

THE MONROE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED TWICE EACH WEEK — TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

VOL. 27. No. 54.

MONROE, N. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 1921.

\$2.00 PER YEAR CASH

MARSHVILLE PARTY HELD FAST BETWEEN THE GATES

Hard Surfacing Operations on Lee's Mill Road Caused Quite a Discomfort to the Picnickers

DEATH MRS. BEDFORD GRAHAM

Marshville, Aug. 11. — For a few brief weeks we folks from down this way enjoyed the novelty of having a clear road straight into Charlotte, with no hair-raising, spring-breaking, temper-destroying detours because of hard-surface roads being built at the other end of the line. For months a trip to Charlotte was looked upon as almost an adventure, instead of an ordinary outing as formerly, because of the many unknown and unsuspected varieties of trouble forbidden territory between Matthews and Charlotte. The harrowing tales brought back in regard to those two hills and the creek, which apparently lay in wait to see what damage they could do to the traveling public, made one feel content to stay at home indefinitely rather than to attempt the trip—especially if a drop of rain had fallen within forty-eight hours.

But at last it was over; and the next thing was to see how quickly the trip could be made on the nice, hard, new road. (Really now, don't you think that is a rather messy way to commit suicide?) Then about the time things got to going in fine shape here those familiar gates are once more stretched across our path—this time at this end of the road, and those tiresome detours are to begin all over again.

And this brings me to what we want to tell. A few days ago we went with a bunch on a picnic to Lee Park. Having some eight or nine persons and a lot of dinner on a five-passenger car, we started trustfully forth in the morning, knowing nothing of what was going on up the road until we came suddenly face to face with the well-known and polite request to "detour." We detoured, absolutely by faith, for we had never been on that bit of road before. But we finally hit Monroe and turned back to ward Lee Park. Again we were confronted with a man and a gate. The man, who was evidently kind-hearted, let us through after finding out that we were going no further than the park and to a picnic. We got to the desired place and had a great day, and that afternoon full, sunburned, blistered, tired and blissfully happy we undertook to go home. Then things began to happen.

We found that we were most assuredly and unmistakably on the inside looking out. There seemed to be no way short of rising and flying over to get out of that space in the world between those two gates. There was a sort of back door exit to the park, but it was not considered wise for a big car to attempt it as some of the Ford's had to be helped over it that morning. So there we were, but we had to find a way out somehow, so we lined up and started toward Monroe.

Picnickers Got in Ailright But There Was No Exit

If the gates of heaven are as forbidding and uncompromising in appearance as those few planks and bars across that highway, then we feel like giving up right now! Not a soul was in sight who could let us through—or who would if they could. There we sat and stared at that gate, and wondered how strong the chain was and just how much of a shock the bumper on our car would stand. Then a man rolled up in a car on the other side, and sat and looked at the gate and our crowd, while we looked hopefully at him. Then he got out. We had high hopes. He came toward the gate. We threw in the clutch and took hold of the gears, so sure were we that he was some kind of an authority who would let us through. But no. He came to our car and very kindly began to give us directions as how to go back to a certain point and turn here and double back there and climb over this and dodge around that and we would find a place that might take us where we wanted to go. Knowing our propensity for getting lost even on perfectly familiar ground, and feeling that if we undertook to remember all those directions and follow them we were just as likely to land in the Fiji Islands as not, we asked him to please repeat the directions to the boys who were driving the other cars. He patiently went all over it again, and the boys, while looking a little strained and bewildered with trying to comprehend it all, thanked him and started out to lead the way home.

Well, there is no use dwelling at length on unpleasant subjects. The man meant well we know, but—

It's Hard to Follow Road Directions

It's enough to say with everybody trying to remember what the man said do, we went through an unknown woods, on an imaginary road, through a perfectly good clothes wire in a colored man's back yard, got tangled up in some hundred or more trees and finally brought up in a corn field—which same proclaimed distinctly, "There's nowhere to go from here." With considerable danger to fenders and tires, we managed to get turned around and out of the corn patch and the woods, and into the highway again, and also into the midst of the road force at work. There was obviously but one thing to do then and we did it. We politely but pathetically explained to the boss

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LITTLE NEGRO WAS FOUND EATING KITCHEN REFUSE

Plea of Attorney Frank Limerick Gains the Temporary Liberty of Negro Woman

Minnie Helms, notorious negro woman "blind tiger," was yesterday released on bond until the next term of court by Judge T. B. Finley after Mr. Frank Limerick, speaking in her behalf, had declared that he had that morning found one of her little children eating kitchen refuse in the barrel that stands in the rear of his home. She was serving a 12-months sentence in jail that had been imposed on her last week.

The woman was released until next term of court so she could support her three children until Solicitor J. C. Brooks of the county court, has time to bring their father to Monroe in the hope of forcing him to care for them until Minnie has served her sentence.

WASP STING ALMOST FATAL TO MR. HINSON OF PROSPECT

For a Time Physician Was Unable to Give Him Relief, But He Rallied in Afternoon

Mineral Springs Route 1, Aug. 11.—Mr. Burrell Hinson was stung between the shoulders Monday by a red wasp and in a few minutes he became violently ill. A physician who was immediately summoned was able to give him but little relief, and for a time it was thought that the sting would prove fatal, but towards evening the patient rallied and is now getting along splendidly.

Misses Jenette Plyler of VanWye and Fay Thompson of Cassatt, S. C., are visiting friends and relatives at Prospect.

Mr. H. G. Plyler recently re-enlisted in the navy at Charleston.

Mrs. R. B. Deese and sons, Jennings and Reuben of Concord are visiting Mrs. Deese's daughter, Mrs. Charles Maness.

Mr. Frank Plyler, a former seaman with the Asiatic fleet, has been discharged and is spending some time with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Plyler.

Mr. Leonard Lathan is putting the roads around Prospect in good repair. These roads have been in bad shape and it is a relief to church goers not to have to scramble over ditches and wade through mud holes.

Prof. Oscar Richardson took charge of the Prospect school Monday, relieving Prof. Broom who had been filling his place while he was recuperating from an operation.

Mr. Robert Rape is very ill, his friends will regret to learn.

Mrs. Clyde Ellis and Howard Pointer of Gastonia are spending the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Montgomery.

Coleman, the little son of Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Hinson, is seriously ill.

The News of Goose Creek

Indian Trail Route 1, Aug. 11.—Mr. Zed Gardner has returned from a several days' visit in Salisbury.

Quite a number of Goose Creek men enjoyed a fishing party at Cedar lake on the river last week.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Long visited friends and relatives in Sparta Sunday recently.

Rev. and Mrs. A. B. Haywood of Handy, N. C., spent several days here last week.

A number of young men from Goose Creek township joined a party at Brown Creek near Polkton to fish for a few days.

Miss Pearl Richardson is attending the singing school at Corinth this week.

Protracted meetings begin the second Sunday in this month at Benton's Cross Roads and at Mill Grove. Miss Pearl Hill spent last week with her cousin, Miss Ella Medina of Charlotte. She was accompanied home by the latter.

A mad dog was killed this week at Mr. Bill Rowell's about 12 dogs were bitten by the mad canine.

The bill weevil has struck several farms in North Goose Creek and squares are falling off.

The Furr school base ball team will play Unionville next Saturday.

A reunion was held at Mr. Wilson Stegall's with a large attendance.

There have been eight additions to the Ebenezer Baptist church during the series of meetings.

Mr. Simeon Wentz had ten chickens stolen from him recently. He was away all week, having charge of the mill.

Mr. D. L. Furr is sinking a new well as the water in the old one gave out.

Prayer services are held every Saturday night at Ebenezer.

Misses Cora and Lola Williams were the guests of friends and relatives in Cabarrus county this week.

Bethel Cemetery in Bad Condition. (Written for The Journal.)

The old Bethel cemetery is in very bad condition. The people in the community have neglected it until it has grown up in grass and weeds.

Friends who have fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters buried there and all who are interested are requested to meet at the cemetery Saturday morning, August 20, and clean it off. If you wish to help and cannot go, send money to Mrs. J. P. Ritch, Matthews Route 26, and she will hire someone to work in your place.

LEE HALLMAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN THE PEN

Jury Finds Him Guilty of Assault With Intent to Rape After Being Out Eighteen Hours

DEFENDANT TAKES AN APPEAL

Fifteen years in the penitentiary at hard labor was the sentence imposed yesterday by Judge T. B. Finley upon Lee Hallman, well-known Marshville man, after the jury had decided that he was guilty of an assault with intent to commit rape on Miss Louise Tolbritt, Cabarrus county school teacher. The jury was out eighteen hours.

The verdict was returned at five o'clock, Mr. W. A. Huey of Jackson township, speaking for his fellow-jurors; and following eloquent appeals for mercy by Messrs. J. C. Sikes and W. B. Love, Judge Finley gave the defendant the maximum sentence of fifteen years. The defense immediately gave notice of appeal to the Supreme court, and young Hallman was released on a \$20,000 bond signed by the following citizens:

Messrs. E. C. Griffin, J. F. Hallman, B. A. Hallman, E. H. Moore, J. E. Thomas, J. W. Thomas.

Before imposing sentence, Judge Finley asked if the defense cared to be heard. Mr. J. C. Sikes was the first to arise: "Your Honor," he said, "I do not care to dwell upon this case at length. You are familiar with the testimony and the good character borne by the defendant; and in view of the jury's failure to find that he ravished the prosecutrix, I beg of you to show him mercy. He comes from a good family. His grandfather, the father of his mother, was one of the best men I ever knew. He was a leading citizen of the county in his day, and Capt. J. F. Hallman, the father of the defendant, has lived an honest, upright life ever since he moved into the Marshville community. Mr. Boyce Hallman, a brother of the defendant, who was a witness in the case, is also one of our finest citizens, one of the leading young business men of his town, and a man of most excellent character.

"The father, mother and the brother have suffered much. This has been their greatest ordeal. The defendant, too, has suffered torture. Only the other day he said that his three weeks in jail seemed longer than the months he spent in the army during the World War. For the sake of the mother, the father and the brother, I ask you to show leniency."

Mr. W. B. Love, declaring that he was displeased with the court for permitting the prejudicial testimony of the prevalence of alleged immorality at Marshville to enter the case, asked that young Hallman not be forced "to pay the penalty for the sins of others." He thought Hallman should be judged on the individual merits of the charges, not for the faults of dissolute young men. "There is nothing to be gained," he declared, "by severely punishing him. It makes no example of him, it means nothing to the prosecution; but he should, in my opinion, be saved to his family and the state of North Carolina."

The prominence of the defendant's family was stressed by Mr. Love, and he also eloquently read the youth of the defendant and the character that he has borne as making him a fit object for mercy. "I have always thought something was wrong with justice when a 'first offender' was dealt with harshly, but a 'repeated offender' never arouses my emotions." "Deal mercifully with Lee Hallman," he concluded, "only 25 years of age with his life before him."

Remembering that the jury could have well found Hallman guilty of rape, Judge Finley said that he took the lesser degree returned by them to be a concession to the prominence of the family. Therefore, he was disposed to give the defendant the maximum sentence. The fact that he is prominent, he said, showed that he had not fully lived up to the responsibility of his position.

The case was handed to the jury about 11 p. m. Wednesday, the time lacking but 12 hours of being a week since the selecting of the jury began.

Long addresses were made before the jury by the following attorneys: Messrs. Stack, Parker, Craig, Maness, Brooks and Brock, for the prosecution; and Vann, Sikes, Love and Cansler for the defense.

Misses Heath and Lee at Keilworth Park Opening

"Special exercises attended the formal opening of the new park site at Keilworth hospital last night," says the Asheville Citizen of Aug. 9.

"The new site is located between the nurses home and the main hospital, and this section of the woods has been cleared through the efforts of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Melvin Deese Post No. 27, American Legion at Monroe. The formal opening was celebrated with a marshmallow toast given under the auspices of the Woman's Auxiliary and attended by a large number of the patients and hospital personnel.

"Miss Lura Heath, commander of the Monroe post, and Miss Annie Lee, treasurer, whose efforts are largely responsible for the construction of the site, were present. Tom Byrd, commander of the Kiffin Rockwell post, representing Major Foster, commanding officer at Keilworth, delivered an address praising the work of the Woman's Auxiliary. Major Foster was to have spoken but his presence was necessitated at another meeting."

90-YEAR-OLD MINISTER IS REPORTED SERIOUSLY ILL

Friends of "Father Ratchford," Aged Union County Minister, Alarmed at His Condition.

FIND STRANGE BIRD IN JACKSON

According to the Waxhaw Enterprise, Rev. W. W. Ratchford, the distinguished pastor of the Tirzah and Old Waxhaw Presbyterian churches, has been seriously ill for several days, and his many friends are very uneasy about his condition. On last Friday he suffered a severe nervous chill, and since then his strength has failed to return. The aged divine has a multitude of friends in both Carolinas, who are deeply attached to him and are anxiously awaiting word as to the outcome of his sickness. "Father Ratchford," as he is affectionately spoken of by his parishioners, probably has, with the possible exception of one other minister, the longest period of service in the active ministry of any living person in the Carolinas, having preached for the past 62 years. He recently celebrated his ninetieth birthday.

Other items of interest from the last issue of The Enterprise are, as follows:

School Truck Demonstration.

A splendid demonstration of the practicability of trucks for carrying the children into school was given last Friday, when Superintendent of Public Instruction, Mr. Ray Funderburk, with a driver, came over and gathered some forty of the children of the Walker's school district in a big school truck, bringing them from there over to Waxhaw and back to their homes. Mr. Funderburk met with a number of the citizens of the Walker's school district on that day, and discussed with them that question of consolidating the Waxhaw, Walkersville, and other adjoining school districts. It is understood that it is not considered advisable to consolidate the schools, unless at least three of the adjoining districts about the Waxhaw district will agree to the consolidation, as it will not pay to purchase the truck to bring in the children of only one more district. The County Board of Education is reluctant to pass a resolution to consolidate any district with another one, unless a majority of its citizens favor such actions, and no such step will be taken, unless it becomes apparent that sentiment for the consolidation is sufficiently strong in the districts to be affected by the change.

Hawks Friends of the Farmer

Mr. Walter Sneed, a young man living on Mr. N. S. Matthews' place about three miles north of Monroe, appeared in The Enterprise office last Wednesday with a large dead bird, which he had shot near his home, the identity of which was unknown to him. It was easy to place this specimen in the hawk family, from the shape of the bill and feet, but none of the crowd who gathered had ever seen a hawk of the color. The breast, underparts of the wings, head and neck of the specimen were snow white, the back, upper part of the wings, and tail being of a glossy purplish black. The size of the bird was also larger than that of most of the hawks seen, the spread of its wings being about three feet. In general appearance, the bird was beautiful, the feathers being very glossy, and the tail long, and deeply forked. The writer showed Mr. Sneed the picture of this rare specimen in the North Carolina Bird Book issued by the State in 1919. The bird is a species of hawk known as the swallow-tailed kite, and is found in a few parts of Eastern North Carolina as a resident during the summer when a straggler or migrant. It is readily distinguished by the fact that it is the only hawk with a forked tail. While on the subject of hawks, we will take time to say that the indiscriminate classification of hawks as pirates is a great mistake. The government has issued repeated bulletins, calling attention to the fact that most hawks spend the greater part of their lives killing grasshoppers, mice and rats. The small hawk known as the sparrow hawk subsists almost entirely on grasshoppers. There are three species of hawks that prey on chickens, these are the blue darter, the sharp-shinned hawk, and the goshawk. While the balance of the hawks will occasionally carry off a chicken, the good they accomplish by killing rats and mice counter-balance many times over the small damage which they do.

Woman's Auxiliary to Meet.

Owing to the conflict in date with the play given under the auspices of the American Legion, the regular monthly meeting of Woman's Auxiliary was postponed. The various committees have been busy with sending boxes, magazines, etc., to the hospital and the membership committee has also been doing excellent work. A meeting, at which delegates for the first state convention to be held at Hendersonville August 26 and 27, are to be elected and other important business transacted will be held Monday afternoon, August 15, at 5:30 in the Legion rooms. All members and any others desiring to join are urged to be present to help in making plans for a splendid report and representation at the convention. We have fifty members and need seventy-five at once.

JOURNEY TO MORVEN WAS THIS MAN'S LONGEST TRIP

Noe in Thirty Years Has Mr. Adam Broom Spent Night Away From His Home.

Mr. Adam Broom, a prominent farmer who lives near the Mecklenburg and Union line, enjoys the unique distinction of having never spent a night away from home in thirty years. In conversation with Monroe people here yesterday, he also stated that Morven was the furthest he has ever been away from his home in his entire life-time of sixty-three years. Then, about four years ago, he attended a Methodist district conference.

A brother of Esq. J. E. Broom of Vance township, Mr. Broom is one of the leading citizens of his community and is widely known for his honesty, sobriety and many other outstanding characteristics. He is also a prosperous tiller of the soil.

DR. WEAVER TELLS WHY HIS DAUGHTER SHALL NOT DANCE

He Cites Social Reasons, the Bad Atmosphere, and the Countenance of Whiskey Drinking

"Why my daughter shall not dance," or "Shun the very presence of evil," was the subject of a very timely and interesting sermon delivered Sunday at the Central Methodist church by Dr. C. C. Weaver, the pastor.

There are three reasons, he said, why one's daughter should not dance. They are:

1. For social reasons. There are no social reasons attached to the dance, for those who frequent them are not of the best citizenship; that few of those who do attend are engaged in some good, worthwhile vocation, and that most of them who go to dances do so for unwholesome motives.

2. The atmosphere at the dances is not good for either the mind or refreshing for the soul.

3. Drinking is usually countenanced at most dances.

Pointing out that business had adopted the slogan, "no drunks or half-drunks," Dr. Weaver asked his hearers why the dance halls failed to outlaw whiskey.

The word "tango," he said, meant to touch, and that in dancing the sex appeal was too great for some daughters to resist.

"We can get some conception of what the dance of today means," he continued, "when we remember that ten years ago the very dances that our daughters now indulge in were first introduced in the red-light districts of our large cities."

The sex argument was clinched in the following words: "Take the sex appeal away and you break up dancing. How many men would attend a dance where women were excluded?"

From the standpoint of health, dancing cannot be classed as a recreation, he stated, declaring they are usually held in halls that are poorly ventilated. "The most simple rules of health," he went on, "are broken. Dances usually begin early and end late and the young men go to their work the next morning with dizzy heads and tired legs to drag through the day's work with their efficiency impaired. It is impossible for them to do good work. The daughter goes home physically exhausted. She falls to arise in time for breakfast, and towards noon gets 'up with a headache to brush the dust from her hair.'"

Dr. Weaver was of the opinion that the modern indoor dance did not in anywise compare with the Greek dances, which are danced singly in the open air. "I don't want my daughter," he said, "to be a stumbling block for men. Dancing leads men to further immorality and our daughters would be the direct cause."

"Bud Elliot, the famous Northwestern University football star, and later a great evangelist, said that the red light districts always had increased business after the alumna dances, and that any woman who danced could expect shady conversation about her."

"I consider my daughter a gift," concluded Dr. Weaver, "too precious to engage in any habit that will handicap her in the race of life."

The sermon was listened to by a large audience.

St. Luke Lutheran Church, East Jefferson Street.

Bible school Sunday morning at 10 a. m., Mr. Jennings Boger, superintendent. Old and young should attend the Bible school.

There will be no preaching Sunday morning. The choir and congregation will have a short song service.

Luther League at 7:15 p. m. Versers at 8 p. m. Text: 1 Cor. 15:58.

The pastor and congregation invite all persons not members of any of our five churches to worship with us. Unchurched brother, get your salvation right away; enjoy your salvation every day. All are welcome to all our services.

Presbyterian Church.

On account of the absence of the pastor, there will be no services at the Presbyterian church next Sunday. We expect to open the renovated and redecorated church on Sunday, the 21st, inst. Keep it in mind, and be sure to be present on that occasion. Let all financial arrangements be paid to date.—Reporter

COMMISSIONERS FIX THE TAX RATE AT \$1 ON \$100

Of This Amount 46 Cents Is For Schools, 10 Cents for General Purposes and 15 for Roads

SCHOOL BOARD WANTS MORE

One dollar on the hundred dollars worth of property was the tax rate fixed yesterday for the year 1921 by the county commissioners. This is an increase of 40 cents on the hundred dollars over last year, but the aggregate amount of taxes will be but very little if more than last year on account of the 25 per cent cut in the value of real property and the decline in value of many articles of personal property.

Of this amount the schools will get 46 cents; the general fund, 10 cents; the poor fund, 5 cents; roads and bridges, 15 cents; and bonds, 24 cents.

The total property valuation of the county, both real and personal, the commissioners found, approximates \$22,000,000. This represents a decline of several million dollars over last year.

The rate, it is believed, will be adequate for all purposes except for schools and possibly roads. Mr. P. P. W. Plyler, chairman of the board of education, has expressed himself as being dissatisfied with the award for school purposes and indicated that his board would seek an increase.

Mr. Funderburk, the county superintendent of education, declared that a 46 cent rate would halt school progress. "Forty-six cents on the hundred dollars," he said, "will just about pay the salaries of the teachers and administrative expenses." Nearly \$15,000 has been promised various districts to aid in the erection of school buildings. Mr. Funderburk talked like these appropriations would have to be revoked unless the rate is raised. The Waxhaw school alone, he said, had been promised \$5,000.

Mr. J. D. McRae, chairman of the county road commission, hadn't had the opportunity to figure out the revenue his board would receive from a 15 cent rate, but intimated that more money would be needed for maintenance purposes next year than ever before. The road and bridge fund rate last year was 12 cents.

WANTS MONROE TO ENTER THE SEABOARD LEAGUE NEXT YEAR

Laurinburg, Lumberton, Wadesboro, Rockingham and Hamlet Also Proposed as Members.

There should next summer be started the "Seaboard" league, composed of six towns on the Seaboard—Monroe, Wadesboro, Rockingham, Hamlet, Laurinburg and Lumberton, says the Rockingham Post-Dispatch. And if desired, that paper continues, the neighboring towns of Cheraw and Bennettsville could be added without making the league expensive.

The railway schedule between the six towns is almost like a street car service. And the three pairs of towns would furnish a keen rivalry that would insure a paying attendance. Monroe and Wadesboro could be counted on to fight to the finish with each other. Rockingham and Hamlet—well, both towns would dig down to put out a team that could beat the other; and Laurinburg and Lumberton would battle hard. The season ought not to start till July 1st, and continue for six weeks. That would give a snappy, quick series of games and keep folks on edge. That's the stuff; we must all work for the "Seaboard" league and see to it that it is properly organized next spring in plenty of time for business. What say you, neighboring towns?

Gastonia Cotton Man Killed When he Lost Control of His Car

Spartanburg, S. C., Aug. 10.—Telephone messages from Landrum tonight stated that J. O. White, prominent mill man from Gaston county, North Carolina, was almost instantly killed when he lost control of his automobile on the Spartanburg-Asheville highway, about two miles south of Landrum, and the car zigzagged across the road and run into a ditch turning over two or three times. Mr. White was thrown out of the car, according to reports, and a preliminary examination by a Landrum physician showed that his neck was broken. The body was carried to Landrum.

It is understood that Mr. White was driving the car and when he attempted to adjust the lights, he temporarily lost control. His chauffeur, the only other occupant of the car, then tried to assist Mr. White and it is stated that while both men had hold of the steering wheel the car went into the ditch. The car was not going at a very rapid speed.

The driver of the jitney bus, operating between Spartanburg and Landrum, was coming in the opposite direction and witnessed the accident from a distance.

Useless Efforts

"Now, Harry say your prayers nicely and I'll give you doughnuts for breakfast in the morning," coaxed the mother after a long struggle with her offspring.

"I don't feel religious, mama," returned the 5-year-old "I just had supper and I haven't got much appetite."