

The Mount Airy News.

VOL. XXXIII

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1913.

NO. 52

FIRST VICTIM OF NAVAL AVIATION.

Ensign Billingsley Hurlled 1,600 Feet Into Depths of Chesapeake Bay.

Annapolis, Md., June 20.—The Naval Academy added its first victim to the death roll of the air today when Ensign William D. Billingsley was hurled from a disabled biplane 1,600 feet in the air, and fell, straight as a plummet, into the depths of Chesapeake Bay. Lieut. John A. Towers, chief of the Navy aviators, clung to the hurling wreck that followed his comrade's course from sky to waters and escaped death almost miraculously. Ensign Billingsley, in a biplane that had been converted into a hydro-aeroplane by the addition of pontoons, with Lieutenant Towers as a passenger, left the aviation grounds at the Naval Academy here this morning to fly to Clairborne, some 18 miles across the bay. About 10 miles down the bay a gust of wind struck them. Ensign Billingsley was thrown forward across the steering gear, which was disabled. The front plans of the craft fell, and it dropped like a dead bird toward the water. As it fell, the pilot was catapulted out, and turning over and over, his body outsped the disabled machine toward the water. Deep in the bay the body sank, and late tonight all the available boats in the neighborhood were out seeking it.

Goes Beneath Waters.

When the aeroplane started on its dive for the bay, Lieutenant Towers clung desperately to one of the uprights between the planes. Although at times his body swung clear of the rapidly falling airship, he maintained his hold with hand and arm almost wrenched apart. After falling about 900 feet, the biplane burned a completed somersault, and for a moment the force of the fall was broken. Striking the bay, it carried Lieutenant Towers beneath the water, but rose to the surface almost immediately. The aviator, suffering excruciating pain, feared that he would lose consciousness before he could be rescued, and tearing loose the lashings of one of the planes, bound himself fast to a pontoon. Within a few minutes, however, he was taken off by B. L. Bronson, and S. Kellar, who had watched the aeroplane's movements from a motorboat kept on the bay for use in just such accidents.

At the Naval Academy Hospital, Lieutenant Towers, almost in a state of nervous collapse, his head wagging pitiously, told of the tragic story of his fall.

"Just before the accident," he said, "I looked at the altitudinal dial and it showed that we were running at a height of about 2,625 feet. Just then a gust of wind seemed to come up from below. It struck the aeroplane underneath the rear planes and the machine lurched violently and took an uncertain dive forward. This threw Billingsley across the steering gear and the rudder planes went out of business.

Drops with Great Speed.

"With another forward plunge, the biplane dropped down at express train speed. It all happened in a minute. Billingsley went out of his seat and clear of the plane.

"When the ship started to fall, I had one hand around the upright between the planes, and I locked it there. I knew that was my only hope. I was torn loose from the seat but held on to the upright. I swung clear of the planes, and the gearing. The strain on my arms and fingers was awful, but I clenched my teeth and held on. I tried to kick the steering gear back into working order, but I could not make it go. I looked down and saw Billingsley turning over and over in the air."

The trembling officer halted his story to wipe the sweat from his ashy face, but went on immediately:

"When the aeroplane had dropped about 900 feet, the front planes went down and under, until the ship had been turned completely over. When it was half-way over it steadied for a min-

ute and the force of the fall was broken a little, but it gathered momentum again and when it hit the water there was a terrific crash. But I kept clear of the engine and the planes and managed to come to the surface safely."

At the hospital tonight, Lieutenant Towers was listed as "slightly injured internally," but the surgeons were in doubt as to exact extent of his injuries. He suffered terribly from shock.

An examination of Lieutenant Towers tonight disclosed that in addition to internal injuries, he had a rib broken and that his body, from head to foot, was a mass of bruises from his terrific impact with the water.

Late tonight it was announced that the vessels sent to the scene of the accident to search for Ensign Billingsley's body had been called in but would return to their search at day light.

To Operate on a Boy to Stop His Growth.

Philadelphia Dispatch.

Surgeons at the Medico-Chirurgical Hospital are anticipating the successful outcome of an operation on a 15-year-old boy for gigantism. The youth, John Michael, is now six feet seven inches tall and the doctors have decided to remove a portion of the pituitary gland from the base of the boy's brain. This operation has never been performed before for such a reason. The pituitary gland is believed to control the mechanism of life that has to do with the growth of an individual and to stop the boy from outgrowing everybody and everything they have decided to do what annual experiments have shown are successful when made on a dog.

Michael outgrew all the boys in school and finally refused to go to school, for all the children "joked" him about his size. The smaller children feared him and when he got up the open trolley cars everybody tittered. He had to stoop when he went into any door and at home his father had to have an extra bed made for him. At the hospital, where he was undergoing the rest treatment, it was necessary to make a new coat for him and the bed clothes had to be cut in half and peaced so as to cover the youthful giant.

Mentally the boy is normal thus far. The surgeons say that if the operation is not performed he will become afflicted with a mental disease, for the overgrowth of the rest of the body will affect his mind.

Thousands Still Bury Money and Hide It in Stoves.

Despite the growing confidence of the public in the stability of the banks, thousands of people in the United States, still incredulous, bury their savings in the ground or hide them in the ovens of cook stoves for safe keeping, according to United States Treasurer John Burke, in an address before the convention of the West Virginia Bankers' Association.

Every fall, said Mr. Burke, the Treasurer's office receives many fragments of burned paper money, which has been stored in stoves during warm weather and the hiding places forgotten until the discovery of the charred bits raked out after fires have been built with the approach of frost. About 2,000 such cases are received yearly, coming first from the Northern sections and by degrees from the warmer zones. This, he said, is the Treasurer's means of tracing the frost line from Canada to the Gulf.

Glenn's Announcement Scheduled for Sept. 1.

Asheville, June 23.—Former Governor Robert B. Glenn passed through the city today en route to the West, and while here he announced that upon his return to North Carolina he will make a formal announcement with respect to his candidacy for the office of United States senator.

Mr. Glenn stated that he will make the announcement about the first of September, although he was unwilling to state whether or not he will make the race for Senator Overman's position.

TRIED TO PULL OFF ALLEN STUNT.

Youth Attempts to "Shoot Up" Court in Capital of Nation.

Washington, June 23.—Judge, lawyers, policemen and spectators were sent scurrying to cover in the District Criminal Court here late today when Ray M. Stewart, aged 18, fired three wild shots in an attempt to "shoot up" the court. At the first crack Justice Wendell P. Stafford disappeared beneath his desk and in the court room there was a wild scramble for places of safety. Some sought refuge under tables or behind heavy chairs and others, frenzied by fear, leaped into windows and dropped to the ground some 15 or 20 feet below. Justice Stafford had just refused to release Stewart on probation after conviction for attempted highway robbery. The boy whipped out a pistol and fired three shots, two of which narrowly missed Assistant United States District Attorneys Samuel Hawken and Harvey Given and Policeman Moffitt. He was in the attitude of turning toward the judge as if to shoot when a witness sprang upon him and choked him into insensibility.

In the confusion that followed many thought Justice Stafford had been struck by a bullet but the judge emerged from his haven without a scratch.

Stewart had been convicted recently of holding up a negro in a Washington suburb last December. He had applied for probation as a first offender and Judge Stafford had been hearing the testimony of witnesses for and against the applicant. Hawken, Given and Moffitt, who were conducting the prosecution, were seated near the boy, who had been at liberty on bail. The judge had barely uttered the last word in passing sentence when the prisoner began to shoot. The first shot was aimed in the direction of the prosecutors and just missed Hawken who ducked under the table. The next shot went toward the jury box and passed dangerously near Detective Sergeant Grant's head. It struck a wall and rebounded, falling near Justice Stafford's bench. The third shot struck the ceiling.

Disarmed by Clerk.

As the youth wheeled and faced the bench, Edwin Blaine, a clerk in the Department of Agriculture who had been a witness for the State, seized the boy by the throat and carried him to the floor.

By this time the court room had been nearly cleared of officials and spectators.

Stewart lay unconscious for several minutes after being disarmed. Later he was removed to the cell room beneath the court room.

Counsel for Stewart said the youth was unbalanced as the result of reading cheap literature. The holdup for which the boy was about to be sentenced had many features of the dime novel variety.

The Difference It Made.

"Mr. Testy," said the embarrassed young college man, stepping into the older man's private office. "I have a great request to make of you—"

"Sorry," snapped the business man, taking in the young man's college clothes at a glance, according to The New York Sun, "I must decline to see you."

"B—but it's very important."

"For you, perhaps. Not for me. College man, ain't you?"

"Yes, sir; but—"

"Know Greek and Latin, don't you?"

"A little, sir."

"Don't know anything about practical business matters, though?"

"No, sir; but I can learn."

"Hump. You're the tenth man who has been in to ask me for a job."

"But," said the college man with a faint smile, "I didn't come in to ask you for a job. I came in to ask for your daughter."

Mr. Testy heaved a great sigh of relief.

"My boy," he said, "take her and welcome."

DEATH IN NIAGARA.

Two Small Boys in Boat Swept Down Whirlpool Rapids.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., June 22.—Donald Roscoe, 10 years old, and Hubert Moore, nine years old, both of Buffalo, went to their death in a small boat this afternoon in the whirlpool rapids, while hundreds of men watched helplessly from the shore.

The boys were playing on the flat bottom scow half a mile above the rapids when the rope holding the boat broke and they were carried out into the stream and down the river.

Until the boat reached mid-stream it made little progress. After it passed the bridges the current carried it swiftly towards the rapids. The bridge-men did not see the boat until it was close at hand. Then they called fire headquarters and two companies of firemen were sent to save the lads if possible.

Hundreds swarmed to the river banks in a vain effort at rescue. The boys, realizing their fate, stood up as the boat neared the edge of the roaring whirlpool and shook hands in farewell. A second later they were engulfed by a great wave in the rapids. The boat shot out of sight. One of the boys was seen for a moment struggling in the rushing waters. Neither body has been recovered.

Never at any time was there a chance to save the boys. Scores of passengers in the cars along the gorge route watched the hopeless struggle as did hundreds who had gathered at the water's edge. Men became hysterical and women passengers on the cars wept and prayed in distress at the plight of the lads, who were standing in the boat calling for help.

As the boat neared the swift drift, the first breaking of the water from the main upper reaches to the rapids, it began to rock. The boys sat down to keep from tumbling into the stream. Then, caught in the swift drift, the boat went rearing under the Cantlewer ledge. Whatever hope the boys had of rescue was lost. They ceased their cries for help, turned towards each other and calmly shook hands, then, with the boat in the tumbling waters, threw themselves on the seats of the scow and clung with all their strength.

The craft held to its course until it encountered a huge wave, which crested at a height of 40 feet. It seemed to dive into the very middle of the wave, and when it came again to view it was bottom up. A second or two later, a little head appeared bobbing on a wave below for a moment and then was seen no more.

Prescriptions Should Not Be Telephoned.

Bulletin State Board of Health.

The other day a doctor in Norfolk telephoned a prescription to a drug clerk, prescribing as one of the ingredients of the prescription "mild chloride of mercury," but the druggist understood him to say "bichloride of mercury." Mild chloride of mercury is eucemol and a dose varies from one-half to ten grains; bichloride of mercury is corrosive sublimate and a dose is from one-sixty-fourth to one-eighth of a grain. Bichloride is a dangerous poison. The druggist compounded the prescription with two grains of bichloride, where there should have been two grains of eucemol. The medicine was prescribed for a little boy four years old. The child lost his life as the result, first, of a doctor telephoning a prescription instead of writing it, and second, on account of a druggist who was willing to risk the life of his patron by receiving such a prescription.

We should have laws prohibiting prescriptions by telephone. Let some candidate for the next General Assembly take notice. He may make himself useful by saving a human life.

The New Home of The News.

The new home of The News Office is now on Moore Street 50 yards East of the First National Bank.

CHANGES IN THE STATE SCHOOL LAW.

The Law Requires All Children Between 8 and 12 to Attend School Continuously for Four Months.

Supt. Roger in Concord Times.

"The State equalizing school fund" has been created for running the schools six months. This fund is obtained from setting aside annually five cents of the annual ad valorem tax levied and collected for State purposes on every one hundred dollars value of real and personal property in the State. "No county is entitled to receive any of the benefits from this equalizing fund that does not run a four months' school in the county or in an endeavor to do so, levies a special tax for school purposes of 15 cts. on the hundred dollars worth of property and 45 cents on the poll." This State equalizing fund is under the control of the State board of education.

This equalizing fund can be used only for paying teachers' salaries, the salaries not to exceed \$40 per month for first grade, \$30 for second grade and \$20 for third grade. The county board of education still fixes the salary that each school is allowed to pay from the county funds. No district can exceed the amount allowed by the county unless the excess is made up in the district by private subscription or by local taxes. The board will send out the allowances to each school at its July meeting.

No extra levy for running four months has been asked for in this county. The funds being deemed sufficient to run four months without it.

Compulsory Attendance.

All children between the ages of 8 and 12 are required to attend continuously for four months of the school term each year. The period for compulsory attendance for each public school shall commence at the beginning of the school term unless otherwise ordered by the board of education. A number of provisions and exemptions are made under this law. Such as sickness, extremely rough weather and living more than 2½ miles from school.

The county board of education shall appoint an attendance officer for each township to enforce the provisions of this act. The attendance officer shall serve as census taker for the township and shall be allowed for taking the census 3 cents per child of school age each year. It is the duty of the attendance officer to make two copies of the census, one copy to be furnished the teacher of each school and one to the county superintendent of schools. The attendance officer shall serve notices upon parties failing to send children to school as required under this act, and for serving such notices he shall receive 25 cents in each case of conviction, the same to be taxed in the bill of costs.

The board of education has power to make certain rules and regulations which rules and regulations subject to certain conditions may take the place of any provision of the children between the ages of 8 and 12 years. The State superintendent enforces this provision as an enabling and not a disabling provision.

Heretofore each school committee was appointed for a term of two years. The new law requires one to be appointed for two years and one for one year. At each July meeting thereafter one man is appointed and his term of office is for three years. This change enables the committee of any school to transact business more satisfactorily as two members of the committee will always be in office. Heretofore much confusion arose each two years by reason of the fact that the entire committee's term of office expired at the same time and as the law says that a committee cannot make a contract to extend beyond their term of office, the employment of teachers wanted, often caused much anxiety. The teachers wanted to locate their schools before the committee were given power to act. Oftentimes the

loss of a satisfactory teacher has resulted from this defect in the law.

Committees will be appointed by the board the first Monday in July. The board will welcome any recommendations from a district for the office of committees. The best, most enthusiastic, most substantial school men in a community are needed on the committee. The wish of the board is to secure such men in every district.

Determined to Stop One of Stedman's Appointments.

Washington, June 23.—Major Charles M. Stedman said today that he had read the story in the Daily News of Saturday with reference to his recommendation of John T. Oliver for postmaster of Reidsville. Major Stedman declared that he would never take Oliver's name down unless Mr. Oliver himself made the request. He said he had recommended a most loyal Democrat for the Reidsville place and one he deemed eminently qualified to fill the office.

"I will never recommend any one for the Reidsville postmastership but John T. Oliver, unless Mr. Oliver himself requests me to withdraw his name," said the Fifth district congressman today. "I have received nothing but kindness and courtesy from Senator Simmons in connection with the Oliver controversy. I have no doubt that in recommending Mr. Oliver I am correct and that Senator Simmons is mistaken as to the facts. I do not believe that Mr. Oliver intentionally endeavored to injure the character of Senator Simmons and that he was actuated only by what he thought was just and proper. Senator Simmons now has the files of the Reidsville Review which I sent to him and which he has kindly consented to examine or have examined."

"I do not know any man living in North Carolina who has shown more unselfish devotion to the Democratic party than has John Oliver, and when I quit advocating his name it will be at Oliver's request and not otherwise. I cannot predict what the final result of the controversy will be. I am doing my duty regardless of results."

Senator Simmons Determined.

It is understood that Senator Simmons is equally as determined to fight Oliver as Representative Stedman is to advocate his appointment. Unless some very strong and unforeseen pressure is brought to bear upon Postmaster General Burleson he will not send Oliver's name to the President. This statement was made to the Daily News correspondent last week by a high official of the postoffice department. This official declared that the charge that Oliver had bitterly assailed Senator Simmons' political integrity had been investigated and found to be substantially true, and the department had no desire to force a man upon Senator Simmons who was personally obnoxious to him.

Several Injured in Auto Accident.

Goldboro, N. C., June 24th.—Nine persons were thrown to the ground, five of them being seriously injured, when an automobile owned by John Borden turned turtle near the city hall late yesterday afternoon. The injured are Mrs. R. B. Miller, rib, ankle and collar bone broken; Mrs. D. R. Korngay, shoulder broken and face cut; Miss Mary Borden, jaw bone broken and teeth knocked out; Mrs. Borden and Miss Virginia, painfully bruised.

Miss Helen Creech came to the rescue with her car and carried two of the younger children home, forgetting in the excitement to fasten the clutch, her machine dashing off and being wrecked.

No blame is placed upon the negro chauffeur, who was urged to speed up to escape a storm. Mrs. Borden and her two daughters had been out of a hospital one week, the girls convalescing from operations for appendicitis.