

## Commander's Mill Is Monument To Sheer Grit

### Beginning Thirty Seven Years Ago On Small Basis, Suffering a Fire That Practically Wiped It Off The Face Of Earth It Has Conquered Difficulties And Achieved Real Success

Starting as a small planing mill 37 years ago, Commander's Mill has planned and sawed and hammered itself through those thirty seven years into a condition of first row prominence in the line up of Elizabeth City's industries.

In 1885 the little mill under the inspiration of T. A. Commander, Sr., the father of the present T. A. that everybody knows, and his brother, C. E. Commander, started business on custom work alone. For six years the little mill flourished. In the summer of 1891 business became so brisk that it was found necessary to continually work all of the days and part of the night. The little plant had been started, metaphorically speaking, on a shoe string, but under careful management and by quality workmanship it was rapidly bringing itself into first place among the lumber finishing industries of this section.

Along about the first of October 1891, a tremendously big order came to the Commander Mill for work from an out of town buyer. The order was to be shipped immediately after Christmas, so the mill worked day and night making and storing this order in the mill sheds of their establishment. In the meantime the Messrs. Commanders had decided that new and improved machinery was needed in the mill, and had proceeded to order it, intending to put it in place during the holidays. The profits of all the previous years of their successful business was piled in and around the mill in the stock that they had worked up, preparatory to shipping after Christmas. In that stock was represented not only their past profits, but also the money that should be used to make a substantial payment on the new machinery. On the night of December 23rd, the mill completed the work on their big order. After months of unceasing toil they had accumulated a stock already sold, that meant the assurance of the stability of their business. When that stock should go to its out of town buyer, the solidity and future of the mill would be established. By 10:30 p. m. the last plank had been planned and put in its place and the management, with much satisfaction, issued a proclamation to the mill force that they had been good and faithful and had stuck to their jobs; that they had succeeded in the past three months, by working day and night, in turning out a great quantity of finished material and in consideration of the faithful performance of their duties they would not wait until Christmas eve to begin their Christmas holidays, but the holidays would start then and there.

The men left at 11:00 p. m. after an inspection of the mill, the Commanders went to their homes, happy in the knowledge that they had performed a great work. Their joy of achievement, however, was short lived and satisfaction gave place to consternation, for at 3:00 a. m., the Commander brothers were notified that their mill was in flames. The fire department, at that time, was not the smooth running, well oiled and highly efficient fire fighting machine that it is today and before the fire could be brought under control, the entire mill and its contents along with the hopes and aspirations of the two men that had built it, had gone up in flames and smoke. Agencies for insurance companies, in those days, were not as handily around the corner as they are today and the Commanders had not one cent of insurance to take care of any part of the loss. Naturally they were discouraged. Their new machinery had arrived and the only money available to pay, even the freight charges on it, was represented by the smoldering ashes of the mill. It may be truthfully said that they were down but not out.

With a marvelous display of sheer grit, these two plucky men, gulped down their misery, and with an energy enhanced by adversity began seeking a way of reconstructing their business and the result was a new mill, a larger mill, and a better mill than they had had before.

In 1898, a saw mill was added and gradually, from time to time, they took up the building of specialties. T. A. Commander, Sr. has returned to the place of everlasting achievement, while his son the present T. A. has taken up the work where the father left off and the mill today stands as one of Elizabeth City's industries, with a yearly production of 30,000,000 feet of lumber.

## C-14 Has Close Call

Newport News, Va., Oct. 25 (By The Associated Press)—The presence of mind of one of the crew saved the army dirigible C-14 from the fate of its sister ship, C-2, today when a big hole was torn in its gas bag as it was being taken from the hangar at Langley Field for a flight to Aberdeen, Maryland. When the craft bumped its side, gas began to hiss from the bag and everyone scurried to safety. One member of the crew, however, pulled the rip cord, releasing the hydrogen.

## BUYING DOLLARS CAUSED TROUBLE

Paris, Oct. 25 (By The Associated Press)—The buying of dollars by British banks with French francs in their possession is said by French financiers to be the principal cause of the present weakness of the franc.

The dollars were used by the British to pay the interest on the war debt to the United States. Bankers and financial authorities of the government appear undisturbed by the rise of the dollar and pound.

## New Ministers Take Oaths Today

London, Oct. 25 (By The Associated Press)—The cabinet of Bonar Law was sworn in at Buckingham Palace this morning and the members began to function immediately as a new government.

## Discuss Abolition National Conventions

Atlanta, Oct. 25 (By The Associated Press)—Views of Southern executives of the Young Women's Christian Association as to the proposed abolition of national conventions, in favor of regional conventions, because of the unwieldiness of the former, were heard at today's session of the Southern regional conference.

Industrial period, using every work day of the year, with a few temporary shutdowns. For five years they have been building boxes, crates and barrels. This was taken up as a side line to the general business but if the side line continues to grow, it is apparent that it will soon be a case of the "tail wagging the dog" for the side lines have grown beyond all expectations and belief. No accurate estimate can be given of the capacity of the mill in crates and barrels but if they built nothing but fish boxes alone, it would be an industry well worth considering. Of this product alone, Commander's mill turns out 30,000 a year, and if thirty thousand fish boxes were to be seen in a single pile, it is highly probable that one would be likely to remark "Where in the world do all the fish come from to fill them."

Mr. Commander states that, owing to the inclination of the farmers to raise a few more truck products than they have in the past, it is probable that the output of cabbage crates, will also be increased.

Commander's mill stands on Front street, facing Lawrence, a long line of buildings half a square in length, reaching from the street to the water, and it is well provided with all the machinery necessary in the conduct of its business, including one of the shillest tooting little whistles within the confines of Elizabeth City.

## Co-operating To Help The Students

### Parent-Teachers Association Urges More Opportunity For Home Study

The Parent-Teachers Association is now endeavoring to help the school boys and girls not to fall below the standard in scholarship, by urging that their social affairs be planned for Friday and Saturday evenings and that parents make special effort to encourage home study.

This movement was heartily endorsed by the Central Council of Public Welfare Tuesday evening. This particular method of first aid does not entirely appeal to the boys and girls, but it is believed that eventually it will. It is a recognized fact that many formerly good students are falling behind in their work and it is also well known that nearly every night there's a party to which the younger set in whole or in part is invited. The young person's point of view is this: "If you don't go, you soon are dropped out of social affairs. If you do go, you can't keep up with your school work." Their troubles increase each year, until in the last years of high school they are on the verge of despair and failure, all because they haven't conserved their energies properly, and it is not altogether their fault.

If parents all will plan to have parties for the young people on Friday and Saturday evenings only, and will encourage home study, soon new habits will be formed. Eventually good programs at the movies for the young people will be secured, and Elizabeth City boys and girls will graduate with higher honors and find their way made easier all along. No doubt even the parties will be all the more enjoyed.

Along this line, however, it is suggested that the young people aren't the only ones who need a bit of sobering down. Some parents and students rise to remark that some of the teachers don't set a very valuable example for them, and probably ought to be at home looking over papers frequently when they're having social affairs galore.

And shocking as it may sound, it is even declared that there are parents who might well be staying at home in the evenings and getting acquainted with their boys and girls instead of doing other things of really less importance.

But co-operation of parents, teachers and pupils will do the work, and that is what the Parent-Teachers Association and the Welfare Council are seeking.

At the Welfare Council meeting Tuesday evening a number of emergency cases received attention. A committee was appointed to see about fitting up the Community House for the winter, the welfare officer reporting that the weather was too cold for the babies at Tuesday's meeting of the Mother's Club, and there is no stove.

## COTTON REPORT

Washington, Oct. 25 (By The Associated Press)—Cotton ginned prior to October 18th amounted to 6,962,024 running bales, the Census Bureau reported today.

## FELL TO DEATH FROM SIXTH FLOOR

New York, Oct. 25 (By The Associated Press)—Lloyd Warren, head of the Beaux Arts School of Architecture, jumped or fell to his death today from a window in his sixth floor apartment. His age was 48 and he lived alone.

## EXTRA! HERE'S STAR WHO MADE HER OWN DRESSES

To the many film followers who have regarded Constance Talmadge simply as an amusing and extremely capable actress, there will be a genuine surprise in knowing that the popular film star is also a very adept dressmaker. As evidence of her skill along this line she has made a dress of her own creation which she wears in "The Primitive Lover," her current First National attraction which is showing at the Alkrama Theater Wednesday.

The gown is a charming design of satin and lace which the star wears during some of the most important scenes in the picture. Like most of Constance Talmadge's pictures, "The Primitive Lover" is a sparkling comedy based on Edgar Selwyn's original story. It has a slightly more serious theme than many of Miss Talmadge's previous productions, but is worked out in a thoroughly humorous style, dealing with married life that has been founded on a deception and the struggle of civilized love pitted against the amorous advances of caveman methods.

## PLANES TO ARRIVE FRIDAY MORNING

### Two Planes Go To Edenton And Two To Hertford Prior To Maneuvers Here

The planes which are to take part in the flying circus over Elizabeth City this week will arrive Friday morning instead of Thursday afternoon, according to Secretary Job of the Chamber of Commerce, who returned Tuesday night from a special trip to the Naval Base at Norfolk.

Secretary Job explains that the planes which are to take part in the maneuvers are due to hop off shortly after the completion of these maneuvers on a 1,000 mile flight, and in view of this circumstance it was deemed best not to subject the planes at this time to the hazard of having to be moored in the open water of the harbor here over night.

Accordingly the fleet of seven or more planes will leave the Naval Base early Friday morning and coming down on the ocean side of the banks will cross Currituck Sound to the Albemarle Sound. They will then separate, two planes going to Hertford and two to Edenton, where they will engage in maneuvers. The other planes of the fleet will fly direct to Elizabeth City and are expected to arrive here between nine and ten o'clock in the morning. Shortly after noon they will be joined by the four planes from Hertford and Edenton and the entire fleet will then engage in the maneuvers over the Elizabeth City harbor.

The flying circus is attracting a great deal of interest, not more than two planes having ever before visited the city at the same time.

## Boys Run Away From Home To Work On Farm

### Two Youths Spend Night Here And Appreciate Kindness of Welfare Department

Tuesday evening in the midst of the meeting of the Central Council of Public Welfare a telephone call for Mrs. Anna Lewis, Welfare Officer, gave a very definite demonstration of the emergencies which arise almost daily in welfare work.

In this instance, two boys had run away from their home in Oceana and Cape Henry, Virginia, and hungry and cold had got as far as Snowden when Wilson Williams, salesman for W. H. Weatherly Company, picked them up in his auto and brought them to town. He bought them some supper and then telephoned Mrs. Lewis to know what to do with them.

The boys were about sixteen years old. The older one had quarreled with his father and didn't want to go home again. He was trying to reach the farm of a cousin near Edenton and go to work there. The younger one was just going along for the adventure.

Mrs. Lewis secured them a room for the night at the Y. M. C. A., while a committee composed of Dr. S. H. Templeman, G. H. Hood and G. R. Little talked to the boys, finally deciding that it would do little good to send them home, because they hadn't had enough of it and would set out again. So after talking to them kindly, but firmly, they told the boys that their parents would be notified of their whereabouts and that they would be allowed to go on to Edenton, the Edenton welfare department being advised to notify Mrs. Lewis of how the boys get along. Apparently there was nothing vicious about the boys, and they were most appreciative of all the kindnesses shown them.

Wednesday morning Mr. Hood took them in his auto as far as Hertford, where he is going to attend the Fair.

## Missing Man's Hat Is Found

Moscow, Oct. 25 (By The Associated Press)—The hat worn by Phillip J. Shield, missing Richmond, Virginia, American relief worker, has been found on the banks of the Volga, five miles above town, according to a telegram from Joseph Dalton, supervisor of the relief organization at Simbirsk.

## Train Mile From Town But Couldn't Get Here

### Night Express In Sight Of Foreman-Blades Mill Had To Run Back And Come In By Suffolk

A freight wreck a mile and a half to the north of Elizabeth City about ten o'clock Tuesday night had the effect of detouring by way of Suffolk all passenger traffic between Elizabeth City and Norfolk from that time until the 11:35 train this morning.

Train number Three, the Night Express from Norfolk due here Tuesday night at 10:40, did not arrive until 6:46 o'clock Wednesday morning. The track was opened Wednesday, however, in time to permit train number One, morning train from Norfolk, to go through on regular schedule.

Train 62, through freight from Raleigh to Norfolk, passed Elizabeth City Tuesday night shortly after ten o'clock. A little over half a mile beyond Foreman-Blades mill, which is about a mile from town, the freight started to back into what used to be the main line of the track leading into Elizabeth City, but what is now merely the spur leading to the freight depot here. As the freight backed in, one car left the track, and two others followed it, plunging for thirty feet a furrow deep enough to bury a man in.

Hardly had the wreck occurred and signals set for the night express when the passenger train came into view. When the situation ahead had been ascertained Elizabeth City passengers were given their choice of footing it to town through the dark and the dew or of remaining on the train until it could go back to Carolina Junction and get into Elizabeth City by way of Suffolk.

Among those who chose the former alternative were John Pinner, Jack Munden, W. A. Brock, G. F. Seyffert and Secretary Job of the Chamber of Commerce. Happily for them, Mr. Munden's son, William, was on the crew of the wrecked train and he gave them a torch to light their way back to town. "They told us," said Mr. Job Wednesday morning, "that we were only a mile from town; but I didn't get home till one o'clock and felt like I had walked ten miles."

Wednesday morning a wrecking crew was at work clearing the track and had cleared the main line but appeared to have a day's job ahead of it in clearing the spur to the freight depot here. All three cars were still off the track and the train's momentum when the wheels struck the ground had carried the two cars first to leave the track clean off their trucks. The middle car of the three had buckled slightly and stood at a slight angle to the other two.

The cause of the wreck could not be ascertained Wednesday.

## Fireman Killed Several Injured

Portland, Ore., Oct. 25 (By The Associated Press)—One fireman was killed and several injured early today when the half million dollar Washington High School was destroyed by fire.

## Foreign Business Is On The Upgrade

New York, Oct. 25 (By The Associated Press)—Business in the Far East, in Europe and Latin America is steadily on the upgrade, delegates to the convention of the American Manufacturers Export Association were told today by Dr. Julius Klein, director of the United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

## Duck Hunters Find Body Of Aged Man

Egg Harbor, N. J., Oct. 25 (By The Associated Press)—Two duck hunters today found the body of John Ditch, eighty-year hermit, whose life since he moved into the woods near here half a century ago has been a mystery. Ditch's death was equally mysterious. The hunters found a quantity of money in worn bills in his pocket and his bank book showed a balance of \$1500 in Egg Harbor Bank.

Miss Mae Smith of Gatesville is visiting her sister, Mrs. Robert Taylor, on West Church street.

## Says Must Pay America

### Lloyd George Declares Will Support Any Party That Pursues Peace And Progress

London, Oct. 25 (By The Associated Press)—"I will support any party and any government that pursues a policy of peace and economic steady progress, neither revolutionary nor reactionary, and does it efficiently," Lloyd George told the coalition Liberal members of parliament at a meeting this morning.

In another part of his speech he made the declaration that "Great Britain must pay America all her debts." Unity of action between Great Britain and the United States was urged by Lloyd George.

## Job Ususally Gets What He Goes After

### Secures Promise Of Officer At Naval Base To Send Photographer And Camera With Navy Planes

When Secretary Job of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce fixes his mind upon an undertaking he generally carries it through, regardless of obstacles.

For instance, some months ago now Mr. Job has had his heart set on getting a panoramic view of Elizabeth City from photographs taken in the air.

But aerial photography is a comparatively new art and results entirely satisfactory to Mr. Job's critical eye have been hard to get. But difficulty never daunted Job yet. He is as patient in the pursuit of his aims as was his illustrious namesake in enduring affliction.

And so when arrangements were made at the Naval Base at Norfolk to stage a flying circus here one of the first things that Job thought of was those long desired aerial photographs. Tuesday he made a special trip to the Naval Base at Norfolk to see what could be done in this direction, and to his delight secured the promise not only of a Government aerial camera but also of an expert aerial photographer to handle it. Camera and photographer are due to arrive on board the naval planes scheduled to reach here Friday morning.

## Raleigh Man Heads Co-operative Band

Louisville, Oct. 25 (By The Associated Press)—The co-operative marketing associations of tobacco growers banded together today through the agency of the American Tobacco Growers Co-operative Exchange, an organization which resulted from a two day's conference here. W. O. Wilson, of Raleigh, N. C., was chosen secretary of the organization.

## LIKES THE ADVANCE

Raleigh, N. C., Oct. 22, 1922.

Mr. Herbert Peele, Editor, The Advance, Elizabeth City, N. C. Dear Sir:

I was mailed a copy of your paper dated October 14th, which carried the story of the motorcycle races at your Fair October 13th. I wish to say that this story or write-up of the races was one of the best that I have ever seen.

It certainly was a pleasure to us to see the appreciation that you people have for the kind of exhibition that we furnished you. We feel like that we have two very good papers here in Raleigh, but you can say to whoever wrote this story that we would like to have him with us in Raleigh.

I would appreciate it very much if you would send me two copies of your October 14th issue. Again thanking you for your consideration of us and our efforts to give you a clean race, I am, Yours very truly, BERT Q. TILLEY.