

ASYLUM INMATES ESCAPE AND ARE SAFELY HOUSED

Temporary Provision Made For Them After Almost Miraculous Rescue From Disaster Saturday

HOLDING CONFERENCE

Meeting of Council of State Held Today to Discuss Replacing of the Burned Building

Raleigh, April 12.—The miraculous escape of 400 male inmates of the State Hospital for the Insane while the wing in which they were housed burned down about their heads vied with the problem of what will be done with the patients thus burned out of the only home they are mentally fit to occupy as the principal topics of conversation in Raleigh yesterday.

The flames, balked in their effort to consume the entire structure by fire-walls and super-human work on the part of the fire-fighters had burned sullenly all night long on the ruins of the wrecked west wing until finally quenched by the rain of early this morning.

A meeting of the council of state is expected to be held this morning, for conference with Dr. Albert Anderson, superintendent of the institution, as to the best move to make.

Under a recent act of the Legislature, the council of state has the power to borrow money for permanent improvements when disasters such as this make rebuilding necessary.

Undoubtedly, this is the authority that will be invoked in the emergency. The principal question is the type and size of building to be erected to replace the destroyed section.

With the possibilities of wholesale slaughter of helpless humans still lingering like a nightmare in his mind, Dr. Anderson is expected to recommend a fireproof building. In fact, he has said as much.

Whether or not the new building will be put up as a wing of the structure which still remains standing or as an entirely separate building, is a question which only the council of state will be able to answer.

The danger of fire in the old building, which was erected in 1855, was well known and several appeals have been made to the Legislature for an appropriation with which to install a sprinkler system.

At the last session, Stacy Wade, Commissioner of Insanity, stated that he had made arrangements for spreading the \$150,000 cost over five years, by far the best proposition made up to that time, but the plan was refused.

Modern Generation Too Much For Her, Witness Says

"You know, judge, I can't tell much about this young race nowadays."

The foregoing remark by an aged colored woman caused a ripple of merriment in recorder's court Monday morning. She was on the stand as a witness against her grandson, LeRoy Morris, who was charged with non-support of his wife.

It was in evidence that the couple lived in a house belonging to the older woman, and that Morris had only paid her one dollar rent in the past year.

Judge P. G. Sawyer concurred warmly in the elderly witness' generalization about the younger generation, and placed Morris under a suspended judgment conditional upon payment of the costs and supporting the complaining spouse in a condition compatible with his status in life.

J. T. Thompson, watchman at the Elizabeth City Hosier Company's plant for some 12 years, was held for Superior Court on a charge of having stolen hose valued at more than \$20.

He admitted that he had taken hose from the mill and had sold them, but maintained that he had paid G. F. Seyffert, manager of the plant, for them. Mr. Seyffert testified that he had not.

Accused jointly with Thompson was John Moore, colored, the charge against him being specifically that he had received stolen goods. The case against Moore was nolle prossed with leave. He testified that he had bought hose regularly from Thompson over a long period, and had retailed them among his colored acquaintances.

Van de Carr Scott, colored, accused of an assault upon an elderly colored woman who had taken care of him for a number of years, was fined \$5 and costs. The case was in effect that in a Sabbath argument he had cut the woman slightly on the finger.

Henry Adams, also colored, charged with being drunk, and with possession of liquor, was fined \$5 and costs on the first charge, and \$20 and costs on the last. It was in evidence that police arrested him Sunday, and found on his person a half gallon fruit jar of liquor, not quite half full.

Adams, they said, was rather more than half full.

WOMEN WORKING FOR ENFORCEMENT LAW

Washington, April 12.—Interrupting the presentation of the case of the wife of a former congressman from Vicksburg, Tennessee and other women's organizations passed before the Senate prohibition committee today urging enforcement of the Volstead Act and opposing any modification of the National Dry Law.

MRS. PRITCHARD DEAD
Mrs. Nancy Pritchard, wife of Martin Pritchard, Sr., of the Forks community, near this city, died at her home Sunday morning at 8 o'clock after an illness of several years. She was a daughter of the late Isaac and Mrs. Lovie Clinton, of Camden County, and had spent her entire life in Camden and Pasquotank counties. She was 50 years old.

W. H. JENNINGS DIES; LONG ILL

Had Been Prominent in Business and Religious Life Many Years Here

William Harvey Jennings, Sr., for many years assistant cashier of the Savings Bank & Trust Company, of this city, and widely known and popular because of his efficiency, courtesy and kindness, died yesterday afternoon at 5:15 o'clock at his home on North Road street after an illness of about six months. He was 56 years old.

Funeral services will be conducted at Blackwell Memorial Baptist Church this afternoon at 4 o'clock by the pastor, Dr. James H. Thayer, assisted by Dr. S. H. Templeman, pastor of the First Baptist Church. Burial will be in Hollywood Cemetery.

Mr. Jennings was a native and lifelong resident of Pasquotank County, having been born in the Bera community. He was a son of the late Cader and Mrs. Elizabeth Jennings, and was born August 1, 1869. He was educated in the public schools of the County, and in Atlantic Collegiate Institute here, later taking a business course in Eastman Business College, Poughkeepsie, New York.

Afterwards he taught school for several years in Camden and Pasquotank counties.

Moving to Elizabeth City about 30 years ago, Mr. Jennings served for a short time as assistant postmaster, and was elected clerk of Superior Court in 1898, serving until 1910, when he became cashier of the Mercantile Bank. Upon the merger of that bank with the Savings Bank & Trust Company, he went to the latter institution as assistant cashier, serving in that capacity until his death.

Mr. Jennings joined Blackwell Memorial Church shortly after it was founded, and was elected secretary of the Sunday school, which position he held also the remainder of his life. He also had been secretary of the Board of Graded School Trustees for many years.

He was a member of Archway Lodge 14, I. O. O. F. Besides his position in the bank, he was connected with various other business enterprises here.

Mr. Jennings was twice married, his first wife being Miss Lula Whitehurst, of Pasquotank County, to whom he was wedded May 20, 1897. He is survived by one son of this marriage, William Harney Jennings, Jr., Mrs. Jennings died January 5, 1910, and Mr. Jennings married Miss Lela Windsor, of Milford, Delaware, April 30, 1913. She survives him.

He is survived also by three sisters, Miss Elinda Jennings, of this city, and by Mrs. Paul Brothers and Mrs. G. S. Davis, both living on Route 2, in Pasquotank County, and by one brother, M. P. Jennings, of this city, County superintendent of schools.

High tribute to the integrity and ability of Mr. Jennings was paid by State Senator P. H. Williams, president of the Savings Bank & Trust Company. "For 25 or 30 years, I was closely associated with him," Mr. Williams said. "He was a man of the most solid integrity, and of strong character. Besides, he was a pleasant and genial companion. He was accurate in every detail and prompt in the performance of every duty—a man who could be trusted in every relationship of life."

"In the death of Mr. Jennings' death the city and State, too, are losing a citizen who was alive to the best interests of both, and who dedicated his efforts to the cause of progress."

Tommie Mann Still Holding Own At Hospital Here

"Tommie Mann continues to hold his own," declared Dr. John Saliba, of the staff of the hospital here, Monday in commenting upon the condition of the young automobile mechanic who was shot down near Bera Church a week ago, and who has been under treatment at the hospital since.

The injured man developed septic pneumonia Friday as a result of a bullet wound in the left lung, and his condition has been regarded as critical since that time. Dr. Saliba stated, however, that there is hope for his recovery through the circumstance that he apparently is not losing ground, since the clotted blood which caused the pneumonia probably is being absorbed slowly. This process of absorption likely will require several months at best, the surgeon added.

The bullet which pierced Mann's left lung also passed through the upper part of his stomach, according to the physicians attending him. This latter wound, however, is not regarded as particularly serious, Dr. Zenas Fearing, who also is on the case, stated Sunday night, explaining that the stomach was empty at the time Mann was shot, and therefore peritonitis did not set in from the emptying of its contents into the abdomen, which probably would have occurred had the stomach been full.

Meanwhile the shooting remains as much of a mystery as ever. Mann has told only that he was shot by an unidentified assailant who fired from the darkness as he was in the act of removing a tire from his car.

FEDERAL COURT TERM IS BEGUN

Judge Meekins Reminds Grand Jury of Duty to Enforce Prohibition

Reminding those present that the United States had the only government of its kind in the world, entrenched firmly in principles of liberty and justice, Federal Judge I. M. Meekins urged that rich and poor be treated alike in his charge to the grand jury at the opening of Federal Court here Monday morning.

Judge Meekins reminded the grand jury that the prohibition law was a part of the Constitution, and that it should be enforced as such, regardless of any personal leanings on the part of individual jurors.

With a considerably smaller docket than usual, it appeared at the noon recess of court that all the cases would be cleared up during the day. All are relatively unimportant, and largely concern alleged violations of the Volstead Act.

Judge Meekins dismissed actions against several defendants charged with violation of the quarantine laws and the migratory game bird act. In the former cases, it appeared that the defendants involved owned property on both sides of the North Carolina-Virginia line, and that they had merely moved cattle across the line without complying with Federal regulations. It was brought out that the cattle involved had been inspected, and declared free from infection.

In dismissing the offenders charged with infraction of the game bird laws, Judge Meekins warned them sharply that henceforth they must abide by these laws, since violation might embroil the United States with other nations signatory with this country in game bird treaties.

ADMITS SHORTAGE THEN TAKES LIFE

Ludlow, Ky., April 12.—Thomas B. Baily, cashier of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank of this city, who admitted that he was between \$20,000 and \$40,000 short in his accounts, shot and killed himself in the basement of the bank today. Baily was alone in the bank at the time. Examination of the books of the bank disclosed a shortage of \$65,000 in the account of Baily, it was announced last night. The bank closed its doors Saturday when the cashier admitted the shortage.

HALLETT SPENCER DEAD
Hallett Spencer, aged 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Spencer, 303 Pennsylvania avenue, died suddenly this morning at the Caswell Training School, at Kinston, according to a telegram received by his parents. He had been in the school for about seven years.

Hotel Salesmen Named For Approaching Drive

Suggested Design for New Hostelry, Embodying Handsome Five-Story Structure Fronting on McCormine Street, Placed on Display

Encouraging progress toward formation of the general organization to finance this city's proposed new hotel was reported Monday. Also, a tentative design for the hotel, as drawn by W. L. Stoddard, of New York, was placed on display in the window of the Apothecary Shop. The picture shows an imposing five-story structure, with two wings fronting on McCormine street and a two-story arcade to Main street. The arcade is surmounted by an attractive roof garden.

Mr. Stoddard is said to be one of the leading designers of hotels in the country today. The drawing which he has submitted, it was explained, has not been acted upon by the committee, and is intended in the nature of a suggestion as to the type of hotel which probably will be built here.

Cotter Names Aids
R. M. Cotter, manager of Group 10, was the first of the group managers to sign up and report to hotel sales headquarters the completion of his sales group. The following comprise this organization: R. M. Cotter, Dr. Howard Combs, W. H. Gaither, W. H. Weatherly, Jr., Dr. J. W. Sells, L. B. Perry, Brad Sanders, Joseph B. Pinner, C. D. Pappendick, and C. E. Thompson.

Several of the other managers are reported to have their groups nearly completed, and it is expected that by Tuesday night all 12 will be fully signed up and completed. This will make a hotel sales organization of 120 men.

The executive committee is making decided headway in the completion of work prior to the opening of the actual campaign for sale of the hotel stock, hoping to finish so as to open the campaign during the coming week. The executive committee has been given a limited number of the large prospects and is not permitted to take subscriptions for less than ten shares.

In reporting on the work this morning, executive committee members stated that they were being given a very favorable reception by the business men of the city.

A Good Investment
"We are just beginning to realize the investment features of this hotel stock," said T. P. Nash, of the executive committee. "Many of our people have been interested and willing to subscribe strictly from a community standpoint, but investigation shows that hotel stocks are among the best paying investments offered to the public. Information comes to us almost daily, which indicates the value of hotel stock as an investment."

"This information shows that it is not uncommon, and is rather the rule, that hotels are paying dividends on the preferred stock, and in addition, are paying from 5 to 25 per cent dividend on the common stock."

"Hotels in other cities pay these dividends and yet they are not as well situated from a hotel standpoint as a hotel would be in Elizabeth City. In the first place, we do not have a first class hotel here and even considering the hotel room situation, we have, we find less than 50 per cent of the number of rooms usually obtaining in a city of this size. Patronage is available for this hotel and will be immeasurably increased with the opening and paving of our coastal and other highways."

"Elizabeth City is on the eve of growth and development and now is the time for every citizen to express his faith in the city and do everything possible to promote its development. The next few days will determine whether or not the residents of this city stand for progress and development. Those who do so will indicate that spirit by making a substantial subscription for stock in the new hotel."

F. W. Sells reported on a visit to the new hotel at Suffolk, and pointed out the advantage of that institution to the community. Mr. Sells stated that he had been advised by the management that in a few days' stay of one of the visiting ball teams, approximately \$1,500 for room rents and food had been left with the hotel. One merchant reported that he had sold two suits to members of the visiting ball team and other merchants likewise reported various purchases.

"This is just a sample of the new business which any hotel brings to the city," said Mr. Sells. "It means actual dollars to the merchants and new money is brought in from the outside. Until we get this new business from the outside, we are merely swapping dollars. Elizabeth City will grow and prosper in accordance with the amount of money which we get here from other sources."

FRED F. COHOON DIES SUDDENLY

Former Representative and Sheriff Succumbs to Heart Attack

F. F. Cohoon, Representative of Pasquotank County in the North Carolina General Assembly of 1923 and sheriff of the County in the year the present courthouse was built and for six years thereafter, died at the age of 74 at his home, corner of Road and Church streets, Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, after an illness of about 10 days.

The funeral will be conducted at the home Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock and interment will be made in Hollywood Cemetery. Officiating here will be Dr. S. H. Templeman and Rev. George F. Hill. From early childhood, Mr. Cohoon had been a member of the First Baptist Church and he was for a number of years a member of its board of deacons. Also he was one of the leading spirits and one of the largest contributors when the erection of the present church building, which has served the congregation for nearly 30 years, was undertaken.

From Complications
The immediate cause of Mr. Cohoon's death was a heart attack, which, coming after he had withstood a severe attack of acute indigestion following influenza, was more than weakened frame and will, at his age, could withstand.

Besides his widow, who bore the funeral expenses, Mr. Cohoon was survived by his wife, Mrs. Nancy Creeley, daughter of the late Col. R. B. Creeley, editor of the Elizabeth City Economist, he is survived by two sons, Walter L. Cohoon, counsel to the State Highway Commission in Cameron Morrison's administration, and Anson E. Cohoon, who gave up a position as superintendent of the National Forests in Washington and Oregon to come back home and look after farming interests here, largely on account of his father's failing health, some years ago. There is also a surviving sister, Mrs. C. R. Jones of Baltimore.

Frederick Franklin Cohoon was born in Tyrrell County on April 18, 1851, and would have been 75 years old had he lived out the present month. His father moved to Pasquotank just prior to the sixties, and up to the time of his death F. F. Cohoon had vivid memories of the stirring campaign of 1860 in Elizabeth City when a Pasquotank man was running for Governor and when Abraham Lincoln was elected President.

It was to his days as sheriff of Pasquotank County, however, that F. F. Cohoon looked back with keenest pleasure, for it was during his term of office that the credit of the County was re-established on a firm basis, after the excesses and extravagances of reconstruction days, and the County's order, which had been suffering at a heavy discount, became as good as cash.

Again in Politics
Re-entering politics in 1922, after more than 30 years in private life, F. F. Cohoon was elected Representative of the County and entered again upon public life with the dream of doing for agriculture in Pasquotank some thing of what as a young man he had done for his County's credit. To that end he introduced a bill in the 1923 session of the General Assembly which he believed would rehabilitate the trucking industry in Pasquotank and make a name that would be worth real money to Pasquotank products wherever they were marketed. The measure was defeated, however, and the disappointment at its failure to pass was a bitter memory to the last for the man to whom it represented the fruit of 30 years of thought and brooding over farmers' problems.

Another dream of F. F. Cohoon's was to see Pasquotank a great dairying County. He had visited the fine dairies in the United States and frequently declared that no section anywhere could compare with Pasquotank in natural advantages as a dairy center. Dairy cattle and dairy farmers only were lacking, he declared. And all his later years he had given over to proving his faith by his works, working with his son, A. E. Cohoon, on the 75-acre farm near the city to establish a modern dairy. On his farm now is what is probably the finest dairy herd to be found in this section, housed in a Dutch dairy barn that will be the last word in way of dairy equipment when it is completed. That he should not have lived to see it completed is but another of this life's fatalities.

Married Three Times
F. F. Cohoon was thrice married; first, to Miss Lydia Brothers, sister of J. Walter Brothers of this County; second, to Miss Selma Snyder, sister-in-law of J. D. Fulmer of Camden County, and last to Miss Nancy Creeley, on December 2, 1908. The surviving sons were born of the first marriage.

At the time of his marriage to Col. Creeley's daughter, shortly after her father's death, Mr. Cohoon was publisher of the Tar Heel, successor of Colonel Creeley's newspaper. Among his recollections of his connection with newspaper work in Elizabeth City, Mr. Cohoon recalled with keenest pleasure his paper's fight against

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GOOD SPORTS AS WELL AS ACTORS IN PLAYMAKERS

Arrive in Elizabeth City Late on Account of Accident But Give Delightful Performance

COULD BE HEARD
Truly Professional in Best Sense of Word While Retaining Spirit of College Players

Two years ago, on February 17, 1924, to be exact, the Carolina Playmakers in their first appearance here took Elizabeth City by storm in their presentation of their own Carolina folk-play, Saturday night Elizabeth City again capitulated to the Playmakers in their presentation of a Broadway success.

Besides staging their own productions, the Carolina Playmakers have always presented at Chapel Hill each season plays by other playwrights representing different types of drama. The present tour, however, marks the first time that such production has been presented by the Playmakers outside of their own theater at Chapel Hill. So far as Elizabeth City is concerned, the success Saturday night was more remarkable in two respects, than that of two years ago.

In the first place, delayed by a motor accident in getting to the Edenton ferry, the Playmakers did not arrive in Elizabeth City until the time set for their performance to begin, and had to go on the stage, without opportunity to snatch a bite of supper, after a hectic hour of preparation in getting the stage set for the play. In the second place, the audience, well below the mark for every night, because it was Saturday night and many of those who on any other night would have attended were busy down town, had been kept waiting for more than an hour and perhaps had dwindled somewhat when the curtain rose on the first act.

Undimmed by these untoward circumstances, the Playmakers showed themselves good sports as well as delightful actors and put on their show, Frank Craven's "The First Year," in a fashion that made folks out in the audience forget themselves and their surroundings and all sense of being at a play in their interest in what had come to seem a bit of real life.

A success like that, under the circumstances, was quite a remarkable in way of evidence of the real ability of the Carolina Playmakers as it was in way of tribute to their fine courage; particularly when staged in an auditorium the acoustics of which have been the despair of every body, amateur or professional, who had ever tried to speak or sing or act therein. Only on Thursday night the local high school dramatic clubs gave a good play there and did it well. But lots of the folks couldn't hear them. And such has been the case on every occasion hitherto. There must be something wrong, professional, in the best sense of the word, about the Playmakers, for Saturday night one could hear every syllable, even to a stage whisper by Grace Livingston at a crucial moment in the happenings at "training quarters" for the serio-comic trials of the first year of married life.

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