

## HEROISM TO GO UNCHALLENGED BY THE COURT

So Much But Little More Has Been Established in Investigating Causes of Shenandoah Wreck

ONLY PRAISE HEARD From the Start of the Hearing Monday When Rear Admiral Hilary P. Jones Asks if Any Complaints

By ROWLAND WOOD  
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Lakelhurst, N. J., Sept. 23. — The heroism of the crew of the wrecked dirigible Shenandoah will go down in the annals of the Navy unchallenged.

So much—but little more—has been established at the investigation by the court of inquiry named by Secretary of the Navy Wilbur to investigate the causes and draw the lessons to be derived from the wreck of the giant airship in a storm over Ava, Ohio, on the morning of September 3.

Whether the exact cause of the big ship's break-up in mid air will ever be known is uncertain. There is little likelihood that an explanation will be reached that will satisfy all the experts who will be called to testify later in the hearing. But nobody challenges the gallantry of the Shenandoah's crew, nor their coolness and assurance with which they fought their losing battle with the elements.

From the start of the hearing Monday, when Rear Admiral Hilary P. Jones lined up the surviving members of the crew and met an impressive silence in response to his query whether any of the "interested parties" had any complaints to make against any member of the crew, living or dead, only words of praise were spoken for the conduct of officers and men of the ill-fated Shenandoah.

Perhaps the most impressive of the tributes to the dead was that of Colonel C. G. Hall, grizzled air sergeant and member of the Mid-Western cruise, who, with Lieutenant Anderson, of the Shenandoah's crew, was the last to see the officers in the control car alive.

"There was perfect order and discipline in the control car to the last," Colonel Hall testified.

The officers and men went about their duties as coolly and efficiently as in the most casual flight. Captain Lansdowne's coolness and assurance were especially noteworthy.

Then, describing how he had leaped for the ladder into the hull of the airship as the control car began to wrench itself free, he concluded:

"The men in the control car went to their death attempting to keep control of their ship, which was not lost until the break-up."

Testimony as to what happened to cause the break-up was not entirely clear. Several of the 22 members of the crew who were called to the stand fixed the height at which the break came as 6,200 feet—more than a mile—which would fit in with the contention of Captain Heinen, the German airship expert, who helped build the Shenandoah, that the Shenandoah's helium gas, expanding in the rarefied atmosphere, exerted sufficient pressure on the framework to smash it.

Lieutenant Commander C. E. Rosendahl, the senior surviving officer, however, indicated clearly that he believed the ship's backbone had been broken when the control cabin, swinging below the hull, wrenched itself away as the ship nosed upward.

It was clearly established that two of the Shenandoah's engines contributed their part to the disaster by going dead shortly after Commander Lansdowne had rung for full speed in a last attempt to straighten out the ship. One had cracked a cylinder and had to be stopped. The other became overheated.

The Navy Department's order authorized him to make such changes in the prescribed itinerary for the trip as he deemed necessary, "should the dictates of safety and the weather conditions make it advisable."

Cross-examination of the crew members and testimony of the officers who conducted an inquiry into the accident at the scene will consume the next three or four days. Then will come the "expert testimony," including that of Colonel "Billy" Mitchell and Captain Heinen, Navy Department critics, which may or may not determine just what caused the wreck.

## REHEARSALS BEGIN FOR GAY OPERETTA

Rehearsals will begin tonight for "Rose Time," a colorful operetta to be given on the night of October 3 by the D. H. Hill Chapter, U. D. C. The play was given Tuesday night in Sunbury, and attracted much favorable comment.

Miss Mary Ben Wright, of the Sunbury Productions Company, Atlanta, has arrived and will direct the rehearsals. She has asked that all members of the cast assemble at 5 o'clock in the Junior Order Hall in the Kramer Building.

## FLAMES SWEEP THROUGH PRISON

Drakwater, Mass., Sept. 23. — Fire started at the State Farm today and rapidly swept through the buildings where hundreds of prisoners are confined. Aid was summoned from four nearby towns.

Indications were that no lives had been lost.

## AGAINST WISH OF LANDSDOWNE

Official Records Show That Commander Wished to Defer Flight

Lakelhurst, N. J., Sept. 23. — The Shenandoah was ordered on her fatal flight to the West September 2, despite the recommendations of Lieutenant Commander Zachary Lansdowne that the trip be deferred until the second week in September.

This is shown by the official documents read into the record today of the naval court of inquiry by Captain George W. Steele, commander of the Lakelhurst air station.

Washington, Sept. 23. — The Navy Department officials here said today that a misapprehension of the military aspects of aircraft development led to the commercial possibilities of air transportation.

Postmaster General News before the committee today.

## COTTON ESTIMATE SLIGHTLY HIGHER

Washington, Sept. 23. — Cotton production this year forecast from the condition of the crops September 16, is indicated as 13,900,000 equivalent 500 pound bales, the Department of Agriculture announced today. A fortnight ago 13,740,000 bales were forecast.

North Carolina's estimate is placed at 1,103,000 bales.

## WILL SPEAK SUNDAY AT MOUNT LEBANON

Lieutenant Oxley, who is in charge of State warfare work for the negroes will address a mass meeting at Mt. Lebanon A. M. E. Zion Church, Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, under the auspices of the Colored Welfare Society. All are cordially invited.

## GREECE HAS ADOPTED NORTH CAROLINA PLAN

Washington, Sept. 23.—Paying the doctor with a dollar a year is a plan which has long been in vogue in a North Carolina cotton mill town and which has recently been inaugurated by the medical director of the refugee districts and approved by the Greek government.

Years ago the mills in Roanoke Rapids, N. C., of which S. F. Patterson is the head and director, adopted a co-operative plan for payment of doctors bills. Each person was taxed a small amount and a community doctor was employed to look after the sick.

Special aim will be made to malaria and typhoid and other preventable diseases, and also stressed effort in cutting down the infant mortality rate.

## AMERICAN STEAMER REPORTED AGROUND

Bremen, Germany, Sept. 23. — The American steamer, George Washington, bound to New York from Bremen is reported aground on Mollum Flat on the River Weser. Assistance has been sent to her.

## COTTON MARKET

New York, Sept. 23.—Spot cotton closed quiet, middling 23.65, a decline of 75 points. Futures, closing bid: Oct. 23.34, Dec. 23.69, Jan. 23.02, March 23.30, May 23.58, July 23.28.

## UNIVERSITY CLUB

Chapel Hill, Sept. 23.—The North Carolina Club of the University, which studies the State's needs and seeks remedies, got off to a good start with its twelfth year here last night. Some 75 students met and effected an organization and a program for the year was adopted.

President Chase and Professors Francis F. Bradshaw, Frederick H. Koch and R. D. W. Connor addressed the club last night. Dr. Chase told the club that he knew of no group making a more serious and honest effort to ascertain the facts about the State with the view to having the defects remedied.

## MAKES REPORT ON FINANCES OF THE YMCA

President G. F. Seyffert Prepares Statement for Publication After Auditors Complete Task

## RETIRING BONDS

Board of Directors Believes That in a Few Years Building Will be Without Encumbrance

G. F. Seyffert, president of the Elizabeth City Y. M. C. A., is this week making public the financial condition of the organization, believing this report to be of interest to the people of the community.

The auditing committee, composed of A. B. Houtz and W. T. Culppepper, recently prepared a financial statement of the Y. M. C. A. for Mr. Seyffert, which he inspected and from which he has made his report, as follows:

"It has been some time since we published a Financial Statement of the Community Y. M. C. A. As is well known, we have not operated this as an active organization Y. M. C. A., for some years, because we did not find sufficient financial support to maintain a trained secretary and meet other expenses, and at the same time take care of our bonded indebtedness. The directors thought it wise, rather than struggle along in an unsatisfactory way, to discontinue the Y features for a period, endeavor to rent the entire building and gradually wipe out our debt. This debt out of the way, they felt that the income from the store and dormitory, supplemented by a revenue from membership dues, etc., might enable them to reopen and employ a competent secretary to carry on the work properly, should a need and desire be manifest at any time.

The Board has kept the Dormitory satisfactorily rented and from this source we have an income of \$60.00 per month, paid regularly up to date.

The store is rented under lease for \$135.00 per month, and the rent is paid regularly and up to date.

The Gymnasium and basement were rented for several months to the Woman's Club for a tea room and kitchen, but this was not profitable since the added expense of increased insurance was as much or more than the rents received.

The second floor has been rented and is occupied by the Chamber of Commerce. The rent agreed upon, \$50.00 per month, was made low in view of the community service nature of the organization. This rent, however, has not been paid regularly, the Chamber being in arrears a total of about \$700.00 up to September 1. Efforts have been and are being made to curtail this.

The Y's financial condition as shown by the treasurer's books, recently audited by a committee from the board of directors, and believed to be correct, is as follows:

"Bonds outstanding (originally \$16,000), \$8,000; rents due from Chamber of Commerce, \$700; rents due from store, \$135; cash on deposit, \$192; total, \$1,027.50.

"Total receipts since August 15, 1921, when last previous audit was made, have been \$11,729.93.

"Expended for bonds, interest, insurance, repairs, fuel, etc., \$11,538.53; cash on hand to balance, \$192.50; total, \$11,731.03.

"Under terms of agreement with the First & Citizens National Bank, which holds the bonds and which has been most kind and considerate, \$1,000 and interest is due and payable on January 1 of each year until all are retired. All bonds due to date have been paid.

"The board feels assured that the bonds can be promptly retired as due and current expenses met if all the rentals are regularly and promptly paid and in a few years the building be without encumbrance.

"It could then be again used for the same or kindred purpose for which it was originally built. Very recently the Men's Christian Federation has moved its meeting place into the gymnasium and services are being conducted there. The leaders of the Federation seem pleased with the change. No rent is charged this organization."

## CHASE ADDRESSES UNIVERSITY CLUB

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## Jack Kearns in New York Prize Ring



Only a few weeks ago Jack Kearns was under the ban in New York boxing circles because of his transgressions in connection with Dempsey fights, but here you see him in the ring with Mickey Walker before the latter's fight with Dave Shade. He is on the left. To the right in order are Mickey Walker, Joe Humphries, the announcer, Patsy Haley, referee, and Dave Shade, the defeated contender.

## Sunbury Scores Notable Triumph In "Rose Time"

Sunbury, Sept. 23.—The Sunbury Woman's Club achieved a notable success in sponsoring the presentation last night of the copyrighted operetta "Rose Time," which played at the high school auditorium to a full house and before a crowd representing at least three counties.

Incidentally the entire community of Sunbury today is happy and proud at the success of the most ambitious undertaking of the sort ever staged here and at the words of praise, coming from every quarter, of the marked ability shown by the local cast in the presentation of the play. For "Rose Time" is a real operetta, with a plot requiring for its presentation a bevy of pretty chorus girls, matched by an octette of chorus boys with good voices, and a cast in which the principals must be able to sing in duet or solo parts as well as act up to the required mark to put clever and snappy repartee across before an audience closely approximating 1,000 persons.

"I knew before I arrived that I was coming to a small place," said Miss Hester Anne McColgin, director, in the intermission before the final act, "but when I got here and saw the hardly more than a dozen houses in this little community, I didn't see how in the world I was ever to put on my show. After the first two rehearsals, however, I was assured that Sunbury had all the talent I could ask for and we have enjoyed the rehearsals as much as I hope the audience has enjoyed our show."

The operetta presents the story of Rosa Perkins, a young farm girl who steps fortuitously into the scene of a movie rehearsal and wins opportunity to become a star at Hollywood. She answers the call to fame and fortune, leaving forlorn and lonely the bashful swain to whom she was betrothed.

Others from Elizabeth City in last night's audience included Harry G. Kramer, vice president and cashier of the Savings Bank & Trust Company; M. G. Morrisette, of the Morrisette Furniture Company; Bill C. Sawyer, of Weeks & Sawyer, and Herbert Peole of The Daily Advance.

Chorus boys were: Willis Bidlock, Ralph Copeland, Clyde Moore, Wilbur Ward, Roy Rountree, Lorry Byrum, Edward Hoffer, and Owen Speight. Adding no little to the effectiveness of the presentation of the operetta were the accompaniments of Mrs. W. O. Crump, pianist.

"Rose Time" is to be presented in Elizabeth City under the auspices of the D. H. Hill Chapter, U. D. C., on October 2, and members of the Elizabeth City cast were among those from Elizabeth City present to see the performance here last night.

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## SPEEDY TRIALS FOR THE ASHEVILLE MOB

Asheville, Sept. 23.—Speedy trials will be given the alleged leaders of the mob that stormed Buncombe County jail Saturday night in an effort to obtain Alvin Karpis, negro, charged with criminal attack. Solicitor Swain announced today.

## COTTON BREAKS AFTER REPORT MADE PUBLIC

New York, Sept. 23.—A perpendicular break of \$6 to \$7 a bale in cotton followed the Government report today.

## VIRGINIAN RAILWAY TO USE ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES

Roanoke, Va., Sept. 23.—The Virginia Railway will begin operation of electric locomotives over its heavy grades this week. They are the largest electric locomotives in the world.

## TO USE FERRY WASTE OF TIME

Mr. Scattergood Finds Way by Gatesville and Sunbury Is Better

To use the Edenton ferry in going from Elizabeth City to Tarboro or Rocky Mount is a waste of time, money and gas, according to Rev. F. H. Scattergood, who has demonstrated his contention to his own thorough satisfaction.

A number of a motor party driving from here to Loggotts, beyond Tarboro, Tuesday by way of the Edenton ferry and Windsor, Mr. Scattergood prevailed upon the driver to return by way of Winton, Gatesville and Sunbury.

"The return trip was 25 miles longer," says Mr. Scattergood, "but, owing to better roads, was accomplished on less gas, less time, and a saving of the ferry fare besides."

Cam W. Melick, Charles Camden Blades, Oden L. Hughes and Rev. Frank H. Scattergood attended the conference of the men constituting the men's clubs of the Presbyterian Churches of the Albemarle Presbytery Tuesday at the Leggett and Mary Hart Chapel, Winton, North Carolina. Arrangements were made at this conference for the coming of the president of the men's club, William O. Warren, of Greensboro, to attend the meeting of the men of Cam W. Melick, of Greensboro, at the Church within the next ten days.

Cam W. Melick was elected one of the vice presidents of the Association of Clubs of the Albemarle Presbytery.

## North River Line Plaintiff In Suit

Trial of a suit by the North River Line against T. C. Mann was begun in Superior Court last Wednesday morning. Preliminaries were finished before the noon adjournment, and the taking of testimony began at the opening of the afternoon session.

An action by Herman and H. D. Newbern against the North River Line, asking \$1,833.50 for alleged failure to deliver 193 barrels of potatoes, went to the jury late in the morning. No verdict had been reached, however, by the noon recess.

Hearing of arguments in the suit of the Newberns was begun Tuesday afternoon and continued Wednesday morning, with prospects that the case would reach the jury by noon.

The following actions were dismissed, the court ordering that the plaintiffs pay the costs in each instance: Catherine W. Brown, administrator of the estate of the late Cleon W. Brown, colored, vs the Albemarle Bank.

Frederick M. Smith vs. Eastern Peanut Co.

Ruth Carle, in an action for divorce from Conrad Carle, and B. C. Case in a similar action against Florence S. Case.

John and Maggie Wood, John, Mary, Lula, and Claud Spellman, Jesse, Arthur, John and Aletha Hughes and Ella Rountree against J. L. Perry, O. L. Bundy, Della, Julia and Henry Wood. No complaint, or other pleadings had been filed in the last named case.

## RIFFIAN CHIEF OFFERS REWARD FOR AMERICANS

ONEZAN, French Morocco, Sept. 23.—Abd El Krim, Rifian chief, is reported to have offered rewards totalling \$5,000 for every member of the flying squadron composed of American volunteers brought to him dead or alive.

## DIFFICULT TASK FACES SPONSORS OF CELEBRATION

Funds Collected for Acorn Hill Road Event Fall \$150 to \$200 Short of Bills Payable

## PUBLIC ASKED TO AID

Donations from Business Firms and Citizens Generally Requested by General Committee

The general committee in charge of the Acorn Hill road celebration which was staged in successful fashion here last Thursday now finds itself confronted with a difficult task—that of raising \$150 to \$200 to meet the difference between the amount collected and the aggregate of bills in hand or expected.

The committee met Tuesday night for a survey of the situation, and after some discussion it was decided to place the matter before the public at large just as it stands. The exact amount of the shortage cannot be determined yet, through the fact that a number of bills still have not been presented, but it is known that the shortage will exceed \$100.

All persons holding bills against the celebration have been requested to have them O.K.'d by the committee member authorizing the purchase, and present them this week, not later than Saturday.

E. R. Little, finance chairman, Mr. Little may be reached at the Carolina Banking & Trust Company. He points out that it is essential to have all the bills in hand at once, so that the committee may finish their labor within a reasonable time.

A real test of the generosity and public spiritedness of Elizabeth City folks may result from this latest appeal for funds. The celebration is past and gone. The money is spent. Those who give now, it is pointed out, give without the urge of anticipation of a gala event just ahead.

In the hurry of soliciting funds for the celebration, many business firms were overlooked entirely. Others were visited by committee men, but the executives were out at the time, and there was no second solicitation. The general public was not solicited at all. In consequence, members of the committee explain that probably hundreds who would have given gladly actually contributed nothing.

There is a strong probability that no committee will go out to solicit the funds needed to meet the deficit. A strong appeal is issued to every one who has not contributed, asking that all leave their contributions with Mr. Little. He offers assurance that all will be given due credit through the newspapers later.

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## ROUTE THIRTY TO CELEBRATE

P. H. Williams Will Preside at Washington on September 24th

Washington, N. C., Sept. 23.—Preparations are being made by the local officers of Route 30 South Atlantic Coastal Highway Association for the big highway meeting here on September 24. Frank C. Kugler, Vice-President of the Association and ex-Mayor Sterling county chairman are both on the job and have arrangements made for giving the visitors a good time.

After the meeting a big barbecue dinner will be served at the Country Club to the visitors and members. Should the weather be unfavorable the dinner will be served in the armory on East Main street.

Prominent speakers are expected to be present and delegations from all places along the route from Norfolk to Wilmington are expected.

All interested in this tourist route and what it means to Washington and Beaufort county are invited to attend this meeting.

Senator P. H. Williams of Elizabeth City, State President of Route 30 Association, will preside.

## HAS MORE AUTOS

Atlanta, Sept. 23.—Motor registration in Georgia for 1925 now has reached 295,000 cars and 37,000 trucks, averaging 19 a day compared with 13 last year.

## CAROLINA MOTOR CLUB OFFICIAL IS VISITING SECTION

J. Vear Mann, Editor of Carolina Motorist, Gathering Historical and Other Data on Region

## TO WRITE ARTICLES

Will Tell World About Northeastern Carolina in Early Special Edition of American Motorist

Something of the widely diversified and valuable services that the Carolina Motor Club renders its thousands of members in North Carolina is told by J. Vear Mann, editor of the Carolina Motorist, official publication of the club. Mr. Mann also is assistant manager of the organization, and is in charge of the sales and publicity departments. He arrived in Elizabeth City Wednesday morning for a two-day stay, the course of which he will gather material for several magazine articles.

Mr. Mann's chief mission is to obtain historical and other data for an article to appear in an early issue of the American Motorist to be devoted to North Carolina. This magazine, which has a large National circulation, recently has published similar special issues on Pennsylvania and other states, and these have attracted such widespread interest that the idea is being carried on indefinitely with a view perhaps to cover eventually the entire United States.

The accident prevention department recently organized by the club and directed by C. T. Matthews, former president of the North Carolina Parent-Teachers' Association, is winning wide popular favor, according to Mr. Mann, and has been productive of highly worth while results despite the short time it has been in operation.

Mr. Matthews is going from city to city, organizing automobile patrols to handle traffic in congested centers and in school zones. He recently has completed such a campaign in Durham, and expects to cover the entire State in this fashion in the next two years.

Hope to Reduce Toll Boys in the State, and up are eligible to membership in the patrols, provided their scholastic standing is high enough. The leaders in the movement are enthusiastic over its prospect of reducing measurably the toll of life and property resulting from automobile accidents.

The club also has organized a full time legal department with two lawyers employed on a yearly basis to handle a variety of cases for members, and a number of part time attorneys in various parts of the State. This legal department handles such matters as unjust fines imposed upon motorists, the squelching of speed traps, and the like. It has put out business right roadside signs in the last two months, Mr. Mann says, adding that one of these was collecting about \$150 a day in illegal fines.

Dues of the Carolina Motor Club are \$10 a year. Besides assistance in obtaining redress from unjust fines, the motorist member is supplied with maps and information as to best available routes for any trip he plans to take. The club is affiliated with the American Automobile Association and with a number of state organizations of its own kind, as, for instance, the Tidewater Automobile Association, in Virginia.

A valuable service One of the most valuable services rendered by the club, through its 512 affiliated garages in North Carolina and thousands of others throughout the country, is that if a motorist breaks down on the road within ten miles of one of these garages, his car is towed in free of charge. Mr. Mann says it is almost impossible to get more than ten miles from such a garage, and this service is virtually a Nation wide in its scope.

In the three years since its organization, the Carolina Motor Club has distributed more than 120,000 maps and has assisted more than 100,000 motorists on journeys which have taken some as far south as Mexico City, and many into Canada. Yesterday, by the way, was the fourth anniversary of the club's organization.

In Elizabeth City, the club's headquarters are at the Auto & Gas Engine Works, and application for membership should be filed there. Mr. Mann states that it is preferable for an applicant to obtain the endorsement of some one already a member, explaining that this will obviate delay in acting upon his application.

Mr. Mann promises that the Carolina Motorist will carry a number of interesting articles on the Northeastern part of the State in early issues. Before leaving this city, he plans to visit a number of points of historic interest in this section. He was in conference with Secretary Job, of the Chamber of Commerce, with reference to this Wednesday morning.

He asks also that any one having historical data kindly get in touch with him through the Chamber of Commerce.