

## Goldsmith Block and National Theatre Burned

### Loss Will Reach \$200,000 With Very Little Insurance

### Firemen Fought Blaze 8 Hours

A property loss of more than \$200,000 was suffered by owners and tenants Wednesday night when fire of an unknown origin gutted the Goldsmith block of buildings on Main street and the Marion Theatre to the rear of the block.

Some members of the Moose Order were in the Moose club rooms located over the theatre entrance when they noticed little curls of smoke creeping through the cracks along the side of the paneled wall. Jack Burcham, one of those in the club, started an investigation and found that the entire theatre below was on fire. This was about eleven o'clock and the fire alarm at once summoned the city fire fighting forces and the two powerful pumping engines.

The flames ate their way into the garrets of the Goldsmith block and the firemen were unable to reach them thus concealed beneath the tin roofs. For eight hours the firemen poured six streams of water into the burning pit and on the walls of adjoining buildings. The city pumping station was kept running at full capacity supplying water for the fire engines, the pumps putting 750,000 gallons of water in the tanks during the night. Before the fire could be brought under control it had completely destroyed the National Theatre auditorium, Marion Music House, Joseph Frank's dry goods store, formerly Warshaw's, Money's Barber Shop, and considerably damaged the room occupied by the A. & F. Store. The Jackson Bros. store building was in danger but the heavy fire wall proved a protection against the flames that swept up its side.

Mr. Marion, lessee of the theatre building is out of the city and no estimate can be had of his loss, although he will be the heavier loser with the exception of Mr. Goldsmith, the owner of the buildings. The buildings were insured for a total of \$15,000, and have been estimated to be worth \$100,000.

Joseph Frank has a loss of \$35,000 in dry goods and merchandise, with \$11,000 insurance. Mr. Frank just three months ago purchased this stock from Phillip Warshaw.

The A. & F. Store was damaged by smoke and water to the amount of \$2,000. The roof is burned off this store room and their stock is being moved to the store room west of The News office on Moore street, where they will start a fire sale Friday morning on their damaged stock.

On the second floor of the block were several office firms which suffered considerable loss. D. L. Hiatt, attorney, lost all his furniture and law books, valued at \$2,000 with no insurance. A. E. Tilley had a loss of \$500 with no insurance. The Moose Order valued its furniture and equipment at \$1000 with \$500 insurance. Webster Sign Service lost \$1800 in paints, materials and equipment with no insurance. Mr. Webster has secured new quarters in the Welch block over Wagner's.

Lovill-Hatcher Insurance Agency with offices located at the head of the steps going up stairs was able to remove most of the furniture and records and the loss is covered.

Money's Barber Shop is put of operation for the present as the roof and second floor of the building is burned off, but the chairs were removed before the flames spread to the shop and the damage is confined to water. The shop will have to secure a new location until the building can be rebuilt.

The fire leaves four store rooms in the heart of the city's business section in total destruction, all the property of Mr. Goldsmith. In talking to a News representative immediately after the fire he stated that he could not say just what plans would be made in respect to building the store rooms.

### University Alumni and Students and Ladies Hear Dr. Carroll

Dr. D. D. Carroll, dean of the school of Commerce of the University of North Carolina was heard with much interest here Monday night when the annual banquet of the Surry County Alumni association was held in the Blue Ridge hotel. As the large number of alumni and students with their wives and lady friends took their places around the festive board with the members of the all-state high school football team and coaches as their guests they all joined in singing "Carolina", grace was said by L. P. Wrenn and O. H. Yokley, president of the alumni and student organization, presided as master of ceremonies. J. H. Polger extended a welcome to the all-state football squad and all the other guests and Dr. Carroll, the speaker of the evening was introduced by Mr. Trent Harkrader, of Dobson. Dr. Carroll spoke of the tasks facing the college graduates of today grouping his thoughts under three heads, Beauty, Democracy or Equality in Education and Tolerance. He pleaded for an education which will instill in North Carolinians a greater love for beauty—that will lessen the importance of the dollar in politics—and the creation of a greater spirit of tolerance towards the ideas and ideals of others.

Following the splendid speech by Dr. Carroll, C. C. Poindexter all-state football coach was introduced and entertained with some reminiscences and football stories and Luther Byrd an athletic director of the university gave this year's history of athletics. The election of officers resulted in the selection of Lucien P. Wrenn, of Mount Airy, president; Lon Polger, of Dobson, vice-pres.; and Calvin Graves, Jr., of Mount Airy, junior student at the university, as sec-treas. of the Surry Alumni-Student association.

The hotel management served a sumptuous banquet.

### William J. Key Passes

William J. Key for years a leading citizen and merchant in the Ararat section passed away Saturday at the home of his son-in-law Mr. Sid Mosby, aged 83 years 8 months. Mr. Key was associated with his son in the W. J. Key and Son general merchandising business until about fifteen years ago when he turned the business over to his son G. J. Key. The aged wife survives him with a large number of other relatives. The funeral was conducted from the Union Church with Elders Dunbar, Creed and Stone officiating.

## Officers Capture Beer In Brim Section—Other Brim News

Brim, Route 2, Jan. 1.—Mr. and Mrs. Bobbie Carter have moved to Randolph county where they will make their home indefinitely.

Mr. Bud Bishop and children of Carthage are visiting relatives here.

Miss Essie Hendricks who is a sophomore at Salem College spent Christmas holidays with her parents Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Hendricks. Her father also spent Christmas at home. He holds a position at Winston-Salem.

Deputies J. G. White, D. C. White and J. E. Tilley destroyed about 85 gallons of beer on Roy Reynolds farm last Thursday. Several jugs and cans were found but they were unable to find the still. William Bowman and small son were at the beer when they heard the officers, they ran, Mr. Bowman going down the hollow and his son across the hill to the house. He moved next day to North Carolina. But he did not stay long for deputy White went after him Saturday. He and a North Carolina deputy. Bowman claimed the beer and was bonded over to March court.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Craddock are visiting Mrs. Craddock's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Matt Chaney.

Mrs. Richard Rogers died at the home of her son, G. R. Rogers, Sunday Dec. 16th, aged 79 years and three days. Surviving are 8 children, 1 sister, 3 brothers, a host of friends and relatives. She was laid to rest, by the side of her husband who preceded her several years ago, at Red Bank Primitive Baptist Church. Elder Preston Stone officiating. She will

### NEW LINOTYPE BEING ERECTED

Mr. Harry B. Smith, linotype erector for the Mergenthaler Linotype Co., Brooklyn, N. Y., reached The News office today and immediately began the erection of the new linotype machine recently purchased for The Mount Airy News. It will require several days to get the new machine running, but we hope to get it started in time to bring out The News next week in its new dress of type faces throughout that will be possible with the new equipment that is being added.

### Hospital Notes

Miss Wynona Forkner is a hospital patient with two ribs fractured as a result of an automobile accident which occurred Monday near Pilot Mountain.

J. W. Johnson, of Winston-Salem is a pneumonia patient, his condition is improving.

Miss Maggie Edenton returned to her home at The Hollow, Va., Monday. She is suffering with a fractured left arm.

Mrs. F. P. Quesberry of Simpkins, Va., is recovering from a recent operation.

Miss Elsie Taylor who submitted to an operation for the removal of her appendix is doing well. She had an acute attack.

Miss Rose Stephens, of Pilot Mountain is a patient for the treatment of an infected wound.

Robert Parker, of Thurmond, who submitted to a minor operation was dismissed and returned home Sunday.

Hasten Wilmoth, of Dobson, a patient for treatment returned home Wednesday.

Yancey Riddle who was quite sick following an operation for acute appendicitis is improving.

### New Buildings on Willow Street

Two new store buildings are being erected on Willow Street in the business section for rental purposes and will soon be completed. T. N. Brock is building a store room adjoining his property known as the Stewart building, and H. Schafer is building a store room next to the Hennis Produce House. Both are being built for rental purposes.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Will Greenwood, of Bannertown, Christmas Day.

## All-State Loses To Oak Ridge

### Rain Interferes With Playing Condition—Many Visitors Here For Contest.

Battling in a field of mud from a rain of several hours before the game started the Oak Ridge football team defeated the All-State High school stars in a spectacular contest in this city New Year's Day before a crowd of 1500 people, a thousand of them being visitors from all parts of the state.

Players on both sides worked hard to carry the ball over the line and it was by the use of passes that the Oak Ridge boys were able to make two touch downs. For a week the All-State boys had been in the city working out in practices at the fair ground. During their stay here they were entertained with honors by the Kiwanis Club and the Country Club and were high in their praise of the hospitality extended them by the Mount Airy citizens.

Soon after the noon hour the Mount Airy band went into action and rendered an open air concert on Main Street, and during the game played popular airs. Their service was especially appreciated by the public and was without any cost to the promoters of the game.

The contest has been in the eye of the public for several weeks and the players involved came all the way from Wilmington to Waynesville, and from Gastonia to Reidsville.

## Beloved Citizen Pneumonia Victim

Mrs. Fannie Fuiks, of this city, widow of the late Dr. B. F. Fuiks, of Lanesburg, Va., died at her home here last Friday morning at 6 o'clock after a short illness of pneumonia following a relapse from influenza. Mrs. Fuiks came here following the death of her husband several years ago and had won a warm place in the hearts of those who came in contact with her during her residence here. She was a member of the First Baptist Church and a choir singer there, and her gentle presence in the community will be greatly missed.

She is survived by one son, Moir Fuiks, aged 12 years, two sisters Mrs. Sam Boyles, of Lanesburg and Mrs. W. E. Jackson of this city, four brothers Dixie B. Hawks, Lanesburg; Dr. C. E. Hawks, Rockville, Md.; E. M. Hawks, Baltimore, Md.; and Mr. Paul Hawks, of the Hawks-Boyles Co. this city. Her father Mr. Osborne Hawks of Lanesburg, Va., also survives.

The largely attended funeral was conducted from the First Baptist Church Saturday at 2.30 p. m. by Rev. E. Gibson Davis of Raleigh, a former pastor, and Dr. I. T. Jacobs, pastor of the church. The remains were laid to rest beside those of her husband at Lanesburg, Va. The floral offerings were numerous and beautiful.

### Insurance Firm Moves

The Mount Airy Insurance & Realty Co., Geo. W. Sparger, manager, now has offices on the first floor of the Fulton block on Franklin Street. Just last week they moved from their old quarters in the Goldsmith block which was burned last night.

### Deaths

Mrs. Bettie Atkins, widow of the late Emmett Atkins died at her home on Factory street Dec. 27. The remains were interred at Salem cemetery.

Mrs. Ida Jarvis, widow of Tabour Jarvis died at her home near Round Peak, Dec. 26 aged 87. Her remains were interred in the family cemetery.

Mrs. Mildred E. Southard wife of Dixie Southard of Rusk and her infant were laid to rest in the same grave Tuesday. Mrs. Southard was about forty one years old and the babe never drew the breath of life. The mother was a victim of influenza and complications.

Jack Fletcher aged less than three years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dixie Fletcher died at their home on route 4 last Monday.

Magdalene Besley, one and half year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Besley of route 2 passed away Dec. 29.

John H. Snow died Dec. 28 aged 83 years. He is survived by his wife Jane Snow. Interment took place at Mount Bethel Dec. 29.

Porter Blevins, son of Dave Blevins, Dobson, route 1 died Dec. 28 aged nearly sixteen years. Interment was in the cemetery at Flat Top Church.

## Santa Clause Visits Humble Homes In The Mountains

### Loneliness and Poverty Lot Of Mountain Dwellers—Moravians Sends Christmas Cheer Through Mission Pastor.

As we sat in our comfortable stove, grate, or furnace heated houses surrounded by every comfort and countless luxuries during the holiday season it would have been a revelation to most of us could we have been whisked away to the mountain fastnesses, not many miles distant, and looked in upon some of the mountain homes bare of everything which is counted necessary in our homes and the privations endured by its inmates.

### People Good Stock Pure Blood

These people are pure Anglo-Saxon blood, they are modest, hospitable, loyal, moral and honest—good people—capable of taking education—of making good in almost any walk of life if they had the opportunity, but live in absolute penury because they were born to that condition and know nothing else. Their homes are mere cabins, back in almost inaccessible coves in the mountains. They accept their lot with stoicism.

### Mountain Life Hard and Lonely

The mountains are hard in spite of all their glowing beauty, their grandeur and majesty when gazed upon from the winding hard surface or sand clay roads which open up such vast beauty to motorists; whether dressed in the verdant green of summer the red and yellow of autumn or capped with snow in winter, they are an unending delight to those who love God's handiwork but to their own children the mountains offer the barest sort of living; poverty, loneliness, isolation, hard climbing over hills and gullies from home to home—scant if any service from doctors in cases of illness. Children are born with naught but the kindly ministrations of some neighboring woman and they grow up to marry and rear their young under the same bleak conditions by which they made their own advent into the world. Living in direct poverty with no tools with which to wrest a living from the stern unbending hills about them.

### Moravians Carry Christmas Cheer

It was to such homes as these that Rev. and Mrs. C. D. Crouch carried Christmas cheer this season.

About two weeks before Christmas they started out to make their rounds laden with simple gifts that would not offend but would open the hearts of those they visited. About 60 homes were visited in the face of the mountains; one Moravian friend in Winston-Salem had sent 100 pairs of stockings, another had sent 100, 3-4 lb. buckets of excellent grade of candy a third had said "spend what you need and send me the bill and don't make the bill too small." And so they went from home to home carrying Christmas cheer into homes and to little children who would not have known Christmas Day from any other day but for their visit.

### People Cordial and Hospitable

They met with the utmost cordiality, one young couple with three children were just about to sit down to a meal of one rabbit and one buckwheat cake spread upon a simple board, for a table, which reached from the foot of their one bed to a horse made of unfinished logs and with the hospitality the mountain folks invariably extend to friends they invited the visitors to share their meal, and if the invitation had been accepted and host and hostess had gone hungry until the mountains yielded another rabbit they would have accepted the privation with the same grace they meet other hardships and not begrudge the guests their meal.

### Letters Must Wait Coming of Minister

One of the most trying experiences of the mountain folks grows out of their lack of schools. Because of their isolated lives and their unfamiliarity with law they frequently become entangled, some member of the family goes to town and gets into trouble or someone makes some blockade liquor and gets caught disposing of it. Then with father, son or brother in prison a letter comes and weeks elapse, no one in the family can read the letter, and it must be held until the minister or his wife comes and reads it for them and writes an answer.

### Minister's Wife Confidant of Women Folk

The minister's wife plays an important part in the ministry to these dwellers of the hills. The gentle wife always has an ear for the hopes and fears, the joys and sorrows of the women folk and gets in closer touch with the family than the minister could ever do alone.

In the section of Virginia where the Moravians have established missions

conditions are much better than in the more remote sections. The people are better educated, better clothed, better fed, better prepared in every way for life and it looks like some way must be found to carry education to those remote sections before any real relief from cruel hardships can be expected.

Christmas tree exercises were held at Mount Bethel and Crooked Oak and at Willow Hill, near the Coveland orchard a Christmas service was held. Christmas cheer was brought to more than 150 families through the Moravian workers. Where they were able the people provided gifts for their tree themselves not forgetting the pastor. The houses were well filled and there was no drinking or other misconduct. The tree at Willow Hill was the first community tree service ever held there.

### Head Beat With Knuckle and Axe, Man Still Lives

The condition of Mr. Byrd Simpson of the White Plains R. F. D. section who is a patient at Martin hospital following an attack by several men on Christmas eve, shows slight improvement.

Mr. Simpson was attacked at his home and three men Henry, John and Bob Wood are wanted for participation in the attack, one man named Lawson was arrested as a possible member of the attacking party but there seems to be little evidence against him.

A dispute over a crop is said to have led to hard feelings which brought on the trouble.

Mr. Simpson was hit in the temple with brass knucks and at the base of the brain with the back of an axe so the story goes and is in a very serious condition.

Mr. Simpson's son-in-law W. O. Elliott of Lee county is here on account of his injuries.

### College Young People Honored

The home of Dr. and Mrs. I. T. Jacobs was thrown open to the college boys and girls from 8 to 10 o'clock Friday evening complimenting the college students of the First Baptist Church of which Dr. Jacobs is pastor. Games and contests provided amusement and delightful refreshments contributed to make the occasion a very enjoyable and successful one.

## Shoots At Rabbit Hits His Big Toe

Mount Airy, Route 1, Jan. 2.—Born to Mr. and Mrs. Luns Hatt Dec. 25 a boy.

J. H. Samuel and son Carter, who have been confined for several days with pneumonia are both improving we are glad to note.

Mrs. Sarah Venable, of White Plains spent the week end with her daughter Mrs. V. L. Simmons.

Misses Percy, Ethel and Kate Cook spent New Year's Day with Misses Margaret and Frances Falk, Pilot Mountain.

Carliss Scott age 14, while out rabbit hunting last week set his gun on his foot and while in the act of unloading the gun it fired and shot his great toe entirely off, the wound is healing nicely.

While visiting relatives on this route last Friday the children of Mrs. J. F. Haymore, of Dobson had the misfortune to lose their car by fire. They suppose that a naked wire set the car on fire. The car had been burning for some time before they found it out and the occupants escaped just before the gas tank exploded, all burnable parts were completely destroyed.

Mr. and Mrs. Shely Samuel of Elizabethton, Tenn., spent the holidays with Mr. Samuel's parents Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Samuel.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Wicker and two children of Reidsville spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Riddle and other relatives and friends in this section.

Mr. Will Hooker and Miss Grace Simmons were united in marriage last week. Mr. Hooker is the eldest son of J. P. Hooker and is a prosperous young man holding a position with Ziegler Bros. Construction Co., Union, S. C. The bride is the attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Simmons and is very popular. They have many friends who extend congratulations.

Miss Ethel Cook student Mitchell College Statesville, is at home for the holidays but will return for the opening Jan. 5.

Mrs. R. T. Joyce, of Woodfield and Carrie Gallaway of Greensboro were visitors here Monday.