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MOTHER AND BABY PERISH IN FLAMES

Nurse Is Also Burned; Father Jumps from Window With Child in Arms

A fire which took a toll of three human lives occurred in Raleigh early Saturday morning, Mrs. Simpkins, her little son, and a colored nurse perishing in the flames. Sunday's News and Observer carried the following account:

"Somebody kill me!" begged Isaac W. Simpkins, in front of his blazing garage, 128 East Morgan street, early Saturday morning when, in an agony of helplessness, he saw a curtain of snapping, roaring red flame cut off his wife, his four-year-old son, and their negro nurse, from the only avenue of escape out of their apartment on the second floor.

A moment before, he himself, clutching his two-year-old daughter, had jumped from the window to safety, expecting, he explained to relatives, to break the fall of his wife and son, who were to follow.

With his feet badly burned in the effort to get back into the building to rescue his family and the nurse, and distracted with the horror of the thing, he was led off by friends to Rex Hospital where, last night, he was suffering from a complete nervous collapse. The body of Mrs. Simpkins, charred arms encircling four-year-old Isaac W. Simpkins, Jr., was found at 7 o'clock, little more than two hours after the first alarm, in the ruins beneath her bed room.

Near her was the body of Carolina Hill, the negro nurse. Around them were charred timbers and the twisted shapes of sixty-five automobiles, which, with the building, were totally destroyed with a loss estimated at \$100,000.

The final desperate effort to break through the burning barrier was made by Fireman J. C. Beck, of Station No. 3, when he flung a ladder to the second story windows out of which Simpkins had jumped and prepared to spring through the opening as the furnace belched out a blast of flame in a back lash of a gas tank explosion that knocked him from the ladder to the paving below, breaking his arm in two places.

Dinty Moore, of Richmond, Va., an automobile man piloting two trucks from Richmond to Columbia, and W. G. Brewer, whose room, near the Simpkins apartment, Moore was occupying for the night, escaped from the burning building by smashing a window at the rear and sliding down the almost red hot roof of a shed. Moore received burns and gashes about the arms and hands. Brewer was uninjured.

The only other injury was to A. O. Goodman, a fireman, whose arm was cut by falling glass.

Isaac Simpkins jumped from the second story window with his little daughter, leaving his wife who was shortly to become a mother for the third time and his son to follow. Catching on his feet without injury in some miraculous fashion, he called to Mrs. Simpkins to throw their son to him. For a second, his wife hesitated, then disappeared. A few minutes later Fireman Beck was knocked from the ladder and Simpkins' feet were burned to blisters on the roof of a little shed in the rear of the building on which he struggled vainly to gain an entrance.

To members of the family who, alone, were allowed to see him in Rex Hospital yesterday afternoon, Simpkins confirmed this story with the additional theory that his wife suddenly realizing that the aged negress, Carolina Hill, who had been a faithful servant of her family for years, had not been aroused, returned to wake her. She was trapped in the effort. The location of the bodies indicate that they were together when the end came.

Almost simultaneously, it appeared, the fire was discovered far beyond control by E. R. Rowe, an automobile mechanic, who has an apartment over the Southern Express office at the corner of Morgan and Wilmington streets; by A. M. Tyner, another mechanic who lives in the residence three doors east of the burned garage, and L. H. Lee, mechanic for the Simpkins garage.

Lee, who holds down the night shift at the garage, and whose custom it is to snatch as much sleep as possible between calls after midnight, stated yesterday that he was

WILL FORCE ROAD TO BUILD NEW DEPOT

Mandamus Action Will Be Started To Spur Up Southern On Selma Station.

The State Corporation Commission, through the Attorney General, is preparing to start action by mandamus against the Southern Railway and the Atlantic Coast Line to force compliance with the Commission's order, originally issued September 10, 1914, for the erection of a new union depot at Selma, the juncture point of the two roads. The Atlantic Coast Line, it is understood, asserts its readiness to comply with the Commission's order and to begin the construction, it is stated, has ignored the Commission's order.

Agitation of the depot question for Selma dates back ten years or more. In 1914, the Commission, after a hearing, ordered the Atlantic Coast Line and the Southern to begin on the construction of an adequate union depot to replace the shed which now accommodates the passenger service at that point. By reason of war conditions and the financial stringency of the railroads, the order was continued from time to time until March of 1922, when the Commission renewed its original order. The Atlantic Coast Line at that time, it is stated, announced its willingness to comply with the order.

Papers in the case are now being prepared by Assistant Attorney General Frank Nash and the matter will go before a Superior court judge within the next few days.

DECLARES DEPOSITION WILL BE PAID IN FULL

T. E. Cooper president of the Commercial National Bank of Wilmington, which closed its doors Saturday upon order of a federal bank examiner, yesterday telegraphed the State Corporation Commission that the bank would reopen in a few days and that all depositors would be paid in full.—News and Observer.

Human tuberculosis will follow bovine tuberculosis. The State veterinary division will test your herd. Write Paul Vaughn inspector, at Raleigh for information.

asleep in an automobile and was only awakened when the top of the car was in flames.

"I rushed out, yelling for Mr. Simpkins," he said, "then I ran around to the Fire Station No. 3 to call out the department."

In the meanwhile Tyner had been aroused and had turned in an alarm from a near-by box, and Rowe, half a block away had been awakened by crashing glass. Calling to occupants of an adjoining room to telephone the alarm he had dashed down to the fire.

Isaac Simpkins was standing on the sidewalk, with his little girl by his side, calling to his wife to jump when Rowe reached the garage. It was Rowe who took charge of the little girl who was later turned over to Mrs. Rowe for care.

Impetus was given the easy burning timbers of the garage building by the accumulation of oils and gasoline stored there in barrels and in automobiles. According to a statement Simpkins is said to have made to relatives, there was a crashing explosion just before he jumped. Similar explosions followed at intervals, and firemen state that a bursting gas tank on a truck created the back lash that threw Beck from the ladder in the act of rescue.

The Simpkins Building was owned by the J. O. Rand estate and was valued at \$20,000 partially covered by insurance. By far the greatest loss came to owners of the sixty-five machines which were stored in the garage. They ranged from high priced Packards to the modest Ford and many yesterday agreed that an average of \$1,000 per car would cover the loss.

Definite determination of the origin of the fire last night had not been reached. Chief Horton of the Fire Department, stated that his investigation had brought to him the conclusion that the fire started on the second story. It dropped from the upper story, he believed to the storage room. This is largely borne out by the statement of the night mechanic, Lee, who declared that the top of the automobile in which he was sleeping was ablaze before he was aroused.

MEETING SCHOOL PRINCIPALS HERE

Also Seventh Grade Teachers are Called to Meet Saturday, Jan. 13th.

County Superintendent Marow has called a meeting of the principals of all white schools in the county to be held here next Saturday, January 13, at ten o'clock. The meeting which will be held in the court house, is for the purpose of planning for the taking of the school census.

At the first teachers meeting of the school year the county superintendent announced that the teachers would be required to take the census this year, and he now has the cards and ticklers with instructions ready to give out to the teachers.

All seventh grade teachers are also requested to meet Saturday to receive instructions about the examination to be given seventh grade pupils in the spring. These teachers will meet at the same time and place as the school principals.

A letter to the seventh grade teachers and principals states that the roll will be called promptly at ten o'clock, and unless present, or a doctor's certificate is sent stating that they are unable to attend, five dollars will be deducted from the next month's salary. This meeting takes the place of one of the usual group meetings and will give part credit toward professional work this year.

FOUR MILLION FOR THE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL

RALEIGH, Jan. 4.—Presidents Chase, of the university, and Few of Trinity are holding up big news, vantage rumors say tonight, because those academicians are in the north and the folks here at home have documentary evidence that the university can get its \$4,000,000 for a medical school from the Rockefeller foundation without the Trinity-University merger.

The two presidents aren't purposely holding up news. The folks here are holding their peace until the twain returns. What the Associated Press partly carried and state papers hinted at broadly this morning, was two messages, one said to be written to Governor Morrison and the other to Representative Pharr of Mecklenburg, confirming the story that the state can have its \$4,000,000 without pooling at all. Mr. Pharr's fight for Charlotte has quite divorced him from the governor's proposal. The Mecklenburg's legislator doesn't think Chapel Hill is the place at all for a medical college nor would he tie to Durham. Clinical facilities, he said, would be put above most things in a medical college and he finds them not this side the former metropolis. Albeit this is no authorization of his. In short, the state can pretty nearly get a medical college without denominational partnership and the right for location is on again.

FIVE PERSONS KILLED IN FLORIDA RACE RIOT

OTTER CREEK, Fla., Jan. 5.—Two white men, two negro women and one negro man are known to be dead, while it is believed there are many other casualties as a result of the race trouble last night and early today at Rosewood, 12 miles from here. With the exception of three buildings, the entire village was burned by a mob shortly after daybreak, according to available report here.—Associated Press.

Preparing for Battle.

This was at a solemn conference preceding a church wedding. There were present the groom, the best man, the ushers and the guest list.

"You understand," said the best man, "you meet 'em when they come in and ask 'em if they are friends of the bride or the groom."

"And then what?" asked the head usher.

"Why, you seat the friends of the bride on one side of the church and the friends of the groom on the other. It's the custom."

"I can't see the use of that," said the head usher. "They'll take sides soon enough."—Ex.

If you don't like some neighbor, give his little boy a drum.—Washington Daily News.

FRANCE'S RHINE ARMY GATHERING

Is Ready for Action When Premier Poincare Orders To Seize Rhineland

PARIS, Jan. 7.—France's Rhine army is gathering, and is ready to march when Premier Poincare gives the word for the carrying out of his still secret plan for seizing the Ruhr and the Rhineland. Trains were crowded tonight with officers and men, hurriedly recalled from leave, returning to their posts, and M. Poincare conferred this afternoon with M. Le Trocquer, minister of public works, on final arrangements for the transportation of the civil and military forces.

The French troops on the Rhine have been ordered by General DeGoutte to remain in their quarters where there appears to be any danger of clashes with the Germans, and every precaution will be taken to avoid demonstrations.

There are several times the number of French forces in the Rhineland as are likely to be required for the Ruhr operations, but all the troops will be held in readiness for instant service, although there is nothing yet to justify the assumption of immediate action.

The details of the French plan remain a mystery, but M. Poincare has repeatedly described the proposed entrance into the Ruhr as chiefly the work of engineers and customs collectors. This is the nucleus, but the military support required necessarily depends on the French estimate of what resistance the Germans may offer. It is known also that the premier's original idea was modified to make it attractive to the British, but now that France is going in alone she is under no restraint.

The government considers it desirable to have the reparations commission declare Germany in voluntary default on coal before acting, but this is expected late tomorrow or Tuesday. The French cabinet will meet again Tuesday and the premier will outline the declaration he will make before parliament probably on Thursday.

Various considerations may cause Premier Poincare to delay the Ruhr operations until Germany's failure to pay the 500,000,000 gold marks on January 15 further strengthens his hand, but importance is attached to the commission's action on the coal question, which is taken to mean that he would consider recognition of a default in that respect as adequate.—Associated Press.

FIRST STRAWBERRIES IN ALABAMA SHIPPED

CASTLEBERRY, Ala., Jan. 5.—The 1923 strawberry season opened here today when the first crate of the early variety was shipped to Montgomery. The crop, with winter weather prevailing, is in splendid condition, according to growers and many shipments are planned for next week. The majority of berries are ready to pack. The first shipment however, was the earliest in any season in the history of this section.

The Typewriter on the Farm.

Most business houses keep carbon copies of all letters. This is a great advantage to the farmer owning a typewriter, as it is highly important that he keep a verbatim copy of price quotations and agreements of various kinds. Without the machine, the copies must be tediously written out or the farmer trust to his memory. In the latter case, if a dispute arises, the other party, who may be either dishonest or mistaken, concerning the terms of the transaction, has the great advantage because he has the only record. Even if a duplicate letter is written out in long-hand, there is always a question as to whether the two letters were really identical. With a typewriter, the farmer is protected as the other party knows the farmer will have a carbon copy which is an exact duplicate of the original.

Willie's Lead.

Mother—"Now, Willie, if you put this wedding cake under your pillow what you dream will come true."

Willie—"Why can't I eat the cake and put the pillow over my stomach?"

TAR HEEL RAIL EXECUTIVE IS DEAD

J. P. Beckwith, Native of Plymouth, Victim of Double Pneumonia in Florida.

MIAMI, Fla., Jan. 4.—J. P. Beckwith vice president in charge of operation of the Florida East Coast Railway, died at the home of his son here early today of double pneumonia after a short illness.

Mr. Beckwith was seized with an attack of grippe while on his way from New York to his home in Jacksonville, but had recovered sufficiently to begin a tour of inspection of the Flagler system. He became ill aboard his private car Sunday and was brought to his son's home here.

Born in Plymouth, N. C., June 24, 1858, Mr. Beckwith was educated in the common schools of his State and began his railroad career with the North Carolina Railroad in 1880 as a clerk. Two years later he went to Cincinnati in a similar capacity with the Cincinnati Southern, now a part of the Southern Railway system.

In 1887 he came to Florida as general agent of the Central of Georgia Railroad and in 1892 became general freight agent for the Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West Railroad. He was made general freight and passenger agent for the Ocean Steamship Co., two years later and left that line in 1896 to accept an appointment as passenger traffic manager for the Florida East Coast Railway.

The body of Mr. Beckwith will leave here tonight for Jacksonville, accompanied by his widow, a daughter, Mrs. W. G. Lockwood, and Thomas L. Beckwith, his son. Funeral services will be held at the late residence of Mr. Beckwith in Jacksonville Saturday afternoon.

(Mr. Beckwith lived in Smithfield during his youth and is well remembered here by those who will learn with sorrow of his passing. We are publishing this later account of his death in order to correct some statements made in the account which we published last Friday.—Editor.)

ASKS PRESIDENT TO LIFT CALCIUM ARSENATE TARIFF

NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—Dr. Miller Rees Hutchinson, director of the American Cotton Association's campaign for boll weevil control, today sent a telegram to President Harding urging the lifting of the 25 per cent duty on calcium arsenate, the anti-boll weevil poison, as a means of augmenting the small domestic supply of the chemical.

Dr. Hutchinson declared the domestic supply was only 35,000,000 tons while 265,000,000 tons was said by cotton growers to be needed to fight the ravages of parasites. A large foreign supply, he said, was available at prices the growers could afford to pay, if the poison could be imported duty free.—News and Observer.

Named.

The Chinaman could speak but little English, and the Englishman could speak no Chinese; nevertheless, the dinner went off agreeably.

There was one dish that pleased the Englishman. It was a rich stew of onions, pork, mushrooms, and a dark, tender, well-flavored meat that tasted like duck.

The Englishman ate heartily of this stew. Then he closed his eyes, lifted his hands and shook his head with an air of ecstasy.

After this compliment to the dish, he said interrogatively: "Quack, quack?"

"No, no," said the Chinaman. "Bow, bow."—The Christian Evangelist (St. Louis.)

A Timely Resolution.

"Ralph," said his father, "what good resolutions are you going to make for the new year?"

"I'm not going to fight with Frank Ross any more," replied Ralph.

"I'm glad to hear that, my boy," said his father, "but why did you make that resolution?"

"Cause," was the answer, "I always get licked."

Make the home town paper a New Year's present to that absent loved one. Write him about it. There is nothing, he will appreciate more.

LEGISLATURE GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS

Two Anti Ku Klux Measures—Would Reduce Exemption; Free Text Books

The General Assembly has hardly had time to get down to business yet, but despite the short sessions, several bills of importance have been introduced in both branches of the legislature.

Thursday's program for the House included bills to abolish death penalty, to exempt ex-service men from poll tax, and to amend the prohibition laws of the state providing among other things conviction for felony on the refusal of a drunk to tell where he got his liquor. The prohibition bill also provides that the first conviction for making or selling liquor shall be classed as a misdemeanor, punished by a fine of \$100 to \$1,000, or imprisonment for not less than six months or more than one year. Second offenses carry no fine, but imprisonment for not less than one, nor more than three years, in State Prison. Subsequent convictions carry a penalty of not less than three nor more than 15 years penal servitude.

Among other statewide measures introduced in the House Thursday was one requiring every motor vehicle to come to a full stop before crossing a railroad.

Outstanding bills introduced in the House on Friday included, one providing for free text books, one calling for the publication of names of members (aimed at Ku Klux) of secret orders and one to reduce the personal property exemption from \$300 to \$100. The free text books measure provides that the State superintendent of Public Instruction shall find out in April of each year how many books of each kind will be required for the public schools for the next term, that he shall purchase them out of the general fund, and send to the county superintendents for distribution.

An exemption bill similar to the one just introduced suffered defeat in the last legislature and another fight is anticipated this time.

Second day measures in the Senate include three of general interest. One would require all vehicles to display lights at night when on state roads. This bill is aimed specifically at horse drawn vehicles and provides that a light shall be displayed on the left side visible from both front and rear.

Other measures of Thursday would allow the corporation commission to appoint freight inspectors, and would abolish superior court clerks fees for jurors and witness tickets in all counties where the clerk is on a salary. Friday's session of the Senate was characterized by Senator Baggett's Ku Klux Klan bill. This measure if passed will make it a felony for any individual to appear off his own premises masked or disguised in such manner as to destroy his identity.

The sessions in both branches of the General Assembly have so far been brief, the usual week end exodus breaking into Saturday's program.

COTTON YIELD OF WORLD INCREASES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Total production of cotton for the 1922-23 season in countries that produce over ninety per cent of the world's crop in the period 1909-13 is estimated 15,250,000 bales of 478 pounds net, according to the Department of Agriculture. This is an increase of 2,559,000 bales or 20 per cent over the production for the same countries last year and a decrease of 3,991,000 bales, or 21 per cent from the average production for the five years 1909-13. The countries covered are the United States, Mexico, India, Egypt, Asiatic Russia and Kora.

MANY CASES OF INFLUENZA REPORTED IN LEE COUNTY

SANFORD, Jan. 4.—Influenza has been very prevalent in practically all sections of Lee county the past few days, but in generally a mild form. Some severe cases were reported by attending physicians. The condition of the roads has made it difficult for the physicians to visit the patients and has kept the doctors out all hours of the day and night.