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WORLD'S LOWEST PRICED GEARSHIFT TRUCK

Six Charlotte People Claim to Have Part in Mark Hopkins Estate

Charlotte, March 17.—Six residents of Charlotte have revealed visions of becoming millionaires via the Mark Hopkins fortune in California. These are, namely, Mrs. S. F. Dry, 208 S. McDowell Street; Mrs. Julia A. Stogner, 417 Savana Avenue; Mrs. D. J. Sossoman, 113 Beversville Avenue; B. D. Howell, 607 North Davidson Street, a traveling salesman; W. W. Carter, 1016 East Avenue, contractor; and E. M. Carter, 1836 Peagram Street, contractor.

These are believed to be the most probable inheritors of a large portion of the Hopkins' wealth in that they are among the nearest living relatives of Mark Hopkins, being direct descendants of his brother, John Hopkins, who was not recognized in the settlement of the estate following the death of Mark Hopkins. Mrs. Dry declares that there are not more than one hundred direct descendants, the balance of the 232 persons in the United States who have filed claims being too distantly related to be given serious consideration.

According to the estimates of some, the Mark Hopkins fortune is now in the neighborhood of a billion dollars. It is reckoned to be the largest state now being claimed in the United States today, but the largest inheritable private fortune the world has ever known. The most conservative estimates place the estate at \$350,000,000.

Samuel Jones, a Charlotte lawyer, represents four of the local claimants, these being Mrs. Dry, Mr. Howell, and the two Carters, while Judge James H. Langdon, of San Francisco, Cal., represents Mrs. Sossoman and Mrs. Stogner. Both lawyers are said to have filed suits for their clients in the Federal court at San Francisco. It is asserted that the litigation to determine the rightful heirs will have to be settled before next Christmas, in lieu of which the estate will pass into the hands of the Federal Government.

A meeting of the several lawyers and their clients has been called to be held at Greensboro during the present month to consider important matters relative to the trial in San Francisco. There are a number of relatives and near-relatives in North Carolina besides those named, these being scattered over the Piedmont section, in Randolph, Cabarrus and Forsyth counties and in the neighborhoods of High Point and Greensboro.

All six of the Charlotte claimants have made affidavits. Four of them, Mrs. Dry, Mr. Howell and the two Carters have further evidence that they are among the rightful heirs in the following letter, received by W. W. Carter a short while ago, which alleges to sustain the claim that they are among the nearest of kin to John Hopkins, brother of Mark Hopkins, who remained in North Carolina when Mark and Mose, another brother, journeyed to the West.

"Mr. Albert Alexander Harvell, of Mount Pleasant, North Carolina, has made the following affidavit of recent date, saying he knows all the Howell and Hopkins families who once resided in Cabarrus and Stanly counties, which reads as follows:

"I, Albert Alexander Harvell, states that he personally knew John (Jackie) Hopkins, who said he was a brother of Mose and Mark Hopkins, who went to California at the time of the gold rush, the latter part of 1848 or former part of 1849, and that he personally knew the children of the said John (Jackie) Hopkins to be as follows:

"Prudie Hopkins Teeter, Frances (Fannie) Hopkins Howell, Rhodie Hopkins, Jim Hopkins and Richard Hopkins.

"The said Frances (Fannie) Hopkins, married William Howell on November 29, 1829. The children of the said Frances (Fannie) Howell are as follows:

"Sophronia Howell Moss, Mary Maggie Howell Hartsell, Travis Howell Stowe, Adeline Howell, Carter Howell, Edward Howell, William Howell, Jr., and Emely Howell.

Investigation is said to have been instituted upon discovery that Mary Sherwood was never Mark Hopkins' lawful wife. Later a descendant of her son failed in an attempt to secure the fortune. An alleged spurious will is said to have figured in the litigation. This document was denounced and thrown out by the California courts. It was not until two years ago that the North Carolina descendants and relatives of Mark Hopkins learned of his death and of the unclaimed fortune in the hands of the Government. They immediately took steps to file their claims as co-heirs to the estate. All who can prove the most remote relationship to the millionaire are filing their claims. The Charlotte relatives believe that their participation is certain because of the fact that they are the most direct heirs.

All of the North Carolina claimants are married and have children to help enjoy their good fortune should they awake some fine morning and find themselves millionaires. Mrs. Dry has five children; Mrs. Sossoman, E. M. and W. W. Carter have three each, while B. D. Howell has two. Mrs. Stogner is a much older woman than her niece, Mrs. Sossoman. She also claims direct descent from John (Jackie) Hopkins.

"When we get the money" is a household phrase in these homes, especially with the children. A characteristic remark was made by little Pauline Sossoman, when she said, "When we get the money, I won't have to bring in wood any more."

However, Mrs. Sossoman declares she raised her children in the fear of the Lord, and it is determined that money shall not turn them from righteousness. She sends them to Sunday School every Sunday. She was horrified at the suggestion that they have their pictures taken on the Lord's Day. Fannie Sossoman, eldest daughter, admits that she has designs upon the beauty parlors and is even looking with some concern upon the lipstick.

Mrs. Stogner, now 52 years old, shakes her head at the idea of ever playing the "Merry Widow" role, though she concedes that the possession of a pile of the money would do "a sight of good."

Time will tell whether the Charlotte claimants will ever realize on any of the wealth left by Mark Hopkins. In the meantime they continue to labor energetically at their several occupations. They are not counting their chickens before they are hatched, and there are many months to go in the meantime. But the youngsters are looking forward with much optimism to the time when their ship will come in from the Mark Hopkins Treasure Island in the Golden West.

BEAUTIFUL WEDDING OF SALISBURY GIRL

Miss Lula Belle Paris is Bride of Robert Heindel Scott, of Atlanta. Salisbury, March 17.—An outstanding social event of the season and one of special interest to hundreds of friends in North Carolina and Georgia was the marriage this evening at 7 o'clock of Miss Lula Belle Paris, of Salisbury, to Robert Heindel Scott, of Atlanta. The wedding was solemnized at First Methodist church, Salisbury, in the presence of hundreds of friends of the bride and her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Zadok Paris.

Following the wedding a reception was held at the parsonage on Main street and the couple left later in the evening for a bridal trip that will include Bermuda and Cuba. Upon their return they will live in Atlanta.

The bride was radiantly beautiful in white duchesse satin with full length veil of tulle attached with coronet of pearls and knots of orange blossoms and edged with pearls. She carried an arm shower of valley lilies and pink orchids. Accompanying the bride was her father who gave her in marriage.

Car Abandoned in Cemetery.

Mooreville Enterprise. Elsewhere in this issue is a short story concerning the attempted theft of Con Johnson's car last Sunday by parties who were driving a Chevrolet coupe. The police authorities were notified Monday morning that an abandoned car was standing inside enclosure of Willow Valley cemetery.

The car was placed in a garage and upon investigation it is found that the machine belongs to a party in Lexington, from whom it was stolen Saturday or Sunday. The tag found on the car belongs to H. M. Allen, of Concord, and was stolen Sunday evening. The Lexington party will be here Thursday to secure his machine.

Mr. Dry remembers the following tradition which tends to further promote the cause of these claimants: She says that her aunt, Adeline Howell, mentioned in Mr. Harvell's affidavit, often told her before she died that when a tiny child she and her parents, Fannie and William Howell, met Mark and Mose Hopkins, brothers, on their way west, in Tennessee. There the two adventurers secured fresh horses for the Howells, and journeyed on. For a while they wrote to the Howells, who had then moved to North Carolina, telling of their hardships. They traveled West on horseback. Their small savings were soon spent and they were forced time after time to stop and work to secure money with which to continue their journey. Finally they reached California. The last time they wrote they were in the gold mining business.

The balance of their story is familiar to newspaper readers. Mark Hopkins prospered and accumulated untold riches, and died without making a will. At the time of his death he had lived for some years with Mary Sherwood, who became the mother of his child. He is said never to have claimed her as his lawful wife, which would have legitimized their union under an old Spanish law in force in California. Mary Sherwood Hopkins claimed the estate upon the death of Mark Hopkins on the grounds that she was his common law wife. Mose Hopkins also entered claim as next of kin. It is said that no mention was made by either of relatives left behind in North

LITTLE BOY KILLED BY TRUCK AT NEWTON

Three-Year-Old of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Freeman Starts to Meet Father and is Killed. Newton, March 17.—The three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Freeman was run down by a truck late this afternoon and instantly killed. The child, it is alleged, had started to meet its father, an employe of the Clyde mills, as he was returning home from his work. Eye witnesses state that it started to cross a narrow street near its home, on Middlebrook street, at the same time the truck, driven by A. H. Hartsoe, was passing another car and the other car had also dived on his side of the road effort to get by without an when the child ran immediately to stop the left fore the truck passed over the head.

The accident appears to be unavoidable. Hartsoe immediately notified the police who, through investigation, made rest.

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SIMMERSON IN CHARLOTTE TO SEE LAWYER

Talk of Investigation of Alleged Attempts to Influence Legislators. Charlotte News. Ralph Simmerston, of Spencer, youthful politician, fundamentalist and alleged emissary of the Ku Klux Klan, came Thursday to Charlotte to confer with Tom P. Jimison, former minister and former president of the State Federation of Labor, who will be Simmerston's attorney in any investigation which may be made of the recent disclosures of alleged attempts to improperly influence members of the Legislature to oppose anti-Klan legislation.

Simmerston was named by several members of the Legislature as the man who suggested to them and perhaps others that it would be profitable for them to oppose bills intended to "unmask" the Klan in North Carolina. Simmerston said he would have no comment to make on those allegations, inasmuch as he has received reports that further developments in this matter are pending, the nature of which he did not disclose. This Spencer youth was a page in the Senate during the recently adjourned session.

No conference will be held here with M. S. Belsler, acting grand dragon of the Klan in this State, who recently established headquarters at Charlotte, Mr. Simmerston

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said. He added that he conferred Wednesday in another city with Mr. Belsler. He declined, however, to indicate the nature of that conference or to say whether or not it was related to the allegations of attempted bribery, made by Representative Nat. A. Townsend, of Dunn, and others immediately after adjournment of the Legislature.

It is estimated that there are 40,000 users of wireless sets in the Irish Free State, but only about 5,000 persons have complied with the law by taking out licenses.

Texas is the country's cattle state with 6,136,000 head, Iowa its second with 4,021,000, and Wisconsin third with 2,975,000.



Henry A. Bellows, of Minneapolis and St. Paul, was one of the five members of the Federal Radio Commission who agreed to serve without pay until Congress meets again. He is a native of Maine.

No Pay

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