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OLD MARKET HOUSE ON WILLIAMSBORO STREET GOES UP IN FLAME

Firemen Fought Like Heroes To Save the Municipal Building, County Jail and Taylor-Cannady Buggy Company—Insurance On Building \$7,500.

While on his rounds at 1 o'clock Wednesday morning, Night Officer Roscoe Clark, of the police force, discovered fire in the rear end of the old market house on Williamsboro street, situated between the Taylor-Cannady Buggy Company's plant and the municipal building and in close proximity to the county jail at the rear end. Officer Clark turned in the alarm at five minutes past 1 o'clock and about five minutes later the firemen had three streams of water on the smoking building, which was ready to break into flame at any moment. They were aware that the building contained a quantity of explosives and oils, but this did not deter the brave fire boys, both white and black, from fighting the fire from close range, and report after report, like that of a cannon, was heard in the interior of the building as the fire ate its way up through the structure to the belfry where the fire bell, operated by electric current, gave forth a most doleful sound for twenty minutes, and a still more mournful sound when it left its hanger and plunged to the ground floor with a crash, at 2 o'clock. By this time there were at least 500 people at the scene of the fire. It was a bitter cold night and the snow was falling. One could have read a newspaper by the light of the flames anywhere within a half mile of the burning building, and many sat at their windows and watched the flames shoot heavenward, die down and rise again. It was the biggest fire Oxford had witnessed since the conflagration thirty or more years ago when two whole blocks were reduced to ashes.

The Origin Of The Fire.
The building was occupied by the Sterns-Knight Auto Company, owned by Messrs. B. E. Parham and Willie Parham, the latter named partner being the active manager. He was in Greensboro on business and knew nothing of the fire until an early hour Wednesday morning. It is not definitely known how the fire originated, but it is said that it originated in the rear end of the building, which was used as a repair shop. The Stern-Knight Company were the sole occupants of the building and paid a monthly rental of \$35.

Partly Covered By Insurance.
Mr. Willie Parham, manager of the garage, arrived from Greensboro Wednesday, when the safe was opened and the amount of damage estimated. The exact amount of insurance is not known, but it is generally understood that Mr. Parham carried a goodly amount on his repair department and new cars in store. It is not known whether the several cars undergoing repair for private owners were covered with insurance or not. There were also several cars stored over night in the garage.

Fireman Hurt.
The falling glass from the windows in the auditorium above the garage was constant menace to the firemen. Charles Harris, colored, received injuries about the hands of no serious nature. A doctor was summoned from the crowd of spectators and his wounds were treated.

Hot Coffee Served.
After the blaze was under control the firemen were called into the mayor's office and served hot coffee, which was welcomed by the drenched firemen who had been battling with the flames for more than two hours.

Prisoners Call For Help.
The cell in the municipal building, thirty feet from the burnt building contained a lone prisoner, and the county jail, forty feet from the raging fire, contained nine prisoners. It was pitiful to hear them pleading for release, pending the arrival of Mr. Conrad Walters, the jailor, lest they be roasted alive. It was perhaps the first time that some of them asked God to be merciful. Mr. Walters arrived in due time and led them to a room in the court house and kept them there until the fire died down, and when they were later returned to their prison homes the walls of their cells had been made comfortably warm by the burning building.

History Of Building.
In 1888 the City of Oxford acquired the site of the building from the county on a 99 year lease. There seems to have been at that time a strong demand for a market house. A tablet at the entrance reveals the fact that the building was erected in 1888; that J. D. Crawford was mayor; that the town commissioners were W. A. Davis, D. S. Osborn, J. K. Wood, R. T. Smith, and according to the inscription on the tablet, Henry Field was the superintendent of the building. The building was insured for about \$7,500. The fire bell, installed in the belfry five or six years ago, cost \$1,400. In its fall of seventy-five feet it was not broken, but the fire robbed it of its extremely clear notes on a cold frosty morning.

Harding Invited To Charlotte.
An invitation has been extended to President-elect Harding to speak in Charlotte on May 20. The invitation was extended on behalf of all the citizens of the state. Mr. Harding has not accepted yet.

RECENT ACT REMITS PENALTIES TO PAY STATE AND COUNTY TAXES

Sheriff Hunt Will Collect No Penalties Until May 1.
Owing to depressed financial conditions the legislature recently passed an act remitting all penalties for failure to pay state and county taxes. This act applies only to current taxes, and is effective until May 1. At that time penalties will be applied on all taxes not then paid. Sheriff Hunt will therefore not collect any penalties as heretofore advertised.

WANTS CONGRESS TO LOOK IN LANDIS' BIG SALARY

Washington, Feb. 2.—Congressional investigation to determine whether Judge Landis is permitted under law to continue as Federal Judge of the Northern Illinois district while acting as "arbitrator of organized baseball" at an annual salary of \$42,500.

THE NEXT CROP OF TOBACCO Views Entertained By The Farmers Of Granville.

It is inferred that the farmers of Granville county have come to understand that there is more money in a half crop of tobacco than there is in an overproduction. A farmer at the Johnson warehouse yesterday said that he intends to plant one-half of a crop and by the use of good fertilizer hopes to realize good prices next year for every pound he places upon the warehouse floor.

"The only thing that I am apprehensive about," said the farmer, "is that the big companies will advise the tobacco growers to produce a certain kind of tobacco and change their minds next fall and then just 'take' the tobacco for nothing as they do some grades this year."

The Public Ledger is not advised that the big companies let it be known what kind of tobacco they wanted this year. If they did, it should not be held against them. It is possible that they hoped to supply the foreign demand and later found that such was impossible owing to the shortage of the money market.

OUR ABLE REPRESENTATIVE

Hon. B. W. Parham Takes A High Stand Among His Fellow-Members.
Reports from Raleigh are to the effect that the legislature is getting down to work on all the important problems before it. Roads, education, taxation and all other questions are being discussed and the lines upon which the problems will be settled are being formed.

Miss Esther Royster To Go To Germany To Teach
(Henderson Daily Dispatch)
Miss Esther Royster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Royster, will shortly leave the United States for Germany, where she will go to serve with the American Army of Occupation and teach stenography and trywriting to the men in the ranks. Miss Royster will be stationed at Coblenz, headquarters for the American forces. The period of her absence from the United States is not known, but she will probably be gone for some time. She will sail from New York next Saturday, February 5. This opportunity comes to Miss Royster following a long period of service in a government department in Washington. She is regarded as quite an expert in her work.

CONTEST OVER SCHOOL BOND ELECTION IN TALLY HO

The contest over the school bond election in Stem district, set to be heard here tomorrow before Judge Devin, has been postponed.

Judge Devin is wrestling with a lengthy docket at Greenville this week and will not be able to reach Oxford in time to hear the case this week.

JANUARY WEATHER REPORT

Recorded at the Granville County Experiment Station.
Total rainfall 2.81 inches; greatest rainfall in 24 hours 1.40 inches Jan. 9; snowfall 5 inches; maximum temperature 71 Jan. 22; minimum temperature 9 Jan. 26; number of clear days 17; number of partly cloudy days 8; number of cloudy days 6.

ON CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Hon. B. W. Parham and Prof. Guy Phillips Retire From Board.
There being two vacancies on the city school board, caused by the resignation of Mr. B. W. Parham, a member of the House of Representatives, and Prof. Guy B. Phillips who resigned to accept a position with the city schools of Greensboro, the board last Monday night elected Mr. W. H. Hunt and Mr. D. G. Brummitt to fill the vacancies.

The Organization.
The board is composed of seven members as follows:
Col. Henry G. Cooper, chairman; R. H. Lewis, Treasurer, W. B. Ballou, H. M. Shaw, J. W. Horner, W. H. Hunt, D. G. Brummitt. Prof. Credle, superintendent of schools, is secretary of the school board.

Loss Of Good Man.
In this connection the Public Ledger desires to state that the good people regret that Prof. Phillips has severed his connection with our school system. As superintendent of our schools for three or four years he was a power for good in our community. He goes to Greensboro with enlarged school duties, and as principal he ranks ahead of several superintendents.

Oxford has sustained a loss in the departure of Prof. Phillips and his excellent family, and Greensboro gains much.

THE HOUSTON YEGGMAN GETS SIXTEEN YEARS

The mystery in the sensational robbing of the bank at Houston, Va., was partly solved with the conviction of G. B. Gibbons, alleged yeggmán captured recently in Philadelphia and extradited to the State of Virginia after Baldwin-Felts detectives had built up a circumstantial case about him. Gibbons, who pleaded "not guilty" to the charge of robbery and grand larceny, was convicted after all day trial at Houston and was sentenced to serve sixteen years in the penitentiary.

Gibbons is said to have been given away by a woman, said to be a confederate of the gang of burglars and who was so fenced in by a string of circumstantial evidence that confronted her in Philadelphia she made a statement which resulted in part of the Halifax loot being found in Atlanta and part in Petersburg.

The detectives, it is claimed, link Gibbons definitely with the Stoneville and Spring Hope bank robberies in North Carolina, but these matters were not pressed in pushing the Halifax bank case. If it is true that Gibbons belonged to the roving band of yeggs who concentrated on small town banks and postoffices in North Carolina and Virginia, not one of the party has escaped the hand of the law.

CANCEL FIRE POLICIES ON TOBACCO BARN

Because of the increasing number of tobacco barns being burned by fires of mysterious origin, and the intensity of the tobacco men, certain insurance companies have notified their agents in some parts of Kentucky to cancel policies on tobacco.

Many tobacco barns in various parts of Kentucky have burned in the past few months; others have been added to the list during the past week. While no arrest have been made in the sweep of night riders over parts of Bath and Fleming counties, a \$500 reward has been offered by the State, and Circuit Judge Hewitt of that district has ordered his grand jury to make a thorough inquiry.

APPROPRIATION FOR GOOD ROADS CERTAIN

It is believed to be more than likely that Congress will pass before adjournment of the present session on March 4th the good roads bill favorably reported to the House the other day appropriating \$100,000,000 for federal aid to post roads in the States.

A great deal of pressure has been brought to bear upon Congress from every State for passage of this bill to continue aid to the States for the building of roads.

Under this bill appropriating \$100,000,000 for the next fiscal year the federal government will spend about \$2,000,000 in North Carolina to be matched by an equal appropriation by the State.

CHAIRMAN WHITE CALLS MEETING OF COMMITTEE

Washington, Feb. 2.—George White, chairman of the Democratic National committee, today appointed an executive committee of the National committee, and called it to meet in Washington February 17 for the purpose of obtaining its "advice and counsel" in the reorganization of the party's machinery.

Angus M. McLean is a member of the executive committee from North Carolina.

MRS. VANDERBILT APPEARS BEFORE STATE ASSEMBLY

Delivers Brief Address At Joint Session Of House and Senate—Completely Captivates State Legislators—Pretty and Vivacious.
(Raleigh Special)

Mrs. George W. Vanderbilt addressed the General Assembly Wednesday. But few times in the history of the State has a woman been asked to address the General Assembly, and none has pleased them more, none has been more gracious in her manner, more pleasing in her speech, or more altogether the sort of a woman that wins the liking of both men and women of high degree and low.

General Carr arose to make the presentation. The audience heard him with abstraction, devoting most of its attention to a scrutiny of Mrs. Vanderbilt.

Neatly Dressed.
For the women there were the clothes she wore to be examined. Here again simplicity to a degree unexpected. A brown suit, made of the homespun fashioned at her estate at Biltmore, trimmed with a collar of rich brown fur, Vestments of gold and white silk, and a corded turban and a black veil covering her face closely. Of jewels, very few. A wrist watch of platinum and diamonds, with the bracelet of many perfectly matched pearls, set in four strings, an eye-glass chain of small emeralds and pearls, set in platinum, and two rings, one on each little finger—a great amethyst and a yellow sapphire. She wore no gloves.

Impressive Speaker.
In part, Mrs. Vanderbilt said: "This is a day when women have come into their own, and each one of us must shoulder her responsibilities along with the men, and try to fulfill her duty to her community, State and country at the same time remembering her obligations to her home, and following the high-minded examples of the men who founded our government and are responsible for its success, and the success of its institutions. So, gentlemen, I at once assume a responsibility in thanking you, in the name of my fellow-sisters for what you have done for in conferring this distinction upon me, you have included them."

"I want you to know that I personally have the interest of North Carolina very deeply at heart; that I am sincerely interested in all that concerns its welfare, and that I have the utmost faith in the integrity and judgment of its people and feel that the future history of our Tar Heel State will uphold the standards and traditions of its past record. I want to see our State lead all other in citizenship and broadmindedness and to feel that we have, one and all, done our bit to make it what it has always been, at the same time going along as leaders in the fast running tide of today."

Accompanied By Daughter.

Mrs. Vanderbilt was accompanied to Raleigh by her daughter, Miss Cornelia Vanderbilt, Mr. Adams, her attorney, and Mr. Rawl, formerly owner of the Manor of Asheville who is greatly interested in the development of Biltmore and that section of North Carolina.

SARAH WYCKOFF DIES, AGE 76, IN STATE PRISON

Serving Life Time Sentence, Had Been Offered Pardon Five Times But Refused.

Raleigh, Feb. 2. Sarah Wyckoff, 76 years old, reached the end of a life sentence in the state prison when she died after 42 years' imprisonment, having declined a pardon at the hands of five governors and having lived to learn that a death-bed confession had completely exonerated her of the charge of murdering her husband.

Forty-two years ago Sarah Wyckoff entered the state prison to serve a life sentence, as the convicted accomplice in the murder of Wesley Wyckoff, in Alexander county, in the mountains of North Carolina. The convicted principal, a negro, was hanged. Three years ago from the mountains came word that a death-bed confession had absolved the woman of connection with the tragedy. For the fifth time, she refused a pardon, explaining that she was being treated well, that time had shattered all her relations with her family in the mountains and that she preferred to spend her last days in prison.

PICTURE CENSORSHIP BILL IN SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE

Would Prohibit the Picturing Of Women Of One Race Being Shown In Theaters Of Other.
Columbia, S. C., Jan. 3.—A bill by Mr. Moon to prohibit pictures of the women of one race being shown in the theater or places of public entertainment of the other race was introduced in the house of representatives when it convened from a recess since last Friday afternoon.

—Mr. F. W. Hancock, who is a good judge of the beautiful, spent Wednesday in Raleigh. He was busy and could not go to the State House to hear Mrs. Vanderbilt speak, but he saw the lady at the Yarbrough House. "A strikingly beautiful and attractive woman is Mrs. Vanderbilt. To her beauty is added a simplicity and charm of manner that is unusually pleasing," said Mr. Hancock.

HARDING WILL RETURN FOURTH OF HIS SALARY

Washington, Feb. 3.—Warren G. Harding as President of the United States will receive something like \$8,000 less compensation from the government annually than Woodrow Wilson has received.

The treasury will pay Mr. Harding the same amount it pays Mr. Wilson—\$73,000 annually—but internal revenue bureau officials say that Mr. Harding must return nearly one fourth of this in income tax.

President Wilson was exempted from the income tax under a supreme court ruling because he came into office before the enactment of the 1918 revenue laws under which taxes were sought to be imposed on the salaries of the President and of federal judges. The supreme court held that the tax could not be collected in the case of incumbents because of the constitutional inhibition against the reduction of the salaries of the executive and federal judges during their term of office.

TYLER-MEADOWS WEDDING

The Young Couple Had Been Sweethearts Ever Since Dr. Tyler Was Pastor Here—At Home In Greensboro After Bridal Tour.
A quiet but pretty wedding was solemnized Thursday at noon at the home of Mr. J. F. Meadows when his daughter Marie and William B. Tyler were united in matrimony, Dr. J. D. Harte officiating.

The house was artistically decorated with potted plants and roses, the color scheme being rose and green.

Miss Edith Howell presided at the piano and rendered several appropriate selections "Perfect Love" was softly played during the ceremony. To the strains of Lohengrin wedding march the bridal party entered. First came the groom with his brother-in-law, S. P. Collier of Winston-Salem. The brides little sister, Roselyn Meadows, was maid of honor. She was daintily attired in white organdie. Master Randolph Meadows carrying the ring on a silver tray, preceded the bride who entered with her father, Mr. J. F. Meadows. The bride was charmingly gowned in a dark blue suit embroidered in cut steel with accessories to match. She carried a shower bouquet of lilies of the valley. Only a few friends and near relatives were present.

The out-of-town guests were: Mrs. A. P. Tyler, Miss Edna Tyler and Miss Gladys Wilson, of Greensboro; Mr. S. P. Collier and Miss Mary Louise Collier of Winston-Salem.

Mrs. Tyler is the attractive and accomplished daughter of Mr. J. F. Meadows. Her lovely disposition has won for her a wide circle of friends. Mr. Tyler is the son of the late Rev. A. P. Tyler and Mrs. A. P. Tyler of Greensboro. He was a former resident of Oxford and is well known here. He now occupies an important banking position in Greensboro.

The happy couple left immediately after the ceremony for northern points of interest. After the bridal trip, Mr. and Mrs. Tyler will reside in Greensboro.

MOVING PICTURES AND VALENTINE PARTIES

Program Of Community Meetings For Two Weeks.

A schedule of the Community Meetings to be held during the two weeks beginning Monday, February 7th, is given below. This schedule covers the season of St. Valentine, and we are expecting Cupid with all of his messages to attend. Indeed, we have his promise to be on hand at Providence and Cornwall, where Valentine parties will be given in his honor, and we feel reasonably certain that he will also be in attendance at other places. An evening of wholesome fun is assured at each of the places listed.

Berea, Monday, 7.
Creedmoor, Tuesday, 8.
Wilbourn, Wednesday, 9.
Stovall, (afternoon) Thursday, 10.
Stem, Friday, 11.
Wilton, Monday, 14.
Providence, Tuesday, 15.
Cornwall, Wednesday, 16.
Knap of Reeds, Thursday, 17.
Corinth, Friday, 18.

LOCAL MERCHANTS WILL GO NORTH SOON

They Are Disposed To Buy Good Stocks Of Spring and Summer Goods.

On account of Easter being three weeks earlier this year the merchants will visit the northern markets earlier than they did last year. Some of them will go north within the next week or ten days; in fact some of our smart milliners are already in New York looking after the spring and summer styles.

A feeling predominates among the merchants here that our people will want good goods at a reasonable price and they are disposed to make sufficient purchases to supply the demand.

Those merchants who are already well posted as to prevailing prices state that there is a perceptible decline in some lines as well as an advance in other lines.

Those who are expecting pre-war prices on certain lines of dependable goods will never live to realize their fondest hope, according to the expressed views of the trade journals.

THE PROS AND CONS OF A NEW HOTEL FOR OXFORD

There has been more or less agitation several years for a modern hotel in Oxford. Some claim that what we have is plenty good, while others claim that we need a 100-room fire-proof hotel with steam heat, baths and pretty maids to serve them.

While the fire was consuming the old market house the other morning the Pros and Cons held a consultation in front of the burning building. The conversation was precipitated by a prominent citizen who remarked that the old market house site would be an excellent location for a modern hotel.

"Who in the thunder would like to occupy a room so close to the county jail?" asked Con in seriousness.

"What's the difference?" asked Pro, "the hotel we have is situated along side of a cemetery."
While the Pros and Cons were discussing the question, Mr. B. K. Lassiter, who always sees the funny side of every question and who is one of the best peace-makers you would find in a day's travel, chinned in: "My dear friends," said the genial B. K., "a man's best neighbor is he who is secure behind the prison bars."
"That may all be true, said Con, "but I am here to tell you that dead men tell no tales."

GOV. MORRISON COMMENTED FOR HIS APPOINTMENTS

Places Capt. Bev. S. Royster, Jr. At The Head Of The Quartermaster Corps.

Further indication that the new governor is going into the ranks of youth in making appointments is seen in the first ones that were named. Governor Morrison reappointed Col. John Van B. Meets, of Wilmington, adjutant general and Major Gordon Smith, of Raleigh, assistant adjutant general and United States property and disbursing officer of the National Guard.

The Governor is commended for his selection of four world war veterans for the following places in the new guard: Judge advocate general, Henry C. Dockery, of Charlotte; inspector general, Major Thomas C. Guthrie, Jr., of Charlotte; captain quartermaster corps, Beverly S. Royster, Jr., of Oxford; chief medical officer, Major J. Vance McGoughan, of Fayetteville; chief of ordnance, Major J. Ed Carter of Mount Airy.

MR. WILSON NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT A JOB

He Is Rich In His Own Name and Mrs. Wilson Has \$1,000,000.

President Wilson has bought one of the most beautiful homes in Washington, costing \$150,000, and will make his home there after March 4.

Mr. Wilson will never need to look for a job. His services will always be in demand at a high price as a writer, a head of a university, or in some other capacity where name and fame count.

When he went into the White House he was a poor man. However, he now has ample wealth to insure him comfort and good care for the rest of his days even though he never does any work. The Wilsons have entertained less than any other family that has occupied the White House for many administrations and it is understood that they have saved a goodly amount of money.

In addition to this Mrs. Wilson is wealthy in her own right. It is whispered in financial circles in Washington that she is worth not less than \$1,000,000.

MISS MARR ACCEPTS POSITION WITH TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Miss Cycle Marr, of South Dakota, who has made her home with Mrs. Linnie Smith on Gilliam street for the past year, has accepted a position in the Treasury Department and will leave for Washington next Monday. With a charming disposition, no one has ever made more friends in Oxford in so short a time.

During the last year of the World War, Miss Marr left her home in Dakota with the intention of going overseas, but when she arrived in Washington the War Department prevailed upon her to accept a position. She remained with the War Department until they dismissed several thousand clerks, and her name not being among those who were dismissed, she asked for an indefinite leave of absence and came to Oxford and accepted a position as bookkeeper at Mr. J. Robert Woods' store. She had previously learned from friends what a nice and pretty place Oxford is and she desired to spend one year in the "Sunny South" before returning to her home in Dakota.

Her host of friends here regret to see her leave Oxford, but are pleased to know that she will be pleasantly located in Washington.

HOOVER WILL NOT BE IN HARDING CABINET

Herbert Hoover, according to C. W. Gilbert, newspaper correspondent, will not be in President-elect Harding's cabinet. Mr. Hoover, it is said, will head a commission to reorganize the executive departments of the government at Washington. Will H. Hays, Mr. Gilbert says, will also be a member of this commission.