be dormitories for 20 boys—for the reformatory is to begin with that number. In addition two rooms there will be set apart for officials of the institution. The basement, which will be entered from the rear, will contain showery baths, toilets, wash rooms, each boy to have his own spigot and towel. Military order will be enforced.

The superintendent and boys will go into the first cottage until the second one is erected, when there will be more room. The cottages will be just alike. The reformatory has 227 acres of the finest kind of land, picturesquely situated just south of Concord. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Cook have planned far ahead, and the earliest buildings put up will be so situated as to harmonize with those designed for later building. An old house now on the place will be used temporarily for school purposes. It is expected that at least one of the cottages will be ready by September or October.

Stock will be raised on the plantation and a large dairy maintained to supply pure milk to the children. The cottages will be assured from all over the state of hearty sympathy in this great cause. Mr. Thompson is enthusiastic in this great life-work ahead of him and the state is fortunate to have a man of such ability at the helm.

Delegates Named by State Convention for Denver Meeting - Are Instructed to Vote for Bryan as Party Candidate.

By Associated Press. Omaha, Neb., March 5.—Twelve of the 16 delegates from Nebraska to the democratic national convention were selected by the congressional district convention of the party this morning.

Mr. Bryan Spoke to Enthusiastic Crowd Numbering Over 5,000 Populists for Him - Some of The Issues.

Four delegates at large are to be chosen by the state convention, which is scheduled to be called to order at 2 o'clock this afternoon. All 16 will go to Denver instructed to vote for W. J. Bryan as the presidential candidate of the party.

Interest in the convention will center on the speech which Mr. Bryan is expected to make to the delegates and on the platform, which will probably reflect his views on national politics. The entire occasion, in fact, has been planned, so as to give him full opportunity to indicate the issues paramount in the coming campaign.

The gathering this afternoon will be one of the largest ever held by the party in the state. Full delegations are in attendance and in addition there are numerous alternates and district leaders who have come to Omaha. An audience of over 5,000 people greeted Mr. Bryan this afternoon.

The state convention of the populist party is also to take place and its leaders will support Bryan.

OLD SONGS AND BALLADS.

Presbyterian College Choral Class. Class Will Give Recital.

On Tuesday evening, March 17th, the Musurgia Choral Class of the Presbyterian College will give a concert in the college auditorium. The first part of the program will include piano and organ numbers, while the second will be devoted to the rendering of old songs and ballads, such as "Home, Sweet Home" and "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean."

A small admission fee will be charged, the proceeds to be divided between the class and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

CAPT. FINCH COMES HERE.

He Will be Associated With the Clinchfield Coal Corporation. Captain Kenneth Finch, of New York, formerly with the Seaboard railroad, and well known in Charlotte, has arrived in the city and will make Charlotte his home in the future. Captain Finch has accepted a position with the Clinchfield Coal Corporation, which will make Charlotte headquarters. He will be associated with Mr. V. G. Morris, the general manager of the company in this city.

LAND TRANSFERS.

220 Acres in Lemly Township Sell for \$1,200. One deed was filed for registration in the office of the clerk of the superior court today, from Jane V. Davidson to Sadie E. Davidson, for four tracts of land lying in Lemly township, aggregating 220 1/4 acres, the consideration being \$1,200.

Marriage in the County.

The marriage of Mrs. W. V. Dunn and Mr. W. M. Crowell occurred last night at the home of the bride, three miles east of the city. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Harris Mallinckrodt, rector of St. Peter's Episcopal church. The marriage was a quiet home affair, only immediate relatives and a few intimate friends being present. Both Mr. and Mrs. Crowell are well known in Charlotte. Mr. Crowell conducts grocery stores on West Trade and East Morehead streets.

Death of Granville Reddick.

Greenville Reddick, one of the best known negroes in Charlotte, of the old-school type, and for 17 years a trustworthy employe of the compass, died last night at 8:15 o'clock. Reddick was 55 years old. He came to Charlotte from Norfolk, Va., with Captain Edwards in 1876, in connection with the compass, which was built by Mr. J. L. Harvey. With the exception of two years he was engineer at the compass ever since coming here.

Cars to Chadwick Next Week.

Owing to inclement weather the first street car to the Chadwick and Hoskins Mills, four miles west of the city, will not be run until next week. The company had hoped to end out the first car Saturday.

Cotton Receipts.

Twenty-three bales were sold at the platform today at 11 3/4 cents, against 28 bales at 10 cents on the same day last year.