

THE BREVARD NEWS

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ELZIE SHIPMAN IS DEAD FROM PISTOL SHOT BY OWN HAND

Tragedy Removed from the County One of Its Most Popular Citizens

OPINION DIVIDED AS TO CAUSE OF DEATH

Had Been Sheriff, Tax Collector and in Other Places of Public Trust

W. E. Shipman, one of the most widely known men in the county and one of the most popular men in Western North Carolina, committed suicide last Friday afternoon, or met his death as a result of an accidental discharge of a gun in his own hands. The news shocked Brevard and community as but few reports have ever been made. He was owner of Shipman's Cafe, and had gone home shortly after 4 o'clock for the purpose of resting for a while, as he told those left at the cafe. When near his home, Mr. Shipman is said to have called to a colored man, and employed him to do some work about the house. After giving these instructions, it is said, Mr. Shipman went into the basement of his home, and within a few moments the report of a gun was heard. The colored man is said to have run to the window of the basement and upon seeing Mr. Shipman in a slumped position on a cot upon which he had apparently been seated, ran to the home of Mr. George Hayes, just across the street, and Mr. Hayes found Shipman in death from the pistol shot wound.

Officers were called to the scene, as were physicians, and many friends hurried to the home. Mr. Shipman had passed away, however, shortly after the shot was fired. Indications were that the pistol barrel had been placed against the right eye, the bullet being buried in the skull after having penetrated the brain. The gun was tightly clasped in the dead man's hand when officers arrived, it is said.

Elzie Shipman, as he was best known to thousands of people, had long been active in public affairs here. He had been elected and served as a member on the board of county commissioners; had been elected and served as sheriff-tax collector of the county; was elected two years ago as tax collector, but did not serve, owing to the fact that the legislature consolidated this office with that of sheriff, and was a candidate for the nomination for the office of treasurer in the recent republican convention held here, being defeated in this contest by former Sheriff B. J. Sitton.

It is said by some that the deceased had lost heavily during the years following the real estate boom here and in Florida, some of his friends placing this loss at above one hundred thousand dollars. He had been a large property owner in this community, it is known. Some people attribute the suicide to these losses that had been suffered by the former popular official.

When but six years of age Mr. Shipman suffered an attack of infantile paralysis, from which, after a while, he seemed to have recovered, but members of the family state that recurrence of this malady some fifteen years later caused much suffering. Since that time he had suffered much from catarrhal trouble, often complaining of splitting headaches which finally caused intense suffering in both eyes. Close friends recall many severe attacks coming suddenly upon their friend, and many there are who attribute the rash act to his intense suffering more than to the financial losses.

One group of loyal friends declare that death came to their friend as a result of an accident, and offer in substantiation of this theory that a man intent upon self destruction would not have employed a workman about the house just prior to such act. The fact that there was but one cartridge shell in the revolver, while four were found in the man's pocket, is offered as evidence that he had removed the shells for the purpose of cleaning gun, evidently thinking all cartridges had been removed, and pulled the trigger in the belief that no cartridge was in the chamber. It is said by these friends who look upon the accidental death as being certain, that no man ever shoots himself in the eye; that the gun is always placed at the temple, or in the center of the forehead. This theory is more strongly presented by Mr. J. L. Bell, who was the first one to advance it. All are agreed, however, that Elzie Shipman was the last man in the county who would be looked upon as a possible suicide.

Married several years ago to the former Miss Norma Glazener, Mr. Shipman's domestic life is known to have been one of great happiness. One child had been born to them, which died in infancy, causing great sorrow to the popular couple. Mr. and Mrs. Shipman have worked together in all of their undertakings in most congenial manner, it is known to their friends, and the deceased had often expressed appreciation.

(Continued on back page)

FLOWER SHOW PROMISES TO ECLIPSE ALL PAST EFFORTS

According to present indications the annual flower show sponsored by the Woman's Bureau to be held Thursday, August 21, at the Chamber of Commerce rooms, will equal if not surpass previous events of this nature held in Brevard. The committee in charge is putting forth every effort to solicit many varieties of flowers and to make final arrangements for a successful flower show.

Valuable prizes have been donated by well known nursery concerns in various sections of the country, and many entries of flowers and plants are expected to be made to compete for these prizes.

A detailed classification of entries has been made by the committee, showing the different varieties to be entered for prizes. Quite a number of valuable prizes are still available, however, which will be used for other entries that have not been listed.

Following is the classification submitted by the committee, together with the list of prizes to be awarded:

General Sweepstakes—Finest and largest collection dahlias; 1st prize, 100 bulbs tulips 10 varieties; 2nd prize, \$10 dahlia root.

Prettiest assortment small dahlias—\$4 worth plants.

Finest single specimen dahlia—\$5 dahlia bulb.

Finest collection large zinnias—\$1 worth seeds, roots or bulbs.

Finest assortment gladioli—1st prize, 8 Betty Joy variety gladioli bulbs; 2nd prize, 4 Betty Joy variety gladioli bulbs.

Finest specimen on variety gladioli—\$1 worth seeds, roots or bulbs.

Finest assortment gladioli—1st prize, 4 flowering shrubs; 2nd prize, 2 flowering shrubs.

Prettiest basket or bowl mixed flowers—1st prize, \$2 worth seeds, plants or bulbs; 2nd prize, \$1 worth seeds, plants or bulbs.

Prettiest collection roses—One-half dozen named dahlia bulbs.

Most attractive bowl marigolds—\$1 worth seeds, roots or bulbs.

Best variety wild flowers—\$2 worth plants.

Most attractive arrangement wild flowers—\$3 worth plants.

Most beautiful potted plant—15 tulip bulbs.

Most beautiful blooming potted plant—15 tulip bulbs.

Prettiest variety snapdragons—\$1 worth plants, seeds or bulbs.

Prettiest bowl petunias—\$2 worth plants.

Handsomest ferns—Single specimen—15 tulip bulbs—greatest variety—\$3 worth plants.

To winner of most prizes—Silver medal.

To winner of second most prizes—Bronze medal.

Mrs. Roy Long, as chairman of the soliciting committee for the great flower show to be held on August 21, is anxious for a large number of women in the county to enter their flowers and plants in the show. This event is sponsored by the Woman's Bureau, and the flower show has resulted already in great good to the community in the greater interest being taken in flowers.

Nothing else adds quite so much to the appearance of a town or a community as flowers, and the women are making strenuous effort to make this section known far and wide as a place of beauty intensified by beautiful flowers.

All ladies of the town and county are asked to have their prettiest flowers on display during the show. Full details can be obtained from Mrs. Long, or from any one of the following named ladies who are serving with Mrs. Long on this committee: Mrs. J. B. Jones, Mrs. B. F. Beasley and Mrs. E. R. Pendleton.

A. E. F. GATHERING IN ANNUAL EVENT

Winston-Salem, N. C., August 12.—The second triennial reunion of the 113th Field Artillery, 30th Division, A. E. F., will be held at Fort Bragg, N. C., on August 15 and 16. Preparations have been made to entertain all who come and an attendance of over 500 is expected. The first reunion was held three years ago, at Fort Bragg, was attended by about 300.

Major Robert M. Hanes of Winston-Salem, chairman of the reunion committee, sent out 1750 letters to veterans of the regiment, using a mailing list compiled in 1919. About 500 letters have been returned, indicating that 500 veterans of the regiment cannot be located.

Major Hanes and his committee have received assurances of wide spread interest in the event and he predicts that the gathering will be a large one.

Arrangements have been made for varied and interesting entertainment. The 113th Field Artillery of the North Carolina National Guard, name-sake and successor of the famous old war-time outfit, will be in camp at Fort Bragg and will stage a review for the veterans. The regiment is commanded by Colonel William T. Joyner, of Raleigh, who was a captain in the regiment during the war. Many of the enlisted men and officers of the regiment served with the old outfit during the World War.

ASHEVILLE DAY IS DECIDED SUCCESS

With a large representation, Asheville celebrated "Asheville Day" on Friday of last week, and many four-somes were played on the course of the Brevard Golf Club. Some of the most enthusiastic golfers of Asheville were among the players, and Brevard men were greatly pleased with the many fine comments made by the visitors as to the attraction of the local course. Many of the visitors declared the Brevard course to be the best that they had ever played.

"Charlotte Day," set for Saturday followed the "Asheville Day," did not pan out so well. But few Charlotte people took advantage of the invitation extended them to play here on that day as guests of the local club.

Many visitors in Brevard, and tourists stopping in nearby places, are seen daily on the local course, which is in excellent condition and is proving a great asset to this section.

DR. HUGH R. MURCHISON TO BE KIWANIS SPEAKER

Dr. Hugh R. Murchison, professor of Bible in the University of South Carolina, will be speaker at the Kiwanis club meeting at the Cat & Fiddle this Thursday, noon. All members of the club, and all visiting Kiwanians are expected to attend the meeting.

STATE FARMERS IN ANNUAL SESSION

H. G. Ashcraft of Charlotte R. F. D., was elected president of the State Farmers Convention and Mrs. N. B. Stedman of Halifax was elected president of the State Federation of Home Demonstration clubs at the final business session of the 18th annual convention held at Raleigh, July 29 to August 1.

Warren Watson of Lake Landing was elected vice-president of the convention; F. W. Bicknell of Lynville Falls, second vice president; I. O. Schaub of State College, secretary and treasurer, and C. A. Sheffield, assistant secretary and treasurer.

Aiding Mrs. Stedman will be Mrs. Mrs. J. I. Wagoner of Gibsonville, as first vice-president of the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs; Mrs. D. H. Bennett of Forsyth County, second vice-president; Mrs. J. S. Royall of Salemburg, recording secretary; Mrs. O. H. Jackson of Pitt County, corresponding and Mrs. D. A. McCormick of McDonalds, treasurer.

The resolutions passed by the convention commended Governor Gardner for his interest in agriculture and endorsed his economy policy; state support of public schools was advocated; operation of all highways by the state commission endorsed; taxes on land was asked to be reduced and all personal property listed at its true value, the work for the County Government Advisory Commission was approved; the use of convicts in building roads was urged; the formation of marketing associations commended; county agent and home work endorsed the administration of the present state banking laws was caustically criticized, and highway beautification urged. In all 19 resolutions were adopted.

Approximately 2,000 persons attended the convention this year. Among these were 1,060 women. The convention was said to be one of the most successful in the history of the institution.

BITTEN BY RATTLER, BOY IS MAKING RAPID RECOVERY

Vernon Barton, son of Julius Barton of Selma, was bitten by a big rattler last Monday in the woods above the Hamlin old place at Selma. The young man suffered intensely, but due to timely assistance rendered by Mr. L. F. Osteen and Mr. J. Lance, and the quick response to the call made upon Dr. E. S. English, the young man is recovering. Young Barton had gone with his father and brother to the woodland, but in their work they soon became separated, and Vernon was alone when the big fellow struck him with his poisonous fangs, the bite entering Barton's leg just above the ankle. He ran about a mile, it is said, in order to reach those who could assist him and go for a doctor.

Within a short time there were fifty men present, neighbors who had left their work to lend whatever assistance they might to the son of their neighbor.

JUDGE JOHNSON IS BREVARD VISITOR

Here in Interest of His Candidacy for the Governorship in 1932

Judge Thos. L. Johnson, of Lumberton, candidate for the nomination for governor in 1932 on the democratic ticket, was in the county last week meeting friends and making new acquaintances. Judge Johnson is not a stranger in the mountains, although he now lives in the eastern part of the state. He was born on Sandy Mush; near Leicester, in Buncombe county, worked his way through Mars Hill College, taught school in Buncombe, and later worked his way through Wake Forest. Judge Johnson was chairman of



JUDGE THOMAS L. JOHNSON

the board of education in Robeson county for fifteen years, was elected to the state senate in 1925 and again in 1929, and was unanimously chosen as president pro tem of the senate at the last session of the general assembly. He is author of the present state banking law, known as the Johnson bill, 1925, and is said to have written the Hancock school bill under which the state is now operating. Judge Johnson was co-author of the Johnson-Broughton bill, adopted at the last session of the legislature, known as the Australian Ballot law.

The former Buncombe county man has been in Lumberton for many years, and was appointed as emergency judge of the Superior court first by Governor McLean, later receiving his commission from Governor Gardner. Judge Johnson will hold the December term of Superior court in Transylvania county. While here the noted leader met with many democrats, and it is said, received flattering encouragement in his race for nomination for governor.

BAPTISTS GATHER FOR ANNUAL MEET

Macedonia church, in Gloucester, is entertaining Baptists from twenty-five churches in the county this week, as the Baptist Association is being held there on Wednesday and Thursday. All the ministers from these churches, together with church officials and elected delegates, are in attendance, as are hundreds of members of the various churches.

The good people of the Gloucester section have made excellent preparations for entertaining the great throng of people, and those attending went in absolute certainty of having a really enjoyable time, while transacting the business for the Baptist churches in the county.

1000 PEOPLE VISIT NEW FUNERAL HOME

Company officials estimated the numbers of people attending the opening of the Brevard Undertaking company, on West Main street, to be at least one thousand. Many comments were made by those visiting the place as to the thorough manner in which Messrs. Osborne and Moore have gone about in the equipment of the undertaking business. The hearse and the Studebaker ambulance were also given comment.

Further announcement of interest is made in today's paper that W. S. Price, Jr., will be connected with the new undertaking department. He is licensed for this work by the state of North Carolina.

DR. MURCHISON TO PREACH AT TWO LOCAL CHURCHES

Dr. Hugh R. Murchison, Professor of Bible and Religious Education at the University of South Carolina, who, with Mrs. Murchison, is spending some time in Brevard with Rev. and Mrs. R. L. Alexander, will preach at the Brevard Presbyterian church Sunday morning at the 11 o'clock hour and in the afternoon at four o'clock at Davidson River.

FORMER EDITOR IS BREVARD VISITOR

Ora L. Jones Speaks of the Growth of Brevard—Edited News

Ora L. Jones, owner and editor of The Brevard News from 1911 to 1917, and who numbers his friends in Transylvania county by the thousands, spent two days in Brevard this week, renewing old acquaintances and meeting friends. The former editor talked interestingly of Brevard's growth, and noted many changed conditions since he left here. The fact that so many of his former friends have been called away in death threw a cloud over the enjoyment of his short visit.

For ten years Mr. Jones was in New Orleans, and the company with which he was associated sent him to Baltimore in January of this year. He drove through the country from Baltimore to Brevard, and expressed surprise that the people of North Carolina should be talking "hard times" or bemoaning their fate. "This is the only state from Louisiana to Maryland that has a good crop," Mr. Jones said. Virginia is literally parched, corn ruined, and even the cotton has been cut short by the intense heat and lack of rain. Pastures there look as if they would burn like a sagefield if a match should be applied. The same conditions prevail in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, and practically all other states in Eastern America. Crops in North Carolina are fine. I have driven from Raleigh to Brevard, and the only good crops that I have seen anywhere are in this state," Mr. Jones continued.

The former Brevard editor expressed regret that he ever left this place, declaring Brevard to be the most ideal community that he had ever known. "Of course, everybody here fights everybody else about something or other, and I did not escape the wrangles, but I love these people just the same," he said, "I dreamily mused over past conflicts in which he was sometimes victor and at other times the vanquished.

All of the older citizens remembered Mr. Jones very kindly, and it was something like holding a reception for some one, to see the group gathered about him.

OLD FIDDLERS TO DRAW BIG CROWD

Friday night of this week is to be devoted to an "Old Fiddlers Convention," an event to be staged in the county court house. Many people have signified their intention of entering the convention as contestants for the cash prizes to be awarded the winners. It is believed that some of the finest violin, banjo and guitar music ever heard in these hills will be made at the convention.

A small charge of admission is to be made, 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for children. All above the actual expenses will be turned over to The Associated Charities, to be used here at home in relief of the needy and sick poor. It is expected that a full house will greet the old timers when the music begins Friday evening.

SINGERS COMING TO CONVENTION

Plans are being made for entertainment of a great crowd which is expected to attend the singing convention to be held in Brevard on the Fifth Sunday in this month. J. A. Simpson, president of the organization, and a committee working with him as appointed at the last convention, has purchased a piano, which will be used in the convention on the Fifth Sunday.

Usually these conventions bring hundreds of people to Brevard and it is believed that the coming meeting will be one of greatest ever held here.

MR. ALBERT SCHAIN TAKING REST IN BREVARD FOR WEEK

Mr. Albert Schain, treasurer of the Transylvania Tanning company, and officially connected with many large enterprises, is in Brevard recuperating from a recent operation. He is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kyle. Mr. Schain lives at the University Club, New York and is an outstanding figure in the financial district of that city.

MRS. ASHWORTH RETURNS HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL

Mrs. Winston Ashworth, who has been in the hospital at Hendersonville for the past several weeks, has sufficiently recovered to be returned to her home in Brevard. Mr. Ashworth, who was injured ten days in automobile collision while on his way to Hendersonville to see his wife, is walking about the streets now, rapidly recovering from injuries received in the wreck.

OVERTON ERWIN'S SUDDEN DEATH IS SHOCK TO COUNTY

Popular Young Business Man, With Hosts of Friends, Dies at Oteen

HAD GONE TO HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT

Funeral Attended By Fifteen Hundred Sorrowing Friends

Overton Lewis Erwin, Jr., aged 34, died suddenly last Friday morning at Oteen, announcement of which caused great sorrow throughout Transylvania county. On Wednesday of last week the young man went to Charlotte for examination, and was sent to Oteen for treatment and rest. While he had not been well for the past several years, there was no thought of the seriousness of his illness. Mr. and Mrs. Erwin, the parents, spent Thursday of last week with the young man at Oteen, leaving him late that day. The suddenness of the death the following Friday morning was shocking to the family.

The deceased was one of the most popular and well loved men in the county. As a Mason, a member of the American Legion, a young business man, and a friend, he lived his life in loyal service to the people with whom he came in contact. He volunteered his services in the United States government in the early days of America's entrance into the World War, being placed later with the anti-aircraft division.

For several years young Mr. Erwin was in business at West Palm Beach, with Mr. William Wallace, one of his close friends, as a partner. These men conducted a thriving business for a long time, but their place was literally wiped out in one of the big storms that laid Florida in waste a few years ago. Mr. Erwin was in Brevard at that time, on a visit to his parents. After this disaster the Brevard man came here, and entered business on East Main street, with the Standard Oil company, operating a station here. Just one week before his death, Mr. Erwin attended a meeting in Asheville of Standard dealers and officials, being enthusiastic as to the future of his work upon his return from that gathering.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at the historic Davidson River Presbyterian church, where the deceased had been baptized many years ago. It was estimated that more than fifteen hundred people gathered into and about the church, only a few hundred of whom were able to enter the church during services, the great throng standing about the building in silent suffering, while Rev. Mr. Hutchinson and Rev. R. L. Alexander conducted the services over the body of their friend.

Burial was made at the cemetery on the hill overlooking the beautiful Davidson River valley, with Masonic honors. The pallbearers were members of Dunn's Rock Masonic Lodge, and close personal friends of the deceased, as follows: Clyde Ashworth, Verne Clement, William Wallace, Harry Clarke, Dick Zachary and Jack Zachary. Included among the honorary pallbearers were members of the Morris Wilson Post of the American Legion. Many members of the Hendersonville Legion attended the service.

Seldom has there been seen such floral offerings as marked this funeral service, while many who tried desperately to obtain wreaths were unable to do so. This great floral offering was testimony of the love and esteem which the community felt for the young man who had been called away.

Surviving are the parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Erwin; three sisters, Mrs. Katherine Erwin, Mrs. A. K. Lewis and Mrs. L. E. Lewis, and a great host of friends.

HIS FIFTH WIFE, AND HER FOURTH HUSBAND

Mr. Harrison Rhodes and Mrs. A. Norris, both of Pisgah Forest, were married a few days ago. This item of news appears in another column. An interesting item in connection with this announcement is the fact that Mr. Rhodes has had a bride to the altar, and the fourth time. Mrs. Rhodes has made the venture into matrimony.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes are well known here, and have a host of friends who are congratulating the couple.

GRAVELY REUNION TO BE HELD ON FIFTH

Invitations have been issued all members of the Gravelly family in both North and South Carolina and to all friends, that the reunion for the family in both state will be held at Rocky Bottom on August 31, which is the Fifth Sunday. A regular Gravelly picnic dinner will be served at noon. Everyone invited. It is expected that hundreds of people from the two states will be in attendance.