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Five Hundred Buildings Wiped Out in New Bern Conflagration

FLAMES RAGE FROM MORNING TILL NIGHT

A Mile Square of Homes Fall to Ashes As High Wind Drives the Flames From House to House

A DAY OF TERROR FOLLOWED BY RELIEF

New Bern, Dec. 1.—When interviewed at 10:30 o'clock tonight, Mayor Clark stated that as far as he could judge five hundred residences and business houses had been totally destroyed, approximately 1,800 persons were homeless and the total fire loss for the day, including the Roper Lumber mill, was in excess of \$2,000,000.

Pitiable Aspect.

The war devastated towns of Belgium and France hardly presented a more pitiable spectacle of complete destruction than does that section of New Bern which was swept by fire.

Over an area of a mile or more in length and from two to five blocks in width nothing remains but row after row of ghostly chimneys, standing as vigils in the midst of charred timbers, which almost completely covered the ground.

Not a single piece of frame work remains in an upright position. Everything in the path of the terrific blaze was swept before it.

Hundreds Homeless.

It is a grim and pathetic spectacle. Scores of families late tonight were wandering among the ruins looking for the sites of their former homes, trying to see whether the fire had overlooked anything. Women and children were crying and men gazed at the ruins with hopeless and sullen expressions on their faces. In several places the charred timbers still burned and the homeless people gathered about these, seeking warmth from the cold which was beginning to make itself felt. In spite of the fact that both whites and blacks had been informed that sleeping quarters would be provided for them, many apparently paid no heed; they were too stunned to think of anything but their homes and household goods which had been taken away from them by the roaring, crackling fire which spread terror throughout the city for more than nine hours.

Huddled in Warehouse.

In one of the empty fertilizer warehouses are huddled from two to three hundred negro men, women, and children. Several of the women sit with infants hugged tightly to their breasts. Here and there a child sleeps, but for the most part every one is wide awake and talking in low tones of the toll exacted by the conflagration.

Many of them have nothing left except a few articles they managed to save before the fire was upon them.

Relieving Homeless

New Bern tonight is turning its attention to relieving the homeless. Empty warehouses, church rooms, the Y. M. C. A. and scores of private homes have been thrown open to the victims of the great fire. In spite of the aid there were many who spent the night in the open, covering themselves with mattresses and blankets and camping beside what furniture they had managed to save.

Railroad traffic through the city had been suspended, the rails having been warped for a considerable distance by the intense heat. Telegraph wires also have been severed and the telephone affords the only means of communicating with other towns.

The full scope of the disaster has not yet made itself manifest, but with the coming of dawn tomorrow, New Bern will begin to take stock of the damage done.

Estimates of the total loss vary, but in the opinion of some city officials it will be in excess of \$2,000,000.

Lumber Plant First

New Bern was threatened at 8:30 o'clock when the hoarse notes of the city's fire whistle told the residents of the burning of the Roper Lumber company's mill. This concern, leased by the Rowland Lumber company, suffered a quarter of a million dollar fire which threw more than 300 local men out of work. While the flames were still raging at the mill, an alarm was turned in from the western section of the city where the fire had started in the colored district and which soon caused everyone to forget the conflagration at the Rowland mill.

Firemen at Roper Mill

With their services required at the lumber yards firemen were unable to respond to the new alarm and it was not until half an hour later that they rushed to the spot.

By that time five houses were in ruins. The roaring flames sped on their way by high winds of almost gale force, crashed through house after house gaining impetus in their advance which sent them leaping through the roofs of dozens of structures simultaneously. Frantic negroes assisted by hundreds of volunteers hastily removed their household furniture to places of safety. As the fire gained headway, however, people were forced to leave their homes without being able to remove anything.

Fire Spreads Swiftly.

Crackling fiercely in their intensity, and roaring their message of destruction so as to make it heard in every section of the city, the

ASHEVILLE HIGHS WIN WESTERN CHAMPIONSHIP

Local Team Holds Asheville Scoreless in Last Half—Makes Touchdown Themselves

Salisbury, Dec. 2.—With Sanford disposed of and New Bern standing as the champions of the east in high school football circles, Monroe and Asheville in one of the most brilliant games ever seen on the local gridiron met in a mighty contest for the western championship, Asheville emerging at the larger end of the score of 20 to 6.

Fitzgerald, a second team man, for Asheville, was decidedly the outstanding feature of the game through his ability to catch the passes thrown him as was illustrated in the Birmingham high game here Thanksgiving.

The crowd was very small. The threatening rains during the game and the fans from turning out, the crowd being estimated at 650. The field was not in the best of shape, but both teams were at the same disadvantage as this was the initial appearance of either on this gridiron, the game being played on the Spencer field, which is better than the Salisbury grounds.

Asheville was well represented at the game by those who braved the weather to travel from the mountain city.

Assurance was given at the game by one of the most prominent business men of Asheville that negotiations were pending for a special train to leave Asheville next Saturday for Chapel Hill and this coming at the victory, gained the heartiest support of the crowd.

The Game by Periods

Asheville received the first kickoff. Gain after gain down the field netted them 80 yards. Fitzgerald received a pass from James and ran 20 yards for a touchdown. James kicked the extra point.

Fitzgerald's ability to catch passes and execute them was the outstanding feature of the game, while Frady's work secured second place. Score, first period, 7-0.

Second Quarter

James was a consistent gainer through his end runs. Brandle gains 15 yards on pass, James to Brandle. James carries the ball to one-yard line on line plunge. Brandle carries ball over for second touchdown. Try for seventh point blocked.

Laney receives kickoff on 20 yard line, carries it to 30. Brandle intercepts pass and gains 10 yards. Pass, James to Atkinson, grounded. Pass, James to Fitzgerald, nets 15 yards. James gains nine yards on fake pass. Chackles makes first down by line plunge. Atkinson makes third touchdown. Green carries ball over line for extra point. Half ended as ball was kicked off.

Third Quarter

Wiggs kicked. Ball was received on 10-yard line, where the ball went out of bounds. Ten yards gained on pass, James to Atkinson. Asheville loses ball on failure to make 10 yards. Fairley gains 15 yards for Monroe, their only long completed pass of the game, ball going to 13 yard line, where they were held for downs, while Monroe surrendered ball to Asheville. James gained eight yards on line plunge. Chackles got the same distance on the same method. James puns the ball into Monroe's territory, third quarter ending with the ball in Monroe's possession.

Fourth Quarter

Asheville gains the ball on Monroe's failure to make downs. Fitzgerald again starring in his judgment of passes. Monroe regains ball on Asheville's failure to make down. Asheville holds them, Fairley punting to James. Fairley in turn intercepts forward pass. He gains to 20-yard line through line plunge. Monroe penalized 5 yards for off-sides, their only penalty of the game. Laney carries the ball to five-yard line, where line plunge places the ball one-foot of the line. With two and one-half minutes to play, W. Fairley carries the ball across the line. Smith blocks their attempt to make the extra point.

Asheville came near scoring in the last few minutes of play when James carried the kickoff for 60 yards and a forward pass, James to Brandle, who was standing behind the goal posts was a sure touchdown, when Atkinson was detected holding and the ball returned. Another pass brought the ball to the one-foot line, but the whistle ended the game.

Sudden Death of Dr. Carpenter

Dr. F. A. Carpenter, a prominent physician of Statesville, and brother of Mr. E. C. Carpenter of Monroe, died at Battle Creek, Mich., Saturday morning, while two of his brothers, Mr. Carpenter of Monroe, and Mr. E. A. Carpenter of Newberry, the latter a twin of the Doctor, were on their way to be with him. His death was entirely unexpected. He had gone to Battle Creek partly for treatment and partly for a mere rest, and death was caused from a hemorrhage of the brain. The body will be buried at Rutherfordton, the old home of the family, tomorrow, where the body will arrive tonight. Mrs. Carpenter and son of Monroe left this morning for Rutherfordton. Dr. Carpenter is survived by his wife and one child. He was 42 years old and had achieved a large reputation as a specialist, having lately established a hospital in Statesville. He is survived by four brothers, all successful business men in their respective localities, and by one sister, Miss Estelle Carpenter, formerly of Monroe, now of Rutherfordton.

Elder Samuel McMillan will conduct services at Pleasant Grove at 2:30 p. m. on December 10th.

SHERIFF CLIFF FOWLER GIVES PERSONAL BOND

Popular Officer Shows He Had No Trouble in Getting Signers for More Than Double Amount

MRS. GRIFFITH BECOMES DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

Among the county officers who were sworn in yesterday was one woman, Mrs. Ruby Simpson Griffith, widow of Sheriff J. V. Griffith, who has become deputy clerk of the court by appointment of Clerk Lemmond.

The appointment of Mrs. Griffith gives universal satisfaction, and the Journal for one is ready to go on record as saying that the county will have no more efficient officer for many a year. Mrs. Griffith is qualified by inheritance, training and adaptability to fill an office of this kind, and more than that, she has the proper spirit for a public officer, patient, accommodating, and understanding.

After the new board of county commissioners, consisting of John Griffith, A. M. Secrest and Dr. W. R. McCain, had taken the oath of office, the latter placed his resignation in the hands of the clerk of the court to become effective as soon as a successor is named. John Griffith was elected chairman. A. M. Secrest, with five or six years experience on the board, and Sheriff Griffith, with his intimate knowledge of all county affairs, will certainly know what they are doing on this job.

Yesterday was general swearing in day. A number of bonds were filed but not all have yet come in. Sheriff Fowler gave two bonds, a process bond of five thousand and a tax collecting bond of fifty-five thousand. He certainly seemed to have no trouble in getting up his bonds, for they were signed by men who qualified for much more than twice the amount necessary. On the process bond are W. C. Sanders, V. D. Sikes and M. H. Richardson. On the tax bond the following men qualified for ten thousand each: H. H. Wilson, Chas. Iceman, R. E. L. Iceman, C. N. Gordon, N. B. Ayers, S. O. Blair, A. M. Secrest, W. E. Funderburk, R. A. Morrow, George S. Lee, and A. M. Stack. For five thousand each: J. W. Fowler, F. G. Henderson, and T. P. Dillon.

The Bank of Union is re-elected treasurer with a bond of \$90,000. Register of Deeds Long gave his five thousand dollar bond with himself, J. D. McRae and C. C. Sikes.

The constable's bond is one thousand dollars. The following made theirs yesterday: R. B. Baker, Buford, with R. B. Starnes, P. W. Plyler and Robt. Rape, sureties; Fulton L. Furr, Goose Creek, with H. M. Furr and G. C. Lemmond as sureties; J. Herman Shannon of Jackson, with J. C. Shannon and W. D. Rogers as sureties; W. M. Crow, cotton weaver at Waxhaw, gave his bond of one thousand dollars. Others are expected to present their bonds at once.

Sad Death of Mrs. W. H. Fowler

Mrs. W. H. Fowler of the Turner section of Buford township died Sunday afternoon of pneumonia following influenza. Her three-day-old infant died Friday. Mr. Fowler, who was also a sufferer from the flu epidemic, has not fully recovered. Three children, aged four, nine, and twelve, are left motherless. The remains were buried at Corinth church of which she was a member, yesterday, Rev. Mr. Haigler conducting the service. Mrs. Fowler was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Alexander. She was born Jan. 12, 1888. The parents and several brothers and sisters survive her. Her sad death came as a climax to a series of distressing illness and deaths among the family and neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, and they have the deep sympathy of friends and neighbors.

Local Happenings

Miss Flora Todd and brother Edward who are attending school at Waxhaw, spent Thanksgiving and the week-end with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Todd.

Dr. G. B. Nance who has been very ill at the Charlotte Sanatorium, is very much improved and for the last several days has been able to sit up in bed for a short while.

There will be services at the Presbyterian church tonight at 7:30 o'clock, conducted by Rev. Mr. Chandler of Dillon, S. C. All members are requested to be present.

All members of the Non-Partisan league are requested to meet Wednesday, December 13th, at 7:30 p. m., in the Masonic hall. The regular meeting due to be held Wednesday, Dec. 7th, has been postponed. All members are urged to attend this called meeting.

Dr. J. S. Myers of Vance township died last Thursday morning at his home. He had been sick for some nine months, and was sixty-four years of age. His wife and three sons and four daughters survive him. Mr. Myers was a good man and a good neighbor, loyal to his church, kind and attentive to his family. He was a faithful member of Antioch Methodist Protestant church.

Squire Flow exercised his discretion yesterday in giving Fleet Simpson of Goose Creek-New Salem a chance to remain in good behavior till next June and keep the peace. He was charged with being drunk on the highway, damaging property and committing assault and battery. Twenty-five dollars and costs and bonds for good behavior followed his submission to the charges.

Y. M. C. A. DRIVE HERE OPENS WITH WORKERS

Dinner Tonight at Which Plans Will Be Explained For Asking For \$5,000 or \$6,000

Wednesday, December 6th, is the day set aside for the community Y. M. C. A. drive for Monroe. Fifty-four team workers, under the leadership of Dr. C. C. Weaver and Dr. W. R. Burrell will canvass the community for funds to make up the budget for 1923. The committee is asking for \$5000 to \$6000 with which to employ a secretary and meet all incidental expenses. This is the amount usually raised by other towns for similar work.

A dinner for all workers will be served Tuesday night, December 5th, at the Chamber of Commerce when full explanations of the details of the campaign will be made.

Following the dinner the school boys, led by the Icomorlee band, will form a torch-light parade and march through the principal business and residential sections.

The parade will break up on the corner of Main and Franklin streets where a large clock has been erected to register the progress of the teams. All day on Wednesday the teams will report at the clock and the two hands, one for W. Lemmond's division, the other for F. G. Henderson's division, will move around the clock, showing the exact standing of the teams at all hours.

A complete list of team workers follows:

Dr. C. C. Weaver, Dr. W. R. Burrell, General Chairmen.

Gus F. Henderson, Division Chairman.

Bruce M. Redmon, Captain; Fitz Henry Dillon, H. H. Wolfe, Allen Lee, Hargrove Bowles.

C. W. Walton, Captain; Archie Levy, George Hart, Willie Correll; Sam Lee.

G. M. Smith, Captain; Henry Taylor, J. W. Laney, Albert Redfearn, C. L. Efrd.

R. H. Garren, Captain; Vann Secrest, Vernon Hunneycutt, Kemp Funderburk, Jennings Boger.

R. H. Cunningham, Captain; T. P. Dillon, John C. Sikes, S. G. Hawfield, Dowd Secrest.

R. W. Lemmond, Division Chairman.

G. B. Caldwell, Captain; Will Rudge, W. C. Carrell, R. R. Hawfield, S. B. Hart.

G. B. McClellan, Captain; Ben Wolfe, Dr. J. M. Belk, H. B. Ashcraft, Gilmer Joyce.

W. A. Henderson, Captain; Jas. Morrow, Junius Stearns, S. O. Blair, Blair Bivens.

W. C. Sanders, Captain; Frank Austin, Hargrove Bowles, Bill Cole, Gilliam Craig.

J. W. Fowler, Captain; W. B. Love, W. B. Brown, Clayton Laney, Wriston Lee.

PROCLAMATION—HELP TODAY

Thousands of white and colored people are without homes, food and clothing, as a result of the fire that destroyed a large portion of the city of New Bern last Friday. A cry for help has been sent out over the State. Governor Morrison, who was in Charlotte last night, left immediately for New Bern to take charge of the situation, issuing a proclamation asking the people of the State to take immediate action to collect clothing and money to be sent to New Bern at once. In response to the Governor's request as well as that of several public spirited citizens of the town, acting Mayor Trull, in the absence of Mayor Vann, has issued the following call:

In response to the proclamation of Governor Morrison asking the people of the State to come to the relief of the distressed people of New Bern, I hereby ask the citizens of Monroe to take immediate action in sending money and clothing to New Bern. After consultation with ministers in the city, the following ladies have been asked to act as chairmen for committees to solicit and receive contributions:

Baptist—Mrs. V. D. Sikes. Presbyterian—Mrs. A. L. Monroe. Methodist—Mrs. Atha Stevens. Lutheran—Mrs. J. C. Sikes. Episcopal—Mrs. T. P. Dillon.

Money and clothing for women and for children under twelve are especially needed. Both white and colored people are destitute. We must help now—today and tomorrow. Churches, lodges and other organizations are asked to take steps to secure contributions. All the towns of the State have been called upon and Monroe should do its part. Articles may be sent to the mayor's office or to the places specified by the committee. Those who cannot send articles may have them sent for by notifying the mayor's office or the committee.

W. J. TRULL, Mayor Pro Tem.

Death of Mrs. L. W. Knowles

Mrs. Etta Knowles, wife of Mr. L. W. Knowles, died at her home in Vance township, near Stouts, Nov. 28th. Mrs. Knowles was Miss Norkett, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lum Narkett. She was a christian and a member of Pleasant Plain Baptist church. Funeral service was conducted by Rev. B. H. King and the remains were quietly laid to rest in the Pleasant Plain cemetery.

Mrs. Knowles is survived by her husband, father and mother, four sisters and many friends. She was born May 1, 1901, and was married Feb. 5, 1920. The entire community extends sympathy to the family in this sad hour and bid them look to God, the one who has power to heal all broken hearts.—A Friend.

HENRY CROW ELECTED HEAD OF LOCAL LEGION

Purposes and Accomplishments of the Post Set Out in Report of Retiring Commander

WISH TO HAVE SCHOOLS EMPHASIZE RESPECT FOR FLAG

Mr. Henry Crow was unanimously elected commander of the Melvin Deese Post of the American Legion at the final meet of the year last night in the American Legion club rooms.

Mr. Olin McManus was elected vice-commander; Mr. J. M. Morrow, Jr., adjutant; Mr. W. H. Williams, finance officer; Dr. S. A. Alexander, service officer; Mr. W. F. Starnes, chaplain; Mr. S. P. Griffith, sergeant-at-arms; Mr. F. B. Ashcraft, custodian and finance officer of the American Legion club; Mr. Olin McManus, publicity officer to the Oteen Echo; Mr. W. E. Thomas, publicity officer to the Monroe Journal, and Mr. L. F. Hart, to the Monroe Enquirer.

Commander Crow appointed the following to compose the executive committee: Mr. G. S. Lee, Jr., Mr. T. N. Lee, Mr. Gilliam Craig, Mr. R. S. Howie, Maj. B. H. Hinde, Mr. J. F. Milliken, Mr. O. B. Shelly.

Whereas, the National organization of the American Legion has designated the week beginning December 1, 1922, as "National Educational Week" as regards the respect and courtesies due the National Flag and Anthem, be it resolved, that we call upon the county superintendent of education to request the superintendents, principals and teachers of all schools in the county to especially emphasize in the teaching the importance of the proper knowledge of these courtesies.

The Melvin Deese Post unanimously went on record as heartily commending the diligent efforts and accomplishments of the retiring commander and adjutant, Messrs. Sam Lee and Olin McManus.

The Post also unanimously tendered Mr. Sam Lee their warm appreciation for and through enjoyment of the smokes and refreshments at the meeting.

Report of Retiring Commander

With tonight's meeting ends the fourth year of the life of the Melvin Deese Post of the American Legion.

It is with pleasure to me and the other officers that the report of the past year shows that the year has marked the greatest achievement of any year since the post's organization. The reason for this is twofold: 1. Enlarged membership; 2. The cooperation given the administration by every member.

By the enlarged membership a stronger membership has been built with an enlarged field for achievement. From a membership of 108 of a year ago, we have grown to a membership of 131, or approximately twenty per cent. Besides the added strength which this increased membership has given the post, its scope for achievement simultaneously increased in the same proportion.

The year has been marked by every member's accord in the fundamental principle upon which the Legion has been built, namely, Relief for disabled comrades.

The officers and members of the Melvin Deese Post of the past year have willingly given their time and money for the relief of the disabled. It is a conservative estimate to say that no less than fifty of these cases have come before the proper officers of the post during the past year and that through their help and effort that no less than a score have been put in government hospitals or received compensation. In some cases, notably the recent Belk case, the Post has helped ex-service men in emergency cases and helped to defray medical and hospital bills. For your information, I am pleased to advise that Mr. Belk is now in a government Soldier's Home where he will be taken care of so long as he may need be.

The chief effort of the administration has been unselfish service to all ex-service men and their families.

The sum of \$1665.23 exclusive of club has passed through the post finance officer's hands this year, of which \$1272.19 (including National dues and elimination of all indebtedness) went to administration and \$393.10 to charity.

The two outstanding events of the year were our Memorial Day services and Armistice Day celebration. On Memorial Day, appropriate services were held in the county court house and an able memorial address made by Hon. R. G. Cherry of Gastonia.

The Armistice Day celebration, which I need not dwell on, since it is still fresh in all our minds, was made a celebration which the Post feels justly proud.

At the State's Convention the past September, our Past - Commander, Maj. Hugh Hinde, was elected alternate state delegate to the National Convention in New Orleans in October, but for several reasons was not able to attend at the last moment and transferred his credentials to your commander, who was seated as alternate delegate at the convention.

In conclusion I wish to make the following recommendations as activities of the Melvin Deese Post in the future:

1. That this post go on record as approving and foster the movement of a suitable memorial for the Union county boys who gave their lives in the mighty struggle for Liberty.

2. That a new office be created and the person elected be made custodian and treasurer of the Legion club and that he be under jurisdiction of the club.

(Continued on page four.)