

THE MONROE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED TWICE EACH WEEK — TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

VOL. 25. No. 60.

MONROE, N. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER, 2, 1919.

\$1.50 PER YEAR CASH.

LATEST HAPPENINGS

News Events of the Day in the State and Nation.

A \$300,000 high school building has just been completed in Asheville.

At the close of the war the United States was the second largest naval flying force in the world.

A dynamite cap exploded in the hand of Clarence Murdock of Lexington and blew off his thumb and two fingers.

T. J. Fitzsimmons is under arrest charged with the murder of Caldwell Houston in the Charlotte riot.

The new Pacific fleet entered San Francisco yesterday and was reviewed by Secretary Daniels on the Oregon.

John Melvin of Fayetteville has been convicted of the murder of George Owens and sentenced to three years in jail.

A. C. L. shopmen of Wilmington have voted to accept President Wilson's proposition as to wage increase and to wait for more settled conditions to talk higher wages.

The Cranford, first steel steamer ever built in North Carolina, was launched yesterday from the ways of the Carolina shipyards at Wilmington.

J. F. Tueston and Casey Jordan, two illicit liquor dealers, are being held in Nashville for the murder of Robin Cooper, the slayer of Senator Carmack.

U. S. Public Health Service says that cancer is on the increase throughout the world, in spite of the fact that it is curable if treated early.

Charlotte is to enter the food business and some time during the present week two car loads of flour, two of canned goods and one of sugar will be placed on sale in the city auditorium.

"The Americans have outworn their welcome in France," states Representative King of Illinois, recently returned from a visit to European battlefields.

Mecklenburg county commissioners have offered a reward of \$200 for the arrest and conviction of the murderer of Harry Montgomery, killed some time ago in the Charlotte Myers Park.

General Pershing is expected to reach New York City September 8. He sailed from Brest on the Leviathan.

Two men were killed and sixteen were wounded in a race riot in Knoxville Saturday night.

"Better Times" follows "The Turn in the Road," a sensational successful Human Drama, created by Young Director.

"Better Times" is here! It is the latest product of that young master of the screen, King W. Vidor.

"Better Times" is a dramatic comedy of real folks, people that the majority of us lived among and grew up with.

The author of "The Turn in the Road" has succeeded in putting into "Better Times" this simple human note that made his first effort a notable success.

The triumph of optimism over pessimism, the uplift of hope and the tonic of good-cheer, is told in a story that moves blithely along spreading sunshine in its wake.

Zasu Pitts, an exceedingly clever comedienne, David Butler, cast as the hero; Jack McDonald, Wm. Devaul, Hugh Fay and Lillian Leighton, complete a cast much above the ordinary.

Mr. Ellis Godwin, who last December entered upon his duties as superintendent of the county home, notified the county commissioners at their regular session yesterday that unless they could see their way clear to increase his salary of \$600 that he must decline to accept the position another year.

Mr. Ellis Godwin told the commissioners that the job had been just a little more than he expected. The board yesterday afternoon went on a tour of inspection of the home but postponed their decision on the matter of allowing an increase in salary to a later meeting.

Mr. Eugene Ashcraft was present a few minutes before adjournment in an effort to interest the board in purchasing a lot in the rear of Mr. W. A. Henderson's home on McCauley heights on which to erect a cotton platform.

No action was taken on the matter.

CAROLINA PLICOS MEET HERE WITH PHILADELPHIA AGENTS

Visiting Insurance Agents Hold Business Session in the Morning, and Have Luncheon in the Afternoon at the Joffre.

The Carolina Plico Club, composed of Philadelphia Life Insurance agents in North and South Carolina, held their semi-annual meeting here Monday with the state agents, the Gordon Insurance & Investment Co. Prominent insurance men from both states were in attendance.

Dr. W. S. Gadd of Philadelphia, the medical director of the company, was here with "the boys," and was the target for much friendly criticism on account of his ever-zealous attention to the policies he must pass before the agents can mark a sale.

The morning was devoted to a business session in the offices of the state headquarters, where timely talks were made on insurance by Dr. Gadd, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Brown and others.

A review of the history of the company's growth showed some astounding figures. In the eleven years the Gordon Insurance & Investment Company has been state agents for the Philadelphia Life, its business has grown from a small affair to one of the largest agencies in the South.

The ambition of the company, as Mr. Brown expressed it, "is to write more insurance than any other agency in the South."

The growth of the company is really phenomenal. The year 1919 was the best in its history, but that record has already been exceeded in the first eight months of this year.

Last month the company paid for \$420,000 worth of new business, and is expecting the total for the year to reach the stupendous amount of \$5,000,000. Very few agencies in the South have ever equaled this figure.

It was decided at the Plico Club's January meeting to hold its first 1920 session with the general agent which did the most business during the following six months.

Mr. M. M. Platt of Sumter, S. C., came across with the honors, and the next meeting goes to his home town.

At 2 o'clock the state agents were hosts to the visiting insurance men at the Hotel Joffre.

Mr. W. B. Love, one of the directors of the company, was toastmaster. After luncheon, and cigars had been passed around, Mayor J. C. Sikes made the address of welcome.

He told the insurance men of the local pride in the achievement of the state agents, and told a little story which illustrated the confidence Monroe people have in Messrs. W. M. Gordon and W. B. Brown, and the prominence in which they are held.

Mr. B. S. Williams of Greenwood, S. C., one of the leading general agents, made a happy response, assuring the gathering that he appreciated the warm welcome tendered him and his fellow-insurance men.

The most important event of his life has occurred in this section, and he was very glad of the opportunity to visit Monroe.

Mr. H. E. Gay of Rosemary, N. C., declared that he was the largest man in the house physically, but when it came to making a speech he felt the smallest.

He, too, was charmed with the welcome received in Monroe, and was proud of his connection with the Gordon Insurance & Investment Co.

Dr. Gadd urged the insurance men to place their occupation far above mere mercenary considerations. He had come to look upon insurance men as philanthropists and pictured two scenes to illustrate his viewpoint.

He told of one home, where death had visited, and which was, owing to the fact that no insurance man had successfully impressed upon the wage-earner the necessity for taking out insurance, barren and desolate.

The other home was not bare, and there was as much happiness as possible under the circumstances because an insurance man had fulfilled his mission by protecting the family by the sale of an insurance policy.

Mr. J. W. Timberlake of Greenville, N. C., applauded Dr. Gadd's views, and urged the agents to get together and make the remaining four months of the year the best in the history of the company.

Following the luncheon, a group photograph was made of the visitors on the courthouse square.

The guests were Dr. W. S. Gadd, the directors of the Gordon Insurance Co., Messrs. J. H. Lee, R. D. Crow, M. K. Lee, F. G. Henderson and W. B. Love, and the following agents: J. W. Timberlake, Greenville, N. C.; R. H. Gay, Rosemary, N. C.; W. H. Clinkscales, Spartanburg, S. C.; B. S. Williams, Greenwood, S. C.; W. E. Holbrook, Greenville, S. C.; M. M. Platt, Sumter, S. C.; I. D. Elmore, Orangeburg, S. C.; A. W. Mosely, Sumter, S. C.; M. R. Sipener, Columbia, S. C.; H. M. Ulmer, Lexington, N. C.; A. S. Thompson, Charlotte, N. C.; E. Haynes, Hamlet, N. C.; C. L. Ingold, Fayetteville, N. C.; F. N. Finks, Wilmington, N. C.; W. B. Wheeler, Fayetteville, N. C.; F. J. Parham, Union, S. C.; C. W. Rawlings, Winston-Salem, N. C.; Frank Benton, Abbeville, S. C.; and Mayor J. C. Sikes, W. B. Brown, W. M. Gordon, E. S. Woods, E. C. Ashcraft, A. A. Edgeworth, John Beasley, of Monroe; and Mr. A. S. Thompson of Charlotte.

Presbyterian Church.

Services on Sunday next as follows: 10:30 a. m., Sunday school; 11 a. m., worship and sermon; 6 p. m., evening service. The members of the church are requested to bring any arrears that have occurred during the closing of the church in August. This is urged by the Board of Deacons.—Reporter.

BUILDING PERMITS SHOW INCREASE OF \$9,000 OVER JULY

Permits Totalling Almost \$50,000 Were Issued by Fire Inspector Hill During Month of August—Buildings Condemned.

Building permits totalling \$48,950—an increase of almost \$10,000 over the month of July—were issued by Building Inspector J. Frank Hill during the month of August, according to figures obtained from the records yesterday afternoon.

Permits for new buildings and improvements on old ones during the past month were as follows:

Mr. R. Redfern, improvement on dwelling on Sanford street, cost \$250.

Mr. R. Redfern, remodeling house on Sanford street, cost \$400.

Mr. J. E. Stack, erecting warehouse on Crow avenue, cost \$6,000.

Crow Brothers, erecting cotton platform for shipping purposes, cost \$1,000.

Mrs. O. C. Curlee, improvements on residence on Crow avenue, cost \$500.

Mrs. O. C. Curlee, remodeling on Crow avenue, cost \$500.

County and City, erecting brick school house in North Monroe, cost \$6,500.

Miss Mattie Ogburn, repairing residence on Houston street, cost \$200.

Mr. Eugene Ashcraft, erecting seven room dwelling on Windsor avenue, cost \$3,500. Co-operative Mercantile Company, erecting warehouse on East Crowell street, cost \$3,000.

Mr. J. C. Sikes, repairs on house on South Church street, cost \$300.

Southern Cotton Oil Company, erecting building for gin plant in the eastern part of town, cost \$1200.

Savins, Loan and Trust Company, erecting bank building on corner of Main and Morgan streets, cost \$25,000.

Mr. W. J. Trull, repairing houses on Beard street, cost \$500.

Inspector Hill also announced yesterday that during August three buildings found to be a fire menace and dangerous had been condemned.

Two of these buildings are located on Franklin street opposite the Secret Motor Company. With the removal of these buildings will go one of the last reminders of the once renowned "Ragdy Nine." The other building condemned is the blacksmith shop on Beasley street, in the rear of the Secret Motor Company.

Mr. Hill stated to a representative of The Journal that in accordance with orders from State Insurance Commissioner Young he would continue the work of condemning buildings found unsafe and dangerous because of fire risks.

Elders' and Deacons' Convention at Unionville September 4.

10 A. M.—Devotional Exercises, 15 minutes, by Rev. B. B. Shankle, Pastor. Organization. Address of Welcome, 10 minutes. Dr. Whitley. Response, 10 minutes. Hon. F. R. McNinch. Song Service, 20 minutes. Presbyterianism and the Needs of the Times, 30 minutes. Rev. J. W. Orr. Song Service, 10 minutes. The Church's Need of Ministers and the Kind, 20 minutes. Prof. R. N. Nesbit. Song Service, 10 minutes. The Church's Need of Elders and the Kind, 20 minutes. Rev. A. S. Johnston. D. D. Music. Recess until 2:30 P. M.

AFTERNOON. Song Service, 10 minutes. Round Table on the Tithe, 30 minutes, led by Rev. G. F. Bell. The Importance of the Sunday School in Any Community, 20 minutes. Dr. R. H. Lafferty. Discussion on Sunday School Work. Virtue of Punctuality, Hunter Marshall. Variety in Sunday School Program, W. E. Price. Importance of Teacher Preparing the Lesson, J. D. Woods. Importance of Memorizing Scripture and Catechism, Z. V. Roberson. Impressions of the Convention. Adjournment. Music will be an important feature of the Convention, in charge of Mr. R. C. Freeman. The Steele Creek, Sugar Creek, Newells, Second Church, Sharon, Carmel, and other choirs of the county are asked to join in making this a memorable day in the history of Presbyterianism in Union County. Unionville Church is one of our newly developed Home Mission Churches in Union County.

Whitley Reunion.

Correspondence of The Journal. On the last Thursday in August, and in South Buford township, there was held at the home of Mr. Phillip Whitley and Mary E. Whitley their first family reunion. Four generations were represented at the reunion and three states contributed their proportionate share. Eight children compose the family of Mr. and Mrs. Whitley, beside the father and mother, to-wit: Mrs. H. W. Pusser, Chesterfield, S. C.; Dr. A. D. N. Whitley, Unionville; Mrs. J. C. Baucum, Monroe; R. F. D. 2; Phillip Whitley, Jr., Monroe; R. F. D. 7; Dr. Ayer Whitley, Mint Hill; H. W. B. Whitley, Raeford; and Dr. Loyd Whitley, Crawford, Ga.

A bounteous dinner was served under the shade of the large trees and more than one hundred ate at the table, those being mainly the offspring of Mr. and Mrs. Whitley. Reverend Mr. McLaughlin, Presbyterian pastor at Mint Hill, made a short and spicy talk. An organization was perfected with which to make this an annual event. Dr. A. D. N. Whitley of Unionville was elected president and H. W. B. Whitley of Raeford secretary.

THE MURDERER OF HAMLET JITNEY DRIVERS CONFESSES.

Foster Parsons Held For Murder of Two Negroes, Duck Phillips and Joe Wilson—The Later Drove a Car Belonging to Mr. B. C. Hinson.

Several days ago Mr. B. C. Hinson was notified by long distance that one of his automobiles engaged in the transfer business at Hamlet had mysteriously disappeared, along with the driver, Joe Wilson. Mr. Hinson ordered that every possible effort be made to locate the missing driver and car.

Several days later the decomposed body of the driver of the car was found in a clump of woods near Hamlet. Evidence pointed to the fact that he had been murdered and thrown into the woods.

W. Foster Parsons was arrested Friday, charged with the crime, and according to Richmond county officers he has confessed his guilt. It is also charged that about two weeks ago, in complicity with a man from Virginia, he slew another jitney driver, threw his body into nearby woods and stole the car.

Issac London had the following account of the affair in Saturday's Charlotte Observer:

Two murders came to light today with the alleged confession by W. Foster Parsons, now in Richmond county jail, that he killed during the past three weeks two negro jitney drivers from Hamlet, threw their bodies in the woods and stole the cars.

His arrest, and confession today, followed a remarkably clever bit of detective work by Chief Braswell, of Hamlet. The details resemble a Sherlock Holmes story.

On August 1 Duck Phillips, a colored jitney driver of Hamlet, was slain near Hoffman and his car stolen. The body was found decomposed four days later in the woods. Complete mystery surrounded his death and disappearance of the car.

On August 28 the body of another negro was found four miles from the spot of the first negro, nothing remaining but the bones. Buzzards had eaten every vestige of flesh. Clothing identified him as being Joe Wilson, another colored jitney driver of Hamlet.

And here the clever, and some may say providential, detective work came in.

After the disappearance of Joe Wilson and his car on Thursday of last week, Chief Braswell began searching for the lost car. On Saturday he, with Vernon Allen, of Hamlet, manager for Hinson Bros. garage, from which the car was stolen, started out to visit the neighboring towns searching for the car.

When a mile beyond Sanford late Saturday afternoon and going 20 miles an hour, they passed a Ford traveling 25 miles an hour. At a glance Mr. Allen recognized his car. Quickly turning, they sped after it towards Sanford. Fortunately a long freight train had just stopped over the street crossing, and this held the fleeing car up and enabled the officer to catch up. The driver of the car, Foster Parsons, told the officer that he had bought the car from a man in Durham. Upon his arrest, he changed his tale and said that he had conspired with Joe Wilson to steal the car and that he had given Wilson \$25 for his interest in it and that Wilson had gone to Greensboro. Parsons was then brought to Hamlet by the officer and Monday the recorder bound him to court under \$750 bond charged with larceny and stealing. In default of bail he was committed to jail.

On Thursday morning his uncles came to Rockingham and arranged the bond and Parsons was to be released when the sheriff received this telegram from Chief Braswell from Durham: "Hold Parsons without bail. New and strong evidence developed." He was therefore denied bail. Braswell then came to Rockingham this morning and confronted Parsons in jail with his evidence and charged him with killing Wilson. Parsons then confessed, according to the officers, who say that he said in substance that he, on July 31 came to Hamlet with a man from Virginia named James Hamcock, and hired Duck Phillips to drive them toward Coonac; that when near Hoffman, Hamcock suddenly threw his arm around the driver, shot him through the head, dragged the body into the woods and the two went to Durham, where he sold the car to E. D. Woody, for \$250. He then gave Parsons \$125 for his part. He stated that the job seemed so easy that he determined to do it by himself. And so he came to Hamlet on Wednesday night of last week, hired Joe Wilson next day, and when near Kesner shot him through the back of the head and then went on in the car to Durham. The killing of the first man was in Richmond county, but the last man, Wilson, was killed in Moore county, just across the line.

Parsons was married last spring, and was thought well of. No one would have suspected him of such actions. His friends are firm in believing he must be crazy to have acted so.

A remarkable part in the detective work was that when Chief Braswell went to Durham Wednesday to see if he could get some more evidence against Parsons for stealing the car, he was sitting in a car on Main street eating his lunch, when he observed a Ford pass that had two new fenders. He felt certain it was the one stolen three weeks ago from Duck Phillips. He then followed it and found it at the "B" garage. He then wired Mr. P. Sharpe the owner at Hamlet to come and identify it. This Mr.

MR. GRIFFIN RECEIVES WORD REGARDING FAIR PRICES

Fair Price Committee to Be Guided by These Prices—A Profit of 33 1-3 Per Cent on Dry Goods and From 10 to 25 on Groceries is Legitimate.

County Food Administrator Lee Griffin has received a communication from state Food Administrator Henry Page containing information for the guidance of the fair price committee, appointed several days ago to guard the public against profiteering. From this communication it would appear that the dry goods merchant who makes a margin of profit exceeding 33 1-3 per cent will be regarded as profiteering. From 10 to 25 per cent is specified as a reasonable profit for most goods sold by groceryman.

SLAYER OF CARMACK FOUND DEAD NEAR NASHVILLE

Attorney Murdered Under Peculiar Circumstances—No Clue to Murderer Discovered—\$10,000 Stolen.

Nashville, August 30.—Robin J. Cooper, a Nashville attorney, whose trial for the killing of former United States Senator Edward W. Carmack during the celebrated pistol duel between his father, Col. D. B. Cooper, and Carmack in 1908 attracted country-wide attention, has been murdered here under mysterious circumstances.

Cooper's body was taken from Richland creek today soon after his bloodstained automobile had been found on a bridge near his home in the fashionable Belle Meade park section. The skull had been crushed, but there evidences that a violent struggle had taken place before the fatal blow was struck.

A coroner's inquest late today developed no clues to the murderer or murderers, but the police are proceeding on the theory that Cooper was lured from his home by persons determined to rob him. This theory is based largely upon evidence that Cooper drew \$10,000 from a bank a short time before he disappeared last Thursday night.

The authorities assume that the young lawyer was lured from his home to the secluded bridge over the creek and there done to death. The condition of his clothing indicated that he had been dragged some distance before he was thrown in the water. Physicians who examined the body said the small amount of water found in the lungs was evidence that Cooper was dead when dropped into the creek.

The Carmack tragedy, the most notable in the history of Tennessee, drew out of the Carmack-Patterson race for governor in 1908, in which Col. D. B. Cooper, father of Robin J. Cooper, was one of Patterson's closest advisers. In the fatal encounter, which occurred on an uptown street of Nashville November 9, 1908, the son fired the shot which ended Carmack's life, and in the shooting was himself wounded. Father and son were convicted of murder in the second degree in the lower court, but on the appeal of the case to the Supreme court, the verdict was reversed as to the son, the judges standing three to two. The verdict as to Col. Cooper was sustained, three to two, but before leaving the capital the father was pardoned by governor Patterson. The case against Robin J. Cooper, when it came up again in the Davidson county criminal court was dropped.

The Lie About Bek Brothers Was Told on Many Other Firms.

To the Editor of The Journal:—I noticed the story in The Journal about the alleged profiteering of Bek Bros. Charlotte store; "A Federal officer, so the rumor had it, went in their store, and asked the price of a certain suit of clothes. He was told \$75. Finally, after bargaining a while, he bought the suit. Then, as the story went, he proceeded to get into action. Going to the store manager, he requested to be shown the invoice of the suit he had just purchased. At first the manager politely declined, but when the officer pulled back his coat, bringing his official badge into view, he relented. The invoice (still quoting the rumor) showed that the suit had been bought from the manufacturer for \$17.50."

About three weeks ago I was in the smoking car on a train in the eastern part of the State. Everybody was talking about the high cost of things. One man, one of these "know all" kinds, said "Now let me tell you what I know to be a fact. I got this story straight, and there is no doubt about it." Whereupon he told word for word this very story with the sole exception that he said it was the Varsity Clothing Company of Greensboro, said he knew all the facts and there was not the slightest doubt about it. Named the very figures quoted above, even down to the exact alleged cost of the suit, \$17.50. God only knows how many times the same thing has been told about different stores in the United States. It appears that the more improbable a lie is the greater pleasure it is for some folks to repeat it and the easier it is for others to believe it.—One Who Hates Irresponsible Rumor.

Mr. Keziah in Charlotte.

(From The Charlotte Observer.)

W. B. Keziah, editor of the Whiteville News Reporter, was in Charlotte Sunday on his way home from Morgan, where he attended during the past week the home-coming reunion of the former students of the State School for the Deaf, in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the school. Mr. Keziah, who is completely deaf but not mute, has attracted state-wide attention during the several years he has been in charge of the Whiteville paper because of his success achieved despite the handicap of being deaf. He went to Whiteville from Monroe.

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