

State Librarian

## Unconscious Witness To Brother's Murder

### A. A. Hedgepeth Killed When He Attempted To Break Up Blind Tiger.

#### Troy Rideout, Alleged Slayer, Now In Jail.

##### Brother of Dead Man Admits His Presence At Still At Time of Killing.

The blind tiger business in Nash County on Saturday night took its toll of human life and a community and the entire county for that matter is shocked at the death of one of its best citizens, while a widow and five small children are bowed with grief at the untimely death of a loving and sacrificial father, a man who lost his life in trying to rid his community of this nefarious business and protect his brother, whom it is alleged, was aiding and abetting therein.

The dead man is Mr. Alex. A. Hedgepeth, for years a resident of Nashville, but more recently manager of the Jones-Williams mercantile business, at Red Oak. He met his death near his old home in Griffin Township near Taylors' school house on Saturday night about 9:00 o'clock. Mr. Hedgepeth having gone to his old home on account of the death of his aunt and the illness of his mother. It was while there he learned of the operation of a still near the home of his brother, George Hedgepeth, and also near the old Strickland home. Learning of the existence of the still Mr. Hedgepeth sought the cooperation of the neighbors in going to the place and breaking it up. Only one man responded, this being Allen Nelms. Together they went to the place, secreted themselves in the underbrush and after waiting for a short time, saw a white man, Troy Rideout, and another man whom Nelms declared to be Robert Hedgepeth, brother of the dead man, as they proceeded to place the kettle on an improvised fire-pit made of two rocks and an old buggy spring. A fire was lighted and the two men moved about in the underbrush. Watching their operations for a short time Alex Hedgepeth called upon the operators to "hands up," when it is alleged by Nelms, Rideout returned the command by quickly raising his gun and fired the fatal shot that tore away almost half of the left side of Alex Hedgepeth's head and he sank to the ground and expired in a few minutes. Nelms then went to the home of George Hedgepeth, about three hundred yards distance, woke him up and told him of the affair. They returned to the scene of the killing but were fearful of entering the woods. Old man Howell was sought by George Hedgepeth while Nelms went to the home of W. T. Jones and telephoned the officers in Nashville, and then went to the home of Robert Hedgepeth and other neighbors to give the alarm. When he reached Robert Hedgepeth's home he found the latter in bed.

The news of the killing quickly spread over Nashville and soon quite a number of cars carrying physicians and other citizens were on the scene. The dead man's body was being removed from the woods and, when but a short distance therefrom Allen Nelms pointed out to the sheriff the man whom it is alleged fired the fatal shot and who had returned to the scene and was assisting in bringing out the dead body. Rideout was immediately arrested and rushed to jail and on the following day taken to Raleigh for safe-keeping.

Throughout Saturday night and Sunday all kinds of rumors were floating about concerning whom the party or parties were who had knowledge of the still and the associates of Robert Hedgepeth's name with the affair and the statements of Nelms and general impression in the neighborhood and admissions caused Robert Hedgepeth to be taken in custody and on Tuesday he made a clean breast of the affair in which he admits his presence at the still on the night of the killing of his brother; that the fatal shot was fired by Rideout; that he had no idea that his brother Alex was the party killed until being told at his home, where he had been and retired.

Through his counsel, Messrs. Finch & Vannoy and Harold D. Cooley, habeas corpus proceedings in Hedgepeth's behalf were at once instituted and upon a hearing of the matter before Judge Bond and State Attorney Gilliam at Tarboro Tuesday evening Hedgepeth was released upon giving bond in the sum of \$1,000.

It is estimated that more than five hundred people, many from all vic-

price in a mail order catalogue, but will finger the price mark on goods in a store at home and ask if that can't be trimmed down a bit since they "are good customers." And why, oh why, will the same people send away a check because it looks cheap without asking the home merchant if he can duplicate it? No one has ever answered these questions, so we have to take it that it's just a trait of human nature, this thing of thinking that home people don't like money as well as strangers, or that they don't want to live as well as other people. Giving a bargain is all right. But there's a difference between driving a bargain and trying to talk a neighbor out of an honest profit. Wouldn't it be a better commodity all around if we could drill this into the heads of those who most frequently insist upon talking the home merchant out of the little profit he is bound to make if he stays in business?—Gaston County News.

#### Earth Furnishes Material For Its Own Comfort.

Ask a friend what the fourth most valuable American mineral product is in terms of total production. Ask him where gold stands on the list. He is likely to put gold first and silver second. He may get coal, iron and petroleum in their right order if he is pretty well read up on such things, but chances are he will fall down on the fourth article in Uncle Sam's list recently made available as of the year 1920.

The saying that our wealth comes out of the earth is well known, but not so well understood. It is one of those things we hear, take for granted, and think very little about.

For instance, little do we think when riding over a brick street or highway, or watching the erection of a brick building, or a brick sewer, that clay products stand fourth on the list of most valuable mineral products from a standpoint of production. Thus it is, in the case of brick pavements, that earth furnishes the materials which helps us conquer the mud and speed up transportation.

Try this list on your friends. Here it is as officially compiled: Coal (soft) \$1,950,000,000; Iron (pig) \$1,137,926,000; Petroleum \$1,360,000,000; Clay Products \$364,520,000; Copper \$222,467,000; Stone \$320,500,000; Lead (refined) \$76,296,000; Sand \$62,694,000; Silver \$39,420,000; Gold \$49,509,000.

Figures for 1923 in the vitrified paving brick branch of the clay products industries indicate that the total production for that year was about 500,000,000 brick, enough to lay 4,250 miles of 18-foot roadway. In addition to this specialized branch of the industry, there is the common brick, face brick, fire brick, hollow tile and other clay products.

Those who labor indoors, especially busy mothers need to develop a healthy outdoor hobby. The vegetable or flower garden, poultry yard or children's play ground offer such an opportunity and the body will be quick to respond, say home demonstration workers of the State College of Agriculture.

## Europe Will Buy More Co-Op Weed

### The Associated Tobacco Growers Gain New Markets By European Expedition.

Enlarged markets for the tobacco of the 200,000 American planters of the Carolinas, Virginia and Kentucky who are united in co-operative Marketing associations will unquestionably result from the work of their commission which is now in Europe for the purpose of shortening the bridge between the organized American producers and the millions of European consumers of tobacco from this country, according to Oliver J. Sands, executive manager of the Tobacco Growers Co-operative Association, who has just arrived from overseas and is the first member of the commission from the tobacco farmers of America to return from Europe.

According to Mr. Sands, the co-operative associations will undoubtedly increase their deliveries of tobacco to Great Britain as a result of the visit of the commission to trade centers of England, Scotland and Ireland. The officials of the Imperial Tobacco Company of Great Britain received the commission from the co-operative associations with every courtesy and consideration on May 15 at Bristol, England, another meeting of the Imperial officers and the officials of the tri-state association of Virginia and the Carolinas and those of the Kentucky Burley and Kentucky Dark Associations will be held following the arrival in England of Judge Robert Bingham of Kentucky, founder of the Burley Association.

The French Minister of Finance and the Minister of Commerce who direct the affairs of the French government monopoly in tobacco gave the commission a most encouraging reception which resulted in assurance of co-operation and continued purchase of the tobaccos produced by the associated growers.

Every encouragement to the commission is expected from the other European countries which sell through government monopolies and every favorable connection has already been established in Germany, according to the latest cable to reach the offices of the Tobacco Growers Co-operative Association at Richmond.

The tri-state association has just completed delivery of approximately twenty million pounds of its re-dried tobaccos to three of the largest manufacturers of the world trade, according to the latest statement of Richard R. Patterson, the co-operative's leaf manager who says that several other large sales will probably be made within the next few weeks.

Checks which total more than a million dollars are almost ready for distribution to the members of the Tobacco Growers Co-operative Association in Eastern North Carolina, and will bring the receipts of the associated farmers in the Eastern Belt to seventy-five per cent of the banks' valuation upon deliveries of the 1923 crop. This payment will be made to association members no later than June 15 from all association warehouses in Eastern North Carolina. Each member of the association in the Eastern Belt who delivered his 1923 crop to the association will receive a half of the total amount of cash which he was paid for all deliveries during the past season.

#### Two Great Industries Rest Future on Forest and Power.

There are two great natural industries in North Carolina, apart from agriculture, yet directly dependent upon the land and the manner of its use. One of these is the manufacture of cotton into textiles; the other is the fashioning of products out of our native woods. Both are the results of the industrial genius and financial bravery of North Carolinians who staked their energies upon the natural assets of their State. In the case of cotton was developed a technique and created a tradition of a new kind of skilled labor. Largely because of the need of the cotton manufacturer there was created the great new industry of hydro-electric development. In the case of furniture manufacture there was a like call upon energy and initiative reinforced by a supply of raw material, bewildering in quantity and variety and obtainable at prices to defy competition.

Furniture manufacture in North Carolina, despite its size and steady growth, shows signs of being at its peak because of the waste of its forests on which it depended for its raw material. North Carolina furniture manufacturers are now paying prices multiplied within a decade. Some of them are importing their material. All of them realize that unless there is a stoppage of forest waste, their great enterprise is sliding toward

the oblivion in which the naval stores industry has lost itself.

To save furniture manufacturing to the future is promised, a way must be found to conserve for its use the forests whose presence justified its founding. To guarantee that textile manufacture realize the destiny of primacy, the obligation is to see that there is provided for it every available horsepower of electric energy. Fortunately there is a limit to folly which prevents the destruction of a stream and there is in its case nothing akin to the wanton fire that prevents the regrowth of native woods. It is, however, possible to hamper, lessen and delay the use of the "white coal" on which all uniform industrial development now depends. There is no more interesting and instructive line of investigation than that which shows the most complex activities are finally resolved into forest and stream—the manner in which we use and keep, or waste and mishandle them.—Bulletin, N. C., Geological Survey.

#### A. C. L. Joins Nation-wide Careful Crossing Campaign.

Wilmington, N. C., May 21, 1924. "Wait! You May Lose" is the warning given motorists by a poster being distributed by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad as a part of the nation-wide effort of the railroads to reduce accidents at railroad crossings. Showing a train thundering by a crossing while a pigmy-like automobile waits in safety for it to pass, the poster depicts vividly the great size of the train and the high speed at which it travels and leaves to the imagination of the motorist the picture of what would happen should his car be struck by it. The poster was selected by the American Railway Association from several thousand designs submitted as a result of a contest in which \$500. was offered for the best poster and \$100. for the best slogan.

In addition to securing wide distribution of the poster the Safety Committees of the Atlantic Coast Line are intensifying their efforts to persuade motorists to "Cross Crossings Cautiously." It is pointed out that nobody was ever killed at a railroad crossing who took the trouble to stop and look and listen and that the 9000 motorists who were killed at such crossings in 5 years lost their lives as a result of their failure to observe the simple precautions they would take in crossing a street.

By educating their employees to the importance of being careful the railroads have been able to reduce accidents among their own forces by 75 per cent in about 20 years. The same methods, it is felt, will have equally good results in reducing railroad crossing accidents. The intensive campaign for this purpose will extend from June 1st, to September, 30th. The Safety organization of the Atlantic Coast Line operates throughout the entire year and has been responsible for a material decrease in the number of accidents among the employees of that railroad.

The Graphic \$2.00 Per Year.

## Ham Evangelistic Meetings Will Begin Next Sunday

#### Fred. P. Latham Favorite of North Carolina Farmers.

Raleigh, June 4th.—Unusual interest expressed in the coming contest between Fred Latham, Will Graham and T. B. Parker for the office of Commissioner of Agriculture. Heretofore all interest has been centered in the fight for the governorship, little attention being given to the so-called minor of ices which really are more important than that of the Chief Executive because it really is through them that the finances of the State are handled and the business of the commonwealth is handled.

Latham has developed a surprising strength throughout the State and is giving the incumbent—who holds office through the fact that Governor Morrison thought so highly of his father, the late Major William A. Graham, that he appointed the son to fill the unexpired term of the father when he died last year—a remarkable race. Latham has been a member of the State Board of Agriculture since his appointment by Governor Craig in 1913. He has been an unusually active member, attending every session of the State Legislature in an effort to protect the interest of the farmer. Himself a farmer—claimed by Clarence Poe as one of the twenty best in North Carolina—he has shown a great interest in all things affecting Carolina Farmers. This has been shown to the soil fillers of the State, and it is expected that he will defeat Graham and Parker in the approaching primary.

## White Robed Figures March On Revival

### Slight Sensation Occurs During Evangelistic Meetings Being Held At Spring Hope.

#### WIN NEW CREDIT BY CO-OPERATION.

##### Nearly a Million Dollars Loaned By Corporations To Individual Co-ops.

Farmers of North Carolina who are members of the tobacco and cotton co-operative associations have already received approximately \$900,000 in loans from the North Carolina Agricultural Credit Corporation, according to its president, John H. Boushall, of Raleigh, who predicts that the credit corporation, which resulted from the efforts of the co-operative growers, will bring them over a million dollars in loans for productive purposes this season. The tobacco and cotton co-ops of Eastern North Carolina have been especially benefitted by the new co-operative form of credit and have taken out loans amounting to more than \$600,000, which has enabled them to pay cash prices for fertilizer and to hire cash labor for preparing the cotton and tobacco crops of 1924 at many places, according to President Boushall.

The success of the Tar Heel farmers in working out their own financial salvation has been followed by the formation of a similar credit corporation by Virginia tobacco farmers of the co-operative association. The new Agricultural Credit Corporation of Virginia with headquarters in Danville and directors from each electoral district of the tobacco association in Virginia, a functioning smoothly during its first few weeks of operation, according to W. E. Gardner, of Danville, its vice-president, who arrived in Raleigh last week for the annual meeting of the Tobacco Growers Co-operative Association, as the newly elected director from Pittsylvania County, the largest tobacco growing county of the South.

The co-operating farmers of both Virginia and North Carolina are working out their own financial salvation by means of practical co-operation while those from the West and other sections are clamoring for government relief. This fact is made clear in the latest figures, of the United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which shows that only tobacco and cotton, the two thoroughly organized crops among the eight leading farm products of America, are bringing their producers greater purchasing power than in 1913 and maintain far higher price levels than the unorganized products of the grain, live-stock and potato growers.

#### Great Crowds Gather To Hear Evangelist

##### Mel G. Leaman and Party Storming the Forts of Sin.

Spring Hope and all surrounding country is being stirred this week and the large congregations in attendance upon the evangelistic meetings being held in the warehouse morning and evening are being edified and inspired by the able discourses delivered by Evangelist Mel G. Leaman, who is giving sin no quarter in the battle that is being waged.

The singing is also a feature at each service, a large number of people being led in this part of the service by Choir Leader J. C. Coston, of Hendersonville. On Sunday evening the crowd in attendance was estimated at over fifteen hundred, people journeying to Spring Hope from Zebulon, Wendell and surrounding towns, while the population of Spring Hope was there in large numbers.

On Monday night as the Evangelist was reading his text a wave of interest swept over the congregation as nine white robed figures wearing high pointed caps marched through the rear doorway of the warehouse and formed in line before the preacher's stand. One of the white robed figures approached the preacher and handed him a letter, which was read to the congregation, the preacher taking time to thank the visitors for their offered support and cooperation. The letter handed Evangelist Leaman read:

Mel Leaman and Party:

We, the undersigned Organization, over thirty thousand strong in North Carolina, three hundred and sixty-three strong in Nash County, and twenty-three strong in Spring Hope, wish to welcome You and Your Party to Spring Hope to spread the Gospel just as it is needed through this Community. We realize the good that can be obtained, and the souls that can be saved thru such a great mission. As to the threats that have been made which could cause you bodily harm, we as a whole wish to extend to you our cooperation, our help and our protection. Don't worry we are here, and it's for you and your mission we are fighting for. We are able, we are willing, and we will at any time lend you our co-operation in the way of help and protection. At any time you think we could be of any assistance spread the alarm aloud thru your meeting to the public, we are looking, listening, and waiting when it is least expected.

We are going to protect, and do every thing possible to help make this meeting a success.

May God Bless You, and this Cause, so Mote It Be. We are yours to Serve.

United Clansmen of America.

The foregoing letter, it is presumed, was the result of threats alleged to have been made against Pastor Leaman and his party, the Evangelist having apprised his congregation of them during a previous service. However, this incident has not deterred him in standing by the cause he represents and the citizens of Spring Hope, business men and all classes are cooperating with the workers in making the meeting a glorious success.

On next Sunday morning at the usual preaching hour there will be services in the various churches of Spring Hope. At 3:00 o'clock there will be a special service in the warehouse for everybody and in the evening at 8:00 o'clock the third service for the day will be held.

The curb market at Greenville in Pitt County opened during the middle of May with the farmers selling \$280 worth of produce on the first day. County Agent Roberts reports that this market will have these sales days each week during the summer.

ly interest and give their hearty cooperation to the movement which means for the betterment of religious and social conditions and strengthening the cause for which Preacher Ham and his associates are laboring. Ample accommodations have been provided for all visitors and sections of the market in the

tions of the county were in attendance upon the funeral services held at the home of the deceased near Red Oak on Monday afternoon, when Rev. Oscar Creech, pastor of Red Oak Baptist Church, paid tribute to the man who had sacrificed his life in the suppression of crime and whose exemplary life his friends were free in attesting. Rev. Creech was severe in his arraignment of lawlessness and declared that the blood of the dead man was upon the head of the citizens of the county and officials whom, he stated, were derelict in their duty in driving out the lawless element who defied all authority.

The remains of the deceased were taken to the old family burial lot near the place of the tragedy and a great crowd had gathered there to pay tribute to his memory and cover his grave with beautiful flowers.

#### Nashville Man Weds Fair Daughter of Halifax County.

The marriage of Mr. Lee F. Cooper well known young man of Nashville to Miss Bernice Harris, an attractive and popular young lady of Enfield, at the home of the bride in that city on yesterday afternoon, will be of interest to their many friends, both in Nashville and Enfield. Only a few intimate friends witnessed the marriage ceremony, after which Mr. and Mrs. Cooper boarded the train for points of interest North and will spend a few days in Richmond, Washington City, and Atlantic City. They will make their home in Nashville upon their return.

#### Spring Flappers Wearing Cigarette Hats, Trade In

Washington, May 24.—The "cigarette" hat, latest novelty in feminine headgear, appeared on the heads of bobbed haired members of the younger fashionable set today.

The hat, shaped like an inverted flowerpot, has on the right side a skillfully concealed pocket for millady's cigarettes, while on the left is another pocket in which a handkerchief or matches may be carried.

The "cigarette" hat is intended to solve the problem of where to "carry your own."

#### Why Is It?

Why is it that so many people will ask their home merchants or the editor of their home paper to cut prices for them and then step into a store in the city and buy something without even a suggestion of lower prices? Or why some people will send a check for the full amount of the printed

## No Deception Was Practiced In Adjusted Salary Bill

#### County Commissioners Make Statement in Reply to Letter of W. T. Batchelor.

Since the publication of the letter contributed some days ago to the columns of The Graphic by Mr. W. T. Batchelor, in which he stated certain figures regarding the salary of the County Treasurer, and also intimates that the measure passed by the Legislature of 1923 smacked of a matter of concealment from the voters of the County, there has been much discussion of the statements made in the letter, and which have been challenged by those who are familiar with the matters pertaining to the passage of the bill in question. The letter of County Treasurer Taylor, published in this issue clearly sets forth the matter and should suffice in satisfying the minds of the citizens of the county.

Additional light is shown on the subject by the following letter coming from members of the Board of County Commissioners, who feel that an injustice has been done them and all who have a thorough knowledge of the facts in the case:

#### What Are The Facts?

In The Graphic of May 29th appears an article addressed "To the Tax Payers and Democratic Voters of Nash County" and signed by W. T. Batchelor.

Where Mr. Batchelor says Mr. Taylor served eleven years and received \$2,000 per year or \$22,000 for the eleven years, we find that Mr. Taylor has served nine years and five months, receiving for this period \$16,

216.71, an average of \$1,615.93 per year.

The adjusted salary bill was passed by the Legislature after discussion for four weeks in the newspapers and in open meeting in the rooms of the Board of Commissioners at Nashville. There was no purpose on the part of any of the proponents of the measure to conceal any of the provisions of the bill from any of the voters or citizens of the County.

#### Will Feast Old Veterans Thursday of Next Week.

The old Confederate Veterans of Nash County will be interested to know that on next Thursday, June 12th, the Bethel Heroes Chapter U. D. C. of Rocky Mount, will delightfully entertain the Veterans at a sumptuous barbecue dinner to be held at the Y. M. C. A. building. The invitation is also extended to the families of Veterans to share in the feast and to attend the exercises which are scheduled to get under way at 10:30 o'clock. Several feature numbers comprise the morning program and, with these concluded, the Veterans and their families will be ushered into the reception hall where they will share the feast.

Bethel Heroes Chapter earnestly requests and invites all the Veterans who can possibly do so, to be their guests that day.