

## SURRETT MYSTERY IS STILL UNSOLVED

Man Missing Since August 27—Diligent Search Has Been Made

\$200 REWARD OFFERED FOR ANY INFORMATION

River Dynamited and Dragged—Disappearance Given Publicity

No trace of Tom Surret has been found since his sudden disappearance on Monday evening, August 27, although the French Broad river has been dynamited for miles, and big forces of men have dragged the river with wire, seines and all other means of reclaiming bodies supposed to be at the river's bottom. In addition, a reward of \$200 has been offered, news of the disappearance broadcast, many newspapers giving prominence to the disappearance, and seemingly every effort at locating the man, either dead or alive, have all but been exhausted.

Sheriff B. J. Sitton, Rural Police-man Eck Sims, and hosts of friends and relatives have worked day and night in an effort to solve the mystery and locate the body, if dead, or to discover his hiding place, if living. Wednesday being the ninth day since his disappearance, extreme caution was used by the searchers, their action based upon the old theory that a drowned body will come to the surface on the ninth day.

Surret's letters to Nathan Norton, brother-in-law, and to Mrs. Surret, in which the man said he would pay all the balance of his debts from the high bridge at Penrose led his relatives to the belief that he had, indeed, committed suicide by drowning. Copies of the letters appear in an adjoining column.

Uncertainty of Surret's fate, the constant thought that the body was in French Broad river, has caused the Surret family untold agony and grief. Hoping against hope that he would be found some place, wandering about, yet alive, has prevented those close to the missing man from resigning themselves to his death.

Persistent efforts are still being made to solve the mystery.

## BANKERS TO MEET HERE SATURDAY, 15

Group Ten, of the North Carolina Bankers' association, will hold a meeting in Brevard on September 15, the sessions to be held at the Franklin hotel. Russell C. Davis, of Asheville, is chairman of Group Ten, and will preside at the meetings. J. H. Kirkpatrick, of Canton, is vice-chairman, and Robert E. Currence, of Asheville, is secretary-treasurer.

Thos. H. Shipman, president of the Brevard Banking company, and former president of the North Carolina Bankers' association, invited the bankers to hold the meeting in Brevard, and he, with other bank officials of Brevard, will be in charge of arrangements. A banquet on Saturday evening of convention date will be a feature of the meeting.

## ATTENTION, CLUB MEMBERS, NOTICE!

Kiwanians, take notice! There will be no meeting of the club on Thursday, this week. The club is going to Kenilworth Inn, Asheville, to attend a division meeting Friday evening at 7 o'clock. It is necessary that all those who intend going to the Asheville meeting give notice of such intention not later than noon today (Thursday.)

Rush Whitmire and James F. Barrett have been named as a committee to ascertain the number of Brevard Kiwanians who will attend the Asheville meeting.

All who are going are urged to notify this committee. Also it is requested of Kiwanians who have automobiles to inform the committee how many members each one can take.

## COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR SESSION

County commissioners meeting Tuesday, instead of Monday, transacted but little business outside that of routine nature. Much of the time was taken up in hearing those who were seeking present relief. It has been suggested that the commissioners designate one member of the board to hear the pleas of those who desire financial aid from the county, and that such hearings be on some day other than regular meeting day, so the commissioners can have the one day in the month in which to attend to the business of the county. About half of the day is taken up, each month, in hearing these cases, it is said, and there is little time left for the board to devote to the constructive business of the county. From information of reliable nature, it is expected that the board will take action on this matter at the next meeting in October.

## SURRETT LETTERS INDICATE SUICIDE

Following are copies of letters said to have been written by Tom Surret, missing farmer of the Penrose section, to Nathan Norton and to Mrs. Surret:

"Dear Nathan: Please help Annie, Evelyn and Norton close out my cattle, horses, hogs, tools and crop. Make all out of this you can, for they need it all, and be good to them, as they may need your help, and collect what is coming to me.

(Then follows a list of accounts which he claimed were due him by various men.)

"You can find what I owe. Get all you can for Annie and my sweet children. I will pay the balance tonight at the high bridge at Penrose. I have had to give up my little home. Can't see Annie and children put out and will get out of my trouble. Kiss my little family good-bye for me and Mother Norton and family. Do the best you can with what I've told you. Mr. Mitchell will advise you. Give Norton my watch. Lewis Hamlin knows what I've paid on my land. Collect for my work. Don't spend much to put me away. Good bye. "Tom."

The note to Mrs. Surret is almost illegible, bearing every mark of having been written while the writer was suffering great mental anguish. As best the note can be deciphered, it reads something like this:

"Annie, these 2 checks . . . took my money. Due bills collect, look in a yellow back time book and find due bill on Erwin \$211.00. "Good by to my Evelyn, Norton and Annie. Nathan letter will tell what become of me. "Tom."

## MISS SPRINKLE TO BEGIN NEW DUTIES

Home Agent Comes Highly Recommended—Welcome For Her

Miss Juanita Sprinkle arrived in Brevard last week and has assumed her new duties as home demonstrator of Transylvania county. She has been going over the county this week, getting acquainted with the people and outlining her work for the coming year. Miss Ada Walker, former home demonstrator of this county, has been lending Miss Sprinkle valuable assistance a day or two this week, in going around with her to the different schools and in other ways acquainting the new demonstrator with the county.

Many people over the county have been heard to express delight that this important work is to be resumed, and are appreciative of the fact that their children will again be allowed the privileges afforded by the carrying on of this work.

Miss Sprinkle comes to Transylvania highly recommended, having had considerable experience in home demonstration work in other counties of the state, and it is safe to predict that a most successful year will be forthcoming in this field.

## ANTI-SMITH GROUP TO ORGANIZE HERE

It has been learned that an Anti-Smith Democratic club is being organized in Transylvania county, and the first meeting of the new organization is to be held in the county court house on Saturday night, September 15. At least one Transylvania county democrat, it is known, has been in conference with State Chairman Frank R. McNinch, in Charlotte, and since that time the work of organizing the anti-Smith democrats has been going on quietly.

The state organization, headed by F. R. McNinch, Charlotte, is said to be engaged in the task of working against Mr. Smith for president, but supporting the state and county democratic tickets. Those in charge of the local movement state that a well known democratic speaker from a nearby city will be here and address the meeting of democrats opposed to Smith's candidacy.

## MR. HOEY TO SPEAK HERE NEXT TUESDAY

Hon. Clyde Hoey, one of the outstanding democratic campaigners in the state, will speak in Brevard, at the county court house, Tuesday night, September 11, at 8 o'clock, according to announcement made in the advertising columns of The Brevard News of this issue. Mr. Hoey lives in Shelby, and is one of the best known men in the state, being an active worker in the Methodist church of his native city. He is out and out for Governor Al Smith for president, and his coming here is certain to draw a large crowd of his followers to the meeting. The advertisement states that an special invitation is extended to the ladies to attend the meeting and hear Mr. Hoey.

## 3,000 CHILDREN IN COUNTY SCHOOLS

One Hundred Teachers Begin Year's Work in County Monday

TWENTY-EIGHT SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT COUNTY

Work Started on First Day With Clock-Like Precision

All of the 28 schools in Transylvania county started on Monday for the 1928 fall session, with a total enrollment in all the schools of 3,000 children and a faculty of 100 teachers.

Never before have the schools started with such clock-like precision and with as little confusion as was evidenced this year, according to a statement made by County Superintendent T. C. Henderson. This splendid state of affairs is accounted for by the fact that all necessary arrangements for opening day were previously made and everything properly organized and ready for work by the heads of the various schools in the county.

Particular praise has been expressed by many of the students and patrons of the city schools over the efficient manner in which Supt. J. R. Jones managed the opening of the two Brevard schools over which he has general supervision. Many statements were heard to the effect that the first day of school seemed very similar to any other day in the school year, since the classes started off on regular schedule and everything progressed according to systematic order.

Reports coming from the other schools in the county are also to the effect that a splendid opening was manifest, and present indications point to a most successful school year.

## CROP CONDITIONS GOOD, SAYS AGENT

Gaston's Report to County Commissioners Shows Much Activity

Crops of the county are in fair condition, and the floods did less damage than was at first thought, according to a report made to the county commissioners by County Agent P. H. Gaston. Following is the agent's report in full: "To the Board of County Commissioners of Transylvania County: "I have visited practically every section of the county this month and find crops in fair condition, considering the extreme wet weather. Potatoes in low land where the water stood over them any length of time is damaged heavily, as for corn it has not been hurt so bad, in general, I would say the crops are fair.

I have spent quite a bit of time on getting vetch started, also in getting ready to start some cream routes. Cream may be shipped out of the county to the Biltmore Dairies and the farmers can get good prices for their butter fat. New York prices; in fact, the Biltmore Dairies have not paid less than 44 cents per pound for butter-fat this year.

"Last year Madison county realized \$85,000.00 for surplus butter-fat and this county can make a start in the same way. I have visited some good livestock farms and am making a desperate effort to get in some good livestock, which is one of the essential needs of this county.

"I am planning to spend some time with the pasture specialist, Mr. J. R. Sams, this week on pastures, which is another essential need. Last month I spent quite a bit of time trying to interest some good farmers in getting in some good livestock and more especially to those interested in dairy cattle to get some good pure bred bulls.

"Respectfully submitted, "P. H. GASTON, "County Agent."

## KEELER TO WRITE FOR LONDON TIMES

Friends who had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Keeler of Atlanta, Ga., during their recent visit to Brevard, will be interested in reading the following account of Mr. Keeler taken from Sunday's Atlanta Journal:

O. B. Keeler, veteran golf writer for The Journal, and known internationally as an authority on the game, has been requested by the London Times to cover by cable for that paper the approaching international match at the Chicago Golf club, August 30-31. Mr. Keeler was suggested to the Times by Mr. Bernard Darwin, the English writer of golf, universally regarded as the world's foremost critic. Mr. Darwin, a grandson of Charles Darwin, the naturalist, is the golf correspondent for the Times, but was unable to make the trip with the British team. The selection of Mr. Keeler among all the golf cities in the United States to handle the story for the greatest of British newspapermen constitutes a singularly emphatic compliment to his ability and reputation.

## WOODMEN CIRCLE SESSIONS CLOSED

Was Great Boost for This Community, Says Many People

FINE PROGRAM GIVEN BY THE DELEGATES

Hoped They Will Come Here in 1929 for the Annual Meeting

They came. They saw. They were seen. They conquered.

It is the Woodmen Circle to which reference is made. A great band of women holding a week's conference at Camp Sapphire last week. They were here from many states in the Union, and they had a good time, and the people of this community had a good time, enjoying to the fullest the many programs, dances and drills given by the visitors.

There was something doing all the time last week and the delegates visited up-town each day, to the delight of the merchants, for they spent much money with local concerns.

On Friday, the Brevard Kiwanis club took lunch with the women at the camp, and it was pronounced the most thoroughly enjoyable meeting ever held by the local club. Wm. E. Breese was toastmaster, and he kept things humming all through the two-hour session. The Kiwanians voted to have the Woodmen Circle hold its annual sessions here for all time to come, and the delegates to the convention expressed themselves as being favorable to the idea. The club gave a rising vote of thanks to Wm. H. Grogan, Jr., for bringing the Woodmen Circle convention to Brevard.

Mr. Grogan, who is district manager for the Woodmen of the World, has been given much praise by the town for his influence in having the meeting held here. The meeting meant much to Brevard, and it is the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce that the meeting will do more to advertise this section and bring people here next season than any other gathering ever held in this county.

Mr. Grogan expresses his gratitude to Mayor Whitmire, the police force, the Kiwanis Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Brevard Municipal Band, The Brevard News, and to all other organizations and individuals who so ably assisted him in entertaining the visitors. Mr. Grogan makes special mention of W. H. Harris, who painted all the welcome signs on the windows in town, and would make no charge for his work, giving it as his offering in entertaining the visitors. Mr. Grogan also gives particular thanks to Wm. E. Breese for his work in entertaining the visitors.

Capt. Bill Fetzer, owner of Camp Sapphire, was given a special vote of thanks by the delegates and by Mr. Grogan.

And while Mr. Grogan is expressing gratitude to those who assisted, the Chamber of Commerce and others express appreciation to Mrs. Grogan for the great part she took in acting as hostess to the visitors. It was a great occasion, one long to be remembered by the people of Brevard.

## MASONIC MEETING MOST INTERESTING

Members of the Executive Committee for the Advancement of Scottish Rite Masonry attended a meeting of Masons held in the Dunn's Rock Masonic hall last Friday evening, and spoke to the members on "Scottish Rite Masonry." The meeting was most enjoyable and instructive. Those attending from Asheville were: W. F. Randolph, H. B. Leavitt, Eric Rawls, Dr. M. F. Hoffman and Robert E. Currence. S. M. Bailey, committee member from Hendersonville, was with the group. The next meeting to be held by the committee will be at Hendersonville in November, and these committee meetings are planned for many sections of Western North Carolina between now and the time set for the reunion in November.

## FISHER REUNION DREW BIG CROWDS

In spite of the rainy and disagreeable weather on the day set for the annual Fisher reunion, held at the Lake Toxaway Baptist church last Saturday, a large crowd was in attendance and one of the most successful and enjoyable events ever held by the Fisher family connections was reported.

Several people from Brevard had expected to be present on this occasion, but due to the bad day it was thought there would be no reunion, and therefore did not attend, much to the expressed regret of many. Several prominent speakers were served a bountiful picnic dinner was served at the noon hour, and an altogether enjoyable and profitable day was spent by the large number of people in attendance, despite the inclement weather. The Fisher reunion is one of the important county events of the year and is always looked forward to with much pleasure by many citizens of the county and elsewhere.

## FIFTY STUDENTS ENTER COLLEGES

Transylvania County Sending Large Number to Various Colleges

32 INSTITUTIONS ARE SELECTED BY GROUP

Will Scatter to Twelve Different States—Fine Men and Women

Fifty young people of Brevard and Transylvania county have left, or will leave within the next ten days, to enter various schools and colleges in different sections of the country for the 1928-29 school term. Included in this number are some of Transylvania's choicest and most promising young boys and girls, and it is a foregone conclusion that the town and county will be well represented in various sections of the country by this splendid group of young people.

The outgoing students will be represented in 32 different states and in 32 different institutions of learning, the states including North Carolina, South Carolina, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Iowa, Florida, Ohio, Tennessee and Louisiana.

The different institutions represented and the students attending them include the following:

- Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N. C.—Mack Grogan, Lloyd Allison, Roberta Bryant and Lorene Payne.
- Meredith College, Raleigh—Emma Hartsell, Helen Sitton.
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill—Edwin Pekins, Edwin English, Tom Whitmire, Donald Jenkins.
- North Carolina College for Women, Greensboro—Edna Mason, Martha Osborne, Pauline Galloway, Mrs. Rebecca Glenn.
- Carolina State, Raleigh—George Bromfield, Harry Sitton, Warren Scruggs.
- Duke University, Durham—Jack Trantham, Frank Osborne.
- Salem College, Winston-Salem—Beulah Mae Zachary.
- Flora McDonald College, Red Springs—Anna and Lilian Jenkins, Louise Kinzey.
- Montreat Normal—Julia Wood.
- Weaver College, Weaverville—William Pruette.
- Kings Business College, Charlotte—Margaret Lyler.
- Oak Ridge Institute, Oak Ridge—Harry Clayton.
- Converse College, Spartanburg, S. C.—Elizabeth Shipman, Nancy Macfie, Dorothy Fetzer.
- Apex High School, Apex, S. C.—Edith Gillespie.
- Citadel, Charleston, S. C.—Edwards Breese.
- Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Va.—Sherrill Bromfield.
- Manch College, Staunton, Va.—Adelaide Silverstein.
- William & Mary College, Richmond, Va.—Julia Wood.
- Brenau College, Gainesville, Ga.—Mildred and Josephine Clayton.
- Library School of Atlanta, Atlanta, Ga.—Margaret Deaver.
- Darlington School, Rome, Ga.—Jimmie Morrow.
- Ward-Belmont, Nashville, Tenn.—Rowena Orr.
- St. Petersburg Junior College, St. Petersburg, Fla.—Roba Kitchen.
- University of Iowa, Iowa City—Harold Bradley.
- Tusculum College, Greeneville, Tenn.—Vernon Fullbright, Thomas Hampton.
- University of Ohio, Columbus.—Dorothy Silverstein.
- Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.—Robert Plummer.
- Yale University, New Haven, Conn.—Randall Everett.
- Old Colony School, Boston, Mass.—Helen Morrow.
- University of Pittsburgh, Pa.—Francis Jenkins.
- University of New Orleans, New Orleans, La.—Edna May Henderson.

Diligent inquiry has been made to ascertain the names of every boy and girl in the town and county who are going off to school this fall, and it may be possible that a few names have been unintentionally overlooked. In such case, The News would appreciate being informed of any student who has left or intends leaving to attend school elsewhere.

## SERMON TO YOUTH GREATLY ENJOYED

A service of unusual interest and impressiveness was held at the Presbyterian church Sunday morning, when the pastor, Rev. V. A. Crawford, preached a sermon on "The Value of an Education to Young People." The service and sermon were especially for the dozen or more young people of that church who will soon be leaving Brevard to enter various schools and colleges in other sections of the country.

Rev. Mr. Crawford, in his forceful address, spoke of the value of an education, which cannot be measured in dollars and cents, stating that an education can be used for evil or for good, depending on the attitude and determination of the individual. The speaker further asserted that in order to attain an education in the truest sense, the real motive and ideal striven for should be in service to others.

## GREAT MEETING OF C. OF C. DIRECTORS

Committees Report on New Industries, Agriculture and Tourist Trade

EVERYBODY JOINING AND PAYING DUES

Treasury in Flourishing Condition, and All Members Enthusiastic

Directors of the Chamber of Commerce held the most important session in its history Tuesday evening. Every member of the board of directors was present, and many interested citizens and members of the commerce body attended the meeting. Enthusiasm was at a high pitch throughout the evening, as committee after committee made glowing reports of the work done.

The Committee on Industries made report of the establishment of a manufacturing plant near the town, work on which will start within a few days. Other plants are reported to be coming, it being a matter of only a few weeks until their actual operation will commence. The committee was given a vote of thanks for its splendid work for Brevard and Transylvania county.

The Committee on Agriculture followed with a glowing report of the work that has been done for the farmers of the county, and it was freely predicted that the coming year, with the aid and assistance being given agriculture in the county, the farmers will have more money than ever before.

The Tourist committee made report on the season just closing, and told of plans already perfected whereby next year will find this community literally packed with summer visitors. One thing this committee will do is to first see to it that each and every summer cottage, home and shack are filled with tourist-families.

The Finance Committee reported that the condition of the treasury is the best in the world. Every dollar of indebtedness has been paid, every member of the Chamber of Commerce have paid their dues in full, and there are hundreds of dollars in the treasury with which to carry on next year's work.

The boarding house operators were present in a body, and each of them joined the Chamber of Commerce, and paid their memberships, and thanked the Chamber of Commerce for bringing people here to fill their houses. This action on the part of the boarding house operators delighted the board of directors, and a mighty cheer went up in applauding the action of the boarding house people.

Every store, and every place of business in Brevard, are now members of the Chamber of Commerce, it was reported by the Membership Committee.

It was a great meeting, and enthusiasm reigned supreme, as the spirit of co-operation gave evidence that this old community is a happy, money-making center.

Now, every word of the above story is pure fabrication, false, and not a word of truth in it. There was no meeting held, because there were only six members of the board present, which is only two-thirds of a quorum. This story could be written, however, in all sincerity, if the people of Brevard wanted such conditions to exist. All that is necessary to make this story true, is for the people of this community to work together co-operate.

And until the people do decide to work together for the good and growth of Brevard, we shall continue to drag along, from day to day, grumbling and mumbling about dull business.

## PEOPLE ANXIOUS ABOUT HEAVY RAINS

Rains falling since last Friday, which ceased Monday and Tuesday, but started up again Tuesday night, have many people anxious as to probability of another siege of high waters. The streams are well filled now, and it is feared that a long rain would send the rivers out of banks again.

Rains are general throughout the country, and the high waters experienced in this section are not peculiar to Western North Carolina. All over the United States heavy rains have fallen this year, and flood waters have been general.

## SPECIAL RATES TO COLLEGE STUDENTS

Brevard News Will Be Sent to College Boys and Girls Whole School Year, \$1

The Brevard News wants to follow all the young men and women who go from Transylvania county to college. The boys and girls will keep fully informed of all activities at the old home. The Brevard News will be sent to college boys and girls for the full school year for only one dollar.