

New Bern Weekly Journal

NEW BERN, N. C., TUESDAY MAY 26, 1914—FIRST SECTION

COSTLY FIRE VISITS NEW BERN

Spectacular Blaze Causes Loss Of More Than \$125,000

West Lumber and Box Company's Entire Plant Swept By The Flames--American Canning Company's Storage Warehouse Also Destroyed

Fire which is supposed to have originated from a spark from a passing locomotive, almost completely obliterated the plant of the West Box and Lumber Company on National avenue late yesterday afternoon, entailing a loss of more than one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.

The West Box and Lumber Company made a specialty of the manufacture of boxes while they also dealt in dressed lumber and their capacity was about seventy thousand feet a day. Thousands of feet of rough and dressed lumber were stored on the yard yesterday afternoon while a large storage warehouse was completely filled with the boxes which had been completed.

The fire was discovered when the fire was first discovered an alarm was turned in and the four fire companies were soon on the scene. In the meantime a force of the plant's employees had started the emergency pumps at the plant to work and were making every effort to extinguish the blaze but everything on the premises was "as dry as tinder" and the blaze soon got beyond control.

As soon as the fire fighters arrived they saw that the fire was beyond control but despite this fact they made every effort to extinguish it. Several thousand feet of hose were at once laid and one of the engines put in commission as soon as possible and a number of streams of water were turned on the blaze, but all to no avail.

Seeing that the plant was doomed the employees lost no time in getting all the records out of the office and in addition to this the furnishings of the building were also saved. From the point at which it started at the East end of the yard, which covers several acres, the blaze swept northward, seemingly impelled by some unseen hand. Greedily the flames fed on the stacks of lumber and soon the entire plant and the surrounding lumber resembled a great seething caldron of fire.

Thousands of spectators who had been attracted by the clanging of bells, the shrill blasts of nearby whistles and the dense clouds of smoke, gathered to witness the fire. So intense was the heat that those who had gone to the scene merely as spectators, did not wish to stand several feet from the premises. Those who were engaged in the work of fighting the flames and removing whatever possible from the office, felt the fierce heat to such an extent that many were forced to tie wet handkerchiefs around their face.

Roper's Mill Saved Adjoining the property of the West Box and Lumber Company is that of the John L. Roper Lumber Company on which is located their sawmill, one of the largest in the State. But for the fact that what little wind was blowing was coming from a Southerly direction, there is a probability that this immense plant might also have fallen a prey to the flames. However, a vigilant watch was kept for falling sparks and a force of their employees were ready with a line of hose to extinguish any blaze which might have originated. Had the latter plant been destroyed the loss would have been more than a million dollars.

The Planing Mill The planing mill, where all of the rough timber was handled, was probably one of the best equipped in the State. Before the flames reached and destroyed this, one or two machines were taken out but were not saved. All of the others, including belting shafting and other equipment was completely destroyed.

Storage Warehouse In addition to the storage shed filled with lumber and owned by the West Box and Lumber Company, the American Canning Company had a warehouse on the grounds in which were one hundred and sixty-five cars of box shucks which had been completed by the box manufacturing company. These were said to be worth sixty thousand dollars.

Mr. West Makes Statement.

In a statement given to the Journal last night Mr. West stated that the plant closed down yesterday afternoon about 3 o'clock and that there was no one on the grounds at the time except the night watchman, the fireman and the engineer and his crew of assistants. When they discovered the blaze, every effort was made to extinguish it but this proved futile.

Mr. West stated that he was down in the city at the time and as soon as he learned the location of the blaze, that he at once hurried to the plant and at that time the blaze had gained considerable headway. According to Mr. West's estimation there were about seventy-five or eighty carloads of lumber on the yards. Practically all of this, with the exception of about seventy thousand feet was destroyed.

Was Insured Reports were current that there was but little insurance on the plant and lumber. These were erroneous. Mr. West stated that the loss was pretty well covered and later it was learned that insurance in several companies represented by George Nicholl, amounted to about forty thousand dollars. The company is also insured in a company which specializes on use and occupancy, carrying a fifteen thousand dollar policy which pays them fifty dollars per day for every day that they do not operate after a fire.

The storage warehouse and sixty thousand dollars worth of box shucks, owned by the American Canning Company were also insured, the exact amount however, could not be learned last night.

Seventy Cars Of Lumber On the yards at the time of the fire were seventy cars of lumber ready to be manufactured, practically all of this, which was worth approximately thirty-five thousand dollars, was destroyed, as were twelve freight cars which were on the yard at the time of the blaze. Seven loaded freight cars were removed after the fire gained considerable headway.

May Rebuild There is a probability that the plant will be rebuilt. The West Box and Lumber Company is a corporation composed of W. A. West of this city and J. H. West of Fayetteville. Mr. West had not got in communication with his brother last night and would not definitely state whether the plant would be rebuilt. However, there is a probability that this will be done as soon as practicable.

Spectacular Conflagration After nightfall the blaze cast a lurid glare on the sky. For miles around it was seen and there were frequent calls from nearby towns received at the Journal office from people who were anxious to know the cause of "the big light in the sky."

Probably more people visited the scene last night than were present during the early stages of the blaze. Many automobile parties went out to view the blazing mass of lumber and of the ruins of the mill buildings. The scene was one which impressed all by its spectacular appearance and will probably never be forgotten by those who saw it. Unless several million gallons of water can be thrown on the fire today and tomorrow, the fire will be burning for several days, probably a week or more but in the meantime every precaution will be taken to prevent it from spreading to any structures in that vicinity.

CARD OF THANKS We desire to express to the members of the fire company of this city and to our friends who so greatly aided us in fighting the fire which destroyed our plant yesterday afternoon, our sincere thanks and assure them of our appreciation of their efforts.

West Lumber and Box Co. By W. A. West

JOHN BURROUGHS.

Famous Naturalist Who Recently Passed His Seventy-seventh Year.



Attempted Hold-Up on South Front Street

Occurred last night—highwayman placed under arrest—in jail.

Solomon Fisher, colored, was arrested last night by Officer Fulcher for attempting to hold up W. S. Vernelson, Mr. Vernelson, who is employed by the Norfolk Southern Railway Company had a check cashed at Mrs. Hardy's store on South Front Street in the presence of this negro. After getting the check cashed Mr. Vernelson started home and was overtaken by the negro on Metcalf street between Pollock street and the river. When he was ordered to hold up his hands Mr. Vernelson took a shiny object from his pocket similar to a pistol and held the negro until an officer could be summoned.

SENATOR BRADLEY DIED LAST NIGHT

(Special to the Journal) WASHINGTON, May 23.—Senator William O. Bradley of Kentucky, died here at 9:45 tonight after a brief illness brought on by kidney trouble. Senator William O. Bradley was a Republican and was completing his first term in the Senate. He was born on March 15, 1847.

SUPERIOR COURT CONVENES TOMORROW

The second May term of Craven county Superior Court will convene tomorrow morning with Judge F. A. Daniels presiding. This term will continue through the first week in June. The first week will be devoted to civil cases, with the criminal term convening the first of June.

MANY CABBAGE BEING SHIPPED NORTH

That Craven county is a great truck producing county is shown by the large daily shipment of cabbage that are being shipped from New Bern to northern markets.

Consul Silliman at Mexico City

WILL LEAVE TODAY ENROUTE TO THE UNITED STATES SAYS OFFICIAL MESSAGE (Special to the Journal) WASHINGTON, May 23.—In an official report received today from the Brazilian legation at Mexico City, it was learned that Consul Silliman is safe.

MERCHANTS ASSISTING IN FLY CAMPAIGN

A few days ago the Journal told of some of their merchants of the city equipping their garbage cans with covers. Since that time other merchants have supplied their trash cans with covers.

TWO CASES IN POLICE COURT YESTERDAY

Jack Johnson and Dock Stamps, both colored, were arraigned before Mayor Banger at Police Court yesterday afternoon, and taxed with the cost for being disorderly in the city limits.

The New Bern Elks Going To Winston

Will attend Annual Meeting of North Carolina State Association To Be Held There This Week.

The New Bern Lodge of Elks will send a large delegation to the annual meeting of the North Carolina Elks this week and they will leave this city on Tuesday evening in a special Pullman enroute to the Piedmont City. Wednesday and Thursday Winston Salem will be turned over to the best people on earth, these days having been designated and that city selected for the annual meeting of the North Carolina Elks. Between 500 and 600 Elks representing every part of North Carolina, are expected to attend. It is understood many lodges in the state have chartered Pullman service for their delegations and the railway companies have arranged to park their special cars in the city for their use during the two days' session.

The following program has been arranged for the convention: Registration of the delegates at the Elks' club at 10 a. m. Formal reception to the visitors in the club rooms at 11 a. m. First business session of the state convention at 2 p. m. Baseball at Prince Albert Park at 4 p. m., game between Greensboro and Winston-Salem.

Evening parade at 8:45 p. m. Elk's smoker at the club rooms from 9:30 to 12 p. m. Meeting of the credentials committee at the club at 10 a. m. Second business meeting at 11 a. m. Presentation of the trophies to the winning contestants in the parade of Wednesday evening.

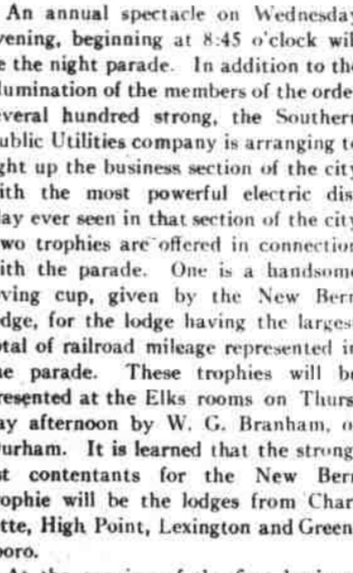
Baseball at Prince Albert Park at 4 p. m. Barbecue at Piedmont park at 6 p. m. Closing session at the club rooms at 8 p. m. An annual spectacle on Wednesday evening, beginning at 8:45 o'clock will be the night parade. In addition to the illumination of the members of the order several hundred strong, the Southern Public Utilities company is arranging to light up the business section of the city with the most powerful electric display ever seen in that section of the city. Two trophies are offered in connection with the parade. One is a handsome loving cup, given by the New Bern lodge, for the lodge having the largest total of railroad mileage represented in the parade. These trophies will be presented at the Elks rooms on Thursday afternoon by W. G. Branham, of Durham. It is learned that the strongest contestants for the New Bern trophy will be the lodges from Charlotte, High Point, Lexington and Greensboro.

At the opening of the first business session of the convention on Wednesday morning the visitors will be welcomed to the city by J. C. Buxton, for the citizens, and by Fred M. Parrish for the lodge of Elks. These addresses of welcome will be acknowledged for the state convention of Elks in a response by Lewis Goodwin.

The present officers of State Lodge of Elks are: P. A. Gorrell, of Winston; president; J. M. Ferrell, of Raleigh; lodge No. 735, first vice-president; Arthur Lyon, of High Point; lodge No. 1155, second vice-president; T. B. Kehoe, of New Bern; lodge No. 764, secretary-treasurer.

LEWIS F. PILCHER.

Architect Starts National Movement For Profession's Betterment.



HUNTER M. WHITE WEDS MISS NELLIE AVERY

POPULAR YOUNG COUPLE WERE MARRIED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON A marriage which came as a surprise to the many friends of the contracting parties, took place yesterday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Jones, No. 128 Pollock street, when Miss Nellie Avery the attractive and accomplished daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Avery of this city, became the bride of Hunter M. White.

The ceremony was performed in the presence of a few invited friends by Rev. W. A. Cade, pastor of the Riverside Methodist church and Mr. and Mrs. White left on the afternoon train for a honeymoon trip through Northern cities.

MRS. ELIZABETH JACKSON DIED YESTERDAY

Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson died yesterday morning at the home of her daughter, Mrs. E. G. Ruff, No. 40 South Front street. The funeral will be conducted from the late residence this morning at 7:45 o'clock by Rev. Rogers and Rev. Reynolds of the Christian church after which the remains will be taken to Askin for interment.

CONFEDERATE VETERANS WILL MEET AT RALEIGH MANY WILL ATTEND

The local camp of Confederate veterans has received a copy of general order, No. 52, issued by Major General Julian S. Carr calling for the annual reunion of the North Carolina division of the United Confederate Veterans which will be held at Raleigh June 9 to 10. The order bears the information that the unveiling of the monument to the North Carolina women of the Confederacy on the 10th of June, will be one of the features of the reunion, all of the veterans of the state who will be in attendance upon the meeting having a special invitation to attend and participate in the services which will be conducted incident to the unveiling. The monument is the gift of the late Ashley Horne, who was a veteran of the war.

Twenty-Five Men Believed Drowned

LIGHTSHIP FOUNDERED OFF THE COAST OF NOVA SCOTIA (Special to the Journal) HALIFAX, N. S., May 23.—The lightship Halifax was wrecked near here today and it is believed that the entire crew of twenty-five men were lost. Several bodies have been found floating around near the scene of the disaster.

KERMIT ROOSEVELT IN MADRID.

Son of Former President Reaches the Spanish Port in Safety. (Special to the Journal) MADRID, May 23.—Kermit Roosevelt, whose marriage to Miss Belle Wyatt Willard, daughter of Col. Joseph E. Willard, American ambassador to Spain which is to take place early in June, arrived here today in the best of health and spirits. He was met by the ambassador and members of his family and drove with them to the embassy.

PROF. H. B. CRAVEN AGAIN HEADS SCHOOL

RE-ELECTED FRIDAY EVENING AT A MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the New Bern public schools on Friday night, Prof. H. B. Craven was again selected as superintendent.

There were several resignations from the corps of teachers at the school, among these being Mrs. George Howard Miss Sarah Richardson and Miss Mary Hendren. Miss Hendren has had a leave of absence for a year and handed in her resignation at the end of that period. One new teacher, Miss Branch of Washington, N. C., was chosen and the selection of the others was left to the superintendent and the chairman of the Board.

During the meeting the matter of again operating the music department of the school was brought up. This department has been under direction of Miss Carolina Claypool and Miss



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ULTIMATUM ISSUED TO CARRANZA

The United States tonight sent an ultimatum to Carranza through the mediators at Niagara Falls, telling him that all quibbling must cease and warning him that this government will insist on peace in Mexico and will pacify that country by force of arms if necessary. Carranza was notified that this country wants to secure peace but if other methods are necessary that they will be employed.

Mrs. Ruth Johnson and Adelle Hotchkies of Richmond, arrived in the city yesterday afternoon and will spend some time visiting Miss M. E. Johnson.

Mary Willis. It was brought out that the practice of the students in the department disturbed the students in the other departments and the trustees decided to let Miss Claypool and Willis teach their pupils in some other place.

ALL IS READY FOR THE GREAT HOME COMING

The Aviator Has Arrived in The City.

TO START WEDNESDAY. Saturday Will Be "Bryan Day" Thousands Of Visitors Will Be Here.

H. E. Trevelen, General Representative of the Berger Aviation Company arrived in the city yesterday with the aeroplane that will be used in giving demonstrations of flying at the Home Coming Celebration during this week.

The Berger Aviation Company closed a series of demonstrations at Wilson last week, where they gave a number of successful flights with the same machine that will be used here, driven by Mr. Eugene Heth comonly known as "Wild Bill" the dare devil aeronaut.

Mr. Heth in his flights will give those who visit the Fair grounds during the celebration a demonstration of some of the most wonderful feats in flying ever seen in North Carolina. You can't afford to miss this for it will be a treat to those who have seen aeroplane flights as well as those who have never seen an aeroplane fly.

The management of the Home Coming Celebration are working day and night getting everything in readiness for the great celebration that will be pulled off this week and by Wednesday morning everything will be in readiness for the throng of people who will be here to see the many attraction that will be at the Fair grounds.

There have been many new horses entered during the past few days and the early part of the week many of these horses, which are owned by people from the western part of the State, will be coming in. As soon as they arrive they will be taken to the Fair grounds and put in readiness for the races which will begin on Wednesday, and continue during the entire celebration. The horse races this spring promise to be the best ever seen in this section of the State.

The railroads are co-operating with the management of the Home-Coming Celebration, by giving unheard of rates from all of the towns in Eastern Carolina and by sending out special advertising men along their lines to get these special rates before the public. This fact alone assures a large crowd from the many towns and villages in this section, and the citizens of the city are urged to get the city in gala attire by the time these people arrive.

Early Monday morning a large force of men will be put to work getting up arches on all of the principal streets of the city and by the opening of the celebration the city will have done its part, then let the business men of the town get busy and do their part towards showing the "Athens of North Carolina" at its best.

Don't forget that Saturday will be "Bryan Day," the big day. Also remember that it will be well for you to call at Wood-Lane Drug Company who now have reserved seat tickets on sale at their store, and secure a reserved seat before all are sold.

Illinois Railway Men Vote Ob Action.

(Special to the Journal) CHICAGO, ILL., May 23.—Five thousand traitment employed on Illinois lines this afternoon voted to go on strike. A conference has been arranged between the employes and railroad managers at which it is hoped a settlement by arbitration can be made.