

O. C. Britton, Cameron, Dies of Heart Attack

New Comer to Community Had Wide Acquaintance Throughout State

O. C. Britton, a prominent citizen of Cameron R. F. D., died suddenly of a heart attack at his home Sunday morning at 11:30 o'clock. He had just returned from the Baptist church where he taught his Sunday School class of young men. Mr. Britton was a native of Alabama and came to Cameron about a year ago, built a nice home with all modern conveniences, and Cameron rejoiced at the coming of this splendid family. Mr. Britton was a farmer, but mainly for recreation. His chief business was books. He represented the Charles E. Merrill Book Co., of Chicago, and was very successful in his work, which brought him in close touch with the teachers and educators of this and adjoining states, all of whom admired him for his fine personality and splendid character. With his family, he identified himself with the Baptist church in Cameron, and entered heartily into the work of the church.

Surviving are his wife, who was Miss Sam Marie Patterson of Cisco, Texas; two sons O. C. Britton, Jr., of Charlotte and Jack Britton, one daughter, Miss Martha Beryl Britton. Funeral services were held on Monday afternoon from the Cameron Baptist Church, his pastor, the Rev. Frank Hare of Jonesboro, officiating, assisted by the Rev. M. D. McNeill of the Presbyterian church. Active pallbearers were Milton Thomas, Ira Thomas, Flint Loving, Carl Loving, Jimmy Rogers, Fred Smith, L. B. McKeithen and J. Dillard. Honorary bearers were Fred Terrill, Herbert Chandler, Paul A. O'Neal, Henry R. McLeod, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Clyde A. Erwin and E. N. Peeler, all of Raleigh; W. L. Greenslit, Lincoln, Neoraska; Fred K. Ray, Ned A. Wagers, B. C. Fiske, A. L. Mishell, Richmond, Va.; C. D. Rigsbee, B. W. Breeze, J. Highsmith of Durham; County Superintendent H. Lee Thomas and Prof. O. B. Welch of Carthage; Prof. R. F. Lowry, J. A. Phillips, C. L. Dutton, J. R. Loving, J. D. McLean, Make McLean and H. P. McPherson.

Others here from distant points for the funeral were Mrs. White of Winston-Salem, Mrs. J. Highsmith, Mrs. B. W. Breeze of Durham and Miss Elizabeth Little of N. C. C. W., roommate of Miss Martha Brit-

The Heavens in December

By Rassie E. Wicker

The distances involved in the study of astronomy are so great that it is of little use to state them in articles such as these. Indeed, even the smaller measurements of our own solar system are so vast that they are beyond comprehension, and thus become abstract quantities, useful, but nevertheless incomprehensible in their immensity. For instance the Nautical Almanac says the moon is distant 238,857 while the sun is more than ninety-two million miles. For my part, I am appalled at such figures, and about all I can get out of it is the fact that the sun is somewhat more than 386 times as far away as is the moon.

Doubt of the correctness of astronomical distances are common, even among highly intelligent people. This may result from the abstruse and complicated methods used in arriving at these results, although it must be said that shorn of their complicated refinements, the principles used are relatively simple. After I confess with humility, that most of these methods are far beyond my grasp, I want to assure those who doubt that the methods used are in accord with everyday principles of measurements, and should be accepted as approximately correct. Bearing this in mind, let us construct a small solar system, dwarfed so that we may grasp its size.

Suppose the sun to be reduced to a ball nine feet in diameter. Then the earth would be represented by a small golf ball placed about a thousand feet away. The moon would become the size of a small pea about two and a half feet from the earth. Mars would be 500 yards. Jupiter 1700. Saturn more than a mile and a half, and so on to Neptune, who would be nearly five and a half miles from the sun. Now, hold your breath—at this same minute scale, the nearest star to us would be over forty thousand miles away. Also, if you can grasp it, remember that we have reduced the actual size nearly five hundred million times.

To enable us—not to conceive of these immense distances, but to make relative comparisons easy, astronomers have adopted a unit of distance called a "light" year, which is the distance light, moving 186,000 miles

per second would travel in 365 days (five trillion eight hundred and sixty-five billion, six hundred and ninety-six million miles). Even with this tremendous reduction, the distance to some of the nebulae is incomprehensible.

With the approach of the Christmas season, it may be well to refer briefly to "new stars" or novae which occasionally flare up in the sky. It has been suggested that it was a nova which led the Wise Men to the little Judean town of Bethlehem on Christmas, nineteen hundred years ago. Celestial phenomena was then (and to some extent is yet) believed to be of prophetic significance. In Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," Caesar's wife warns him of impending doom when she calls his attention to the sky, and says:

"When beggars die, there are no comets seen, The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes."

Only recently a certain star, which had been leading a sedate and normal life with a brightness of about the ninth magnitude, suddenly flared up within a few hours to a first magnitude star, only to slowly wane, until now it is very dim. This star is in the constellation "Hercules," and is known as "Nova Hercules. It is still being studied with great interest, but it is so far away that it is mere speculation as to the cause. Perhaps such stars explode, and burn within themselves; perhaps there is a collision between them and a wandering celestial body. No one knows, but they are some of the most interesting of the many wonders of space.

At twenty-eight minutes of two o'clock, on the night of the 22nd, this old earth will have completed another journey around the sun, and that source of all life will have reached its farthest point south, after which he will begin again his northern journey. That hour will mark midday for the antarctic, and midnight for the arctic six-month day. According to the almanac, winter will begin, although paradoxically the sun is much nearer us now than in June.

The planets this month are not in best position for observation, but Venus was seen the other morning at ten o'clock, and again between twelve and one (with naked eye). It may be seen just before sunrise, just above the horizon, and by keeping tab on it, may be followed well up into the day.

Moon is in first quarter on the 3rd, full on the 9th, last quarter on the 17th and new on the 25th.

So endeth the year of our Lord, nineteen thirty-five.

RICHARDSON ELECTED B. & L. SECRETARY

Byron U. Richardson, cashier of the Bank of Pinehurst, has been elected secretary and treasurer of the Pinehurst Building and Loan Association, to succeed Herbert D. Vail, who resigned to accept a position with Yardley and Company of London and New York.

Manly Negro Is Held on Charge of Murder

Ben Phillips Accused of Beating Mother-in-Law to Death with Pine Knot

Ben Phillips, colored man of Manly, is being held in the Moore county jail without privilege of bond on a charge of beating to death his mother-in-law, Laura Holman, around 45 years of age, at the Phillips home Monday morning. Damaging testimony was given by the man's small children, aged two and one half and five years, who told that their daddy hit their grandmother with a broomstick.

The wife of Phillips is employed in Southern Pines and she left home about eight o'clock Monday morning, some five minutes after the husband had started to the Vass section to visit his daughter who resides on the farm of George Blue. A nephew of the dead woman visited the place around noon and found the body. Officers were called and an examination revealed that the woman had been brutally beaten on the back of the head with a pine knot, splinters bearing evidence of the weapon used.

When the officers reached the daughter's home, they found that Phillips had left there and they followed, overtaking him between Vass and Manly. He denied that he had killed the mother-in-law, who resided in his home. However, the testimony of the children, who are said to have stated that the father returned to the home after leaving in the early morning, and the fact that he and his wife had been having trouble were regarded by the officers as weighty evidence.

NIAGARA

Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Veazey and Miss Marie Driscoll of Seal Harbor, Maine are recent arrivals and have leased a cottage here for the winter months.

Miss Virginia Pierce of Camden spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Dutton.

Mrs. Ella Halthcock and two daughters, Misses Cara and Blanche of Chatham county visited friends here on Saturday.

Eric Halthcock of West Durham visited friends in town Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Morgan and children and Mrs. J. V. Snipes and son Leroy motored to Dunderrock on Sunday.

The Rev. Mr. Johnson, new local pastor from near Fayetteville, filled the pulpit at the Village Church Sunday morning and delivered a splendid sermon.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Garner and children spent Thursday in Aberdeen. Mrs. J. W. Frank and Mrs. John Frank, Jr., motored to Raleigh and returned on Wednesday.

The Niagara railroad station has been treated with a new coat of paint.

Miss H. L. Gay, Miss Ida Lowe and L. F. Martin left Tuesday for Florida.

CAMERON

Mrs. R. F. Lowry and Mrs. Loula Muse entertained the Merry Makers on Friday evening. The home was beautifully decorated with yellow and red chrysanthemums and ferns. Mrs. Georgie McFadyen won first prize in a sewing contest, with Mrs. H. D. Tally second. Emphasizing the Thanksgiving season, a "Turkey Tale" contest was held in which Messrs. J. D. McLean, H. D. Tally and Miss Minnie Muse proved their knowledge of this noble bird, and in the draw, the prize fell to Mrs. H. D. Tally. Assisted by Miss Jackie Muse and Mrs. Jewell Hemphill, the hostess served refreshments. Mrs. Guthrie of Brookneal, Va., was a guest of the club.

The Vass Woman's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church held an all-day meeting at the home of the Rev. and Mrs. C. A. Lawrence last Wednesday. An opening devotional, in which all took part, was conducted, with special prayer for both Home and Foreign missions.

The main feature of the day was a series of lessons on the Holy Spirit, given by the Presbyterian student delegate, Mrs. Loula Muse. At the noon hour a luncheon was served and in the afternoon the lessons were concluded, and several readings of "Answered Prayer" were given.

Prof. R. F. Lowry was genial host to a party of gentlemen friends at the home of L. B. McKeithen last Friday evening. Bridge at three tables, featured the evening's entertainment. Those playing were H. D. Tally, J. D. McLean, O. C. Britton, J. M. Guthrie, J. E. Snow, L. B. McKeithen, W. H. Abernathy, Koert McFadyen, Olin Nivin, Lindon Hartsell, Bill Muse and R. F. Lowry.

Mrs. Martin McFadyen and children of Fayetteville were dinner guests Wednesday of Mrs. J. E. Snow and on Thursday Mrs. Snow again had dinner guests, Mrs. N. N. McLean of Vass, and Mrs. J. D. McLean.

The B. Y. P. U. of the Baptist church had its regular monthly social on Wednesday evening at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Loving on Route 1.

Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Britton, Messrs. J. D. McLean, H. D. Tally and J. E. Snow were in Greensboro on Tuesday afternoon. The party called on Misses Martha Britton and Margaret McLean, students at N. C. C. W.

Prof. R. F. Lowry and Olin Nivin attended the Educo Club meeting at Carthage Thursday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Abernathy moved from their apartment at the McPherson Care to the former Methodist Parsonage last week.

G. S. Holloway, Kathrine and Joseph Holloway and Mr. and Mrs. Prince of Durham spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Thomasson.

Mrs. Laura Rogers is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Lee McIver in Sanford.

Mrs. Carey McLeod of Eureka spent last Tuesday with her sister, Mrs. G. M. McDermott.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Parker and daughters, Misses Helen and Marie Parker, left Wednesday for Washington, D. C., to spend Thanksgiving with their son and brother, William Parker and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Parker.

Mr. and Mrs. G. M. McDermott, George, John and Miss Margaret McDermott were dinner guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. David McCallum of Southern Pines.

Honoring the Rev. and Mrs. William Curry of Belmont, Mrs. John L. Curry and daughter, Miss Mary Curry, entertained at dinner last Friday evening at their home in Carthage.

Among the forty guests present were Mrs. L. B. McKeithen and Mrs. J. M. Guthrie, who were in the receiving line.

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