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ZBOO 8 Pages This Week

LITTLE GEORGE GAHAGAN CRUSHED UNDER WHEELS OF SCHOOL TRUCK

The seven-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Gahagan of near Walnut was instantly killed last Monday afternoon when the rear wheel of the school bus on which he had been riding passed over his head, crushing the skull. Little George, Junior, was returning from school and had just alighted from the bus. Child like he was playing with another child on the bus, swinging by his hands on the side of the bus until the bus had gained some speed before turning loose. When he fell, the child fell under the bus and the rear wheel passed over his head. His mother heard the commotion and rushed to the scene. A passing car from Tennessee took the dying child to Marshall. O. D. Chandler, son of Mr. Jim Chandler, of the same community, came to Marshall with little George in his lap. Dr. Ditmore, who happened to be in Marshall for the day, rushed to the car only to find that nothing could be done. The father was in Marshall attending court and of course was overcome with grief. The little body was taken to the undertaking establishment of Mr. O. C. Rector, where it was prepared for burial.

No blame was attached to the driver of the bus, who happened to be William Goldsmith, as the unfortunate affair seemed to be purely an accident. The child little George was playing with happened to be the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jonah Henderson, but no one could blame anybody knowing how children can see no danger when playing. Little George was a most promising child. This was his first year at school and last Friday afternoon at his school at Walnut had captured his audience with a fine speech. His parents have the sympathy of the entire community. He leaves two little sisters, June and Dorothy, and a little five-year-old brother, Ralph Conley.

The funeral services were from the home at 2:30 Tuesday afternoon conducted by Rev. James L. Hyde of Walnut. Interment followed at the Gahagan family cemetery.

CARD OF THANKS

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Gahagan wish through the columns of this paper to thank their neighbors and friends for the many kindnesses shown them at the death and burial of their little son, G. W., Jr.

STATE SHOULD FINANCE SCHOOLS

Mr. Mashburn Recommends Relieving
Real Estate of Taxes

The Editor of News-Record:

I saw in your issue of October 11, 1929, an article reciting the many things in which North Carolina excels.

The first item was, "North Carolina leads all states in the percent of debt free homes", and in another item, "North Carolina is the second state in payment of internal revenue for support of the Federal Government", and several other things in which North Carolina excels other states.

We are proud of North Carolina and the many things in which she is taking the lead, but North Carolina is signally failing in her tax system. With all her great natural advantages and excellent achievements, she is, through her law making powers, allowing her farmers and agricultural classes to be burdened with a heavy ad valorem tax on real estate.

The ad valorem system of taxation, as operated and applied in the state, has long since become antiquated, out of date and inadequate to carry out uniform justice under modern conditions in this state.

In 1919, when real estate prices were inflated on account of the World War, and on account of war time prices for farm products, to an enormous and fictitious value the state through her laws re-valued all the real estate, as was claimed then to place the tax value on the land at what the land was worth in cash, instead of allowing it to remain on the tax books, as it had been for many years, at what was called a tax valuation which put real estate, or was intended to put real estate on an equitable footing with other taxable property. And the people were told, at that time, that a high valuation on real estate would not affect their taxes as the rate would be lowered, but instead of a lower rate of levy the rate has continually

values have decreased until the value of land as an investment has been destroyed.

The land owners cannot rent their lands and give the tenants what they should have for cultivating the lands and realize as rents a sufficient amount to pay the taxes and anything like a reasonable interest on what the land ought to be worth, taking into consideration what it cost the owner.

For the last several years the owners of small homes have been unable to pay the high taxes assessed on their lands, and thousands of farms have been sold and bid in by the counties for the taxes, and now suits are being brought to foreclose on the tax certificates, which will turn thousands of farmers of the state out of their homes.

The smaller and poorer counties are suffering more than the larger counties where wealth is concentrated, on account of the inequality of taxes levied on real estate for school purposes and the smaller and poorer counties whose taxable properties consist principally of real estate, have complained in vain for relief.

The time has come for relief from High Land taxes and from the inequality of land tax levy for school purposes between the wealthy and poor counties.

The first and fundamental remedy, as I see it, is to let the state of North Carolina take over the public school system and finance it without a levy of taxes on real estate in any county. The state can find a way to finance the public schools from other sources than levying a tax on real estate by the counties that will do justice to all the people alike.

It is estimated that the state of North Carolina owes one hundred and seventy-five million bonded indebtedness, and that the counties, municipalities and districts of the state owe four hundred millions bonded indebtedness.

The state, with all its taxable resources, such as inheritance tax, income tax, license tax, franchise tax, automobile tax and gasoline tax, can very well afford to take over the free school system and finance it without a levy on real estate by the counties, and leave to the various counties their real estate and personal property on which to levy a tax to pay off the four hundred and fifty million bonded indebtedness, owed by the counties, and finance the county government.

It is admitted that there is prosperity in North Carolina among a large class of people, the state is paying the second revenue tax of any state in the Union, and the banking industry of the state is growing by leaps and bounds, and the industrial development of the state is growing year by year, but the prosperity is not reaching the farmer nor the laboring class of the state. So why permit the farmer and the laboring class of people to bear the greater burden of taxation?

I endorse what the county commissioners of Madison County said at their last meeting in regard to high taxes and in regard to not calling an extra session of the legislature at this time.

The thing to do is to let the people of the various counties assemble in mass meetings and decide what they want in regard to the matter, create a sentiment among the people and select members to the next session of the general assembly who records in view with the people of his county, and by doing that the next session of the General Assembly, there will be a remedy found to cure the evils of an excessive tax on real estate.

When the state finances the public schools without a tax on real estate, for that purpose, then the age old evil of an inequality tax on real estate between the poorer counties and wealthier counties will be removed and the tax system of the state can be amended to suit the present conditions; and the changes that have been made in the state from an agricultural to an industrial state.

C. B. MASHBURN.

NOTICE

To all who have not paid your 1929 tax, remember that two per cent penalty will be added on the second day of March. Remember that your land will be advertised after the first Monday in May.

Respectfully,
B. E. GUTHRIE,
Tax Collector.

The Home Of The Soul

I would plead for at least one church service for all, of whatever creed or no creed. Even dressing, going and coming, bells, incidental meetings with friends that strengthen the social bond, giving instead of the weekly lust of getting, all help by lifting us out of unwonted routine, and bringing the grateful rest of change, and pulling new stops and playing unused registers in the soul's

organ; while bells, hymns, prayers, Scripture, preaching, are all pregnant influences, and, perhaps still deeper and more potent, unconscious influences, that help in the great momentum of evolution, the push upwards that God and nature have so deeply implanted as the most precious thing for without some church home, some of the best and highest things in the soul remain homeless and vagrant."
—G. Stanley Hall.

THE PUBLISHER'S COLUMN ABOUT VARIOUS MATTERS

EXPLAINING THE FRENCH BROAD JETTIES

LAST week we opened the way for an explanation of the bill before Congress relative to removing the jetties from the French Broad river, introduced by Congressman Pritchard recently. Our seeking an explanation from Mr. Pritchard has opened up a bit of history that we had no knowledge of before talking with him. It seems that in 1883 an attempt was made to make the French Broad river navigable. The idea was to deepen the current of the stream by placing jetties on the sides of the river. For some reason, the project was abandoned after perhaps one boat had been run over part of the river. However, the jetties that were built remain as mementoes of the undertaking, and instead of deepening the channel of the stream, have had a tendency to fill up the river, causing it to overflow the lowlands damaging some 200,000 acres of land in Buncombe, Henderson, and Transylvania counties. The purpose of the bill is to remove these jetties.

OTHER BILLS OF CONGRESSMAN PRITCHARD

TWO other bills which have been introduced in Congress by Mr. Pritchard are as follows:

1. A bill to compensate all disabled soldiers of the World War whether or not they can prove that their disability was caused by service. He explains that quite a number of ex-soldiers are disabled but cannot prove that their disability was due to service. Under the bill, a man would receive benefits if his disability was contracted while he was a soldier, regardless of how such disability was caused.

2. A bill to provide that all ex-service men be paid full face value of their adjusted service certificates without having it made in partial payments, each one of which is so small that little benefit is realized.

ELECTION YEARS COME TOO OFTEN

THE publisher of the News-Record made the statement recently that election years come too often. Since we made that statement, we have had some people to agree with us that we are correct in that statement, and up to the present time no one has come forward to say we are wrong. If there are those who think differently, we should be very glad indeed to have them come forward and give their reasons. If their reasons are sufficient to change us in our contention that elections should be changed to come not oftener than every four or five years, we shall be only too glad to fall in with the present custom; but if no such reasons are advanced, we shall feel that we are justified in our contention. There are many reasons why elections come too often, but in this as in all questions, there may be two sides. But until we hear something on the other side of the question, we shall be inclined to the opinion that there is only one side to this question. If so, certainly someone should start a movement to change our constitution, and we would about as soon be the one to start it as not. Some one may say we are foolish to start something so impossible to put into effect. But in almost every reform, somebody has to be the goat, and if we could start something that would in years to come prove to be a blessing to our country, we should feel fully repaid, even if the results are not seen in our day and generation.

It is simply too expensive, viewed from many standpoints, to hold elections every two years. Officers could afford to serve for smaller salaries if they could know that when they are elected they could hold the office long enough to save something before going through another expensive campaign.

SAMS FOR CONGRESS AND PRITCHARD FOR SENATE

DR. W. A. Sams of Marshall is being mentioned in the papers as a candidate for congress. When interviewed by a representative of this paper as to whether he would run he said that hundreds of people have approached him and urged him to become a candidate, but as yet he is not ready to make a decision as to whether to run or not. He admits that he feels highly honored to be thus approached and expects before another issue of this paper comes out to be ready to make some definite statement.

Honorable George M. Pritchard has announced that he will not be a candidate for re-election to congress. However, his friends are urging him to enter for the United States Senate. Mr. Pritchard says that he is not yet ready to make a statement as to whether he will run or not.

Marshall is noted for its great men. Of course Asheville would claim Mr. Pritchard at the present time, but he is not only a native of Marshall, but his wife is also, and he has a summer home here. Hence Marshall has more than one reason to feel proud of Mr. Pritchard and to wish that he shall be elected to the United States Senate, should he decide to run. Marshall's illustrious men include not only Mr. Pritchard, but his father also before him—Judge Jeter Pritchard. Judge McElroy and others are among our distinguished men, and Marshall would feel quite honored to have another son in Congress—namely Dr. Sams. The fact that Mr. Pritchard is a Republican and Dr. Sams is a Democrat is no reason that they should not be honored by a Marshall paper. Marshall is proud of its distinguished citizens.

JOHN DAVIS CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER BY JURY

Sentence Not Yet Pronounced By
Judge MacRae

John Davis was found guilty of manslaughter Wednesday afternoon, the jury being out two or three hours. The regular criminal term of the Superior Court convened Monday, Feb. 24th, 1930, with Judge Cameron F. MacRae of Asheville presiding.

The calendar was called which contained 121 cases, including the cases of murder, in State vs. John Davis for the murder of Bunt Roberts last June, and State vs. Sampson Landers and Arnold Landers charged with murder of Albert King and Arthur Stanton. The defendant, John Davis,

went on trial Tuesday A. M. The Solicitor for the State announced that the State would not ask for verdict of murder in first degree, but

for murder in second degree or manslaughter, or whatever the evidence will warrant. The following jurors were selected to pass upon the case: G. W. Mashburn, G. A. Waddell, B. L. Robinson, W. H. English, E. L. Blankenship, M. A. Griffin, D. Buckner, W. M. Shipley, J. E. Thomas, Wiley Reece, Edisel Cook, W. W. Cutshall. Representing the State were Solicitor Robert M. Wells, assisted by Mr. Robert R. Reynolds of Asheville. The defense lawyers were Messrs. John McElroy, J. Coleman Ramsey, and Guy Roberts. The first witness was Dr. H. B. Ditmore, of Marion, formerly of Marshall, who testified as to the location of the bullet holes in the body of the deceased Roberts. Sheriff Bob Ramsey, the next witness on the stand, testified as to being in that Doe Branch section with a view to capturing blind tigers and that he had deputized John Davis to locate a still that was quite well known to be in those quarters. John Davis, the defendant, next called to the stand, made rather a poor witness, becoming more or less confused in his testimony. The star witness was George Buckner, a Negro, who was the only eye-witness to the shooting.

FIRE DESTROYS RESIDENCE AT MARS HILL

Home of M. Will Runion Destroyed Early Wednesday Morning

The eight-room residence of Mrs. Will Runion of Mars Hill was completely destroyed by fire about one or two o'clock Wednesday morning. The old colonial residence was situated on Main Street, next to and north of the N. S. Whitaker residence. Mrs. Runion had a stroke of paralysis about two months ago, and since that time has been practically helpless. Her two sons, Nathan and William, stay with her at night. They had a little fire in the room adjoining Mrs. Runion's, but at the time the fire broke out everyone was asleep, hence it had gained considerable headway before the alarm was given. The two sons took their mother over to the Whitaker residence. The fire fighting force responded promptly and practically everybody in Mars Hill, both men and women, students and faculty, were at the scene to render any possible assistance; however, the flames were so hot that hardly anything could be saved—only a few pictures and a trunk. It took brave fighting to save Mr. Whitaker's residence from serious damage.

There seems to be some question as to whether the insurance which had been carried on the house, was still in force. Mr. Marion Edwards and Mr. Kenneth Murray seemed to be the only ones who received any injury during the fire fighting, their injuries being slight.

ITEMS FROM MARS HILL BY REGULAR CORRESPONDENT

Woman's Club Holds February Meet

The Mars Hill Woman's Club held its regular meeting Thursday evening Feb. 20 in the Teachers' Parlor of Spillman Home. The public welfare department with Mrs. E. R. Elmore as chairman was in charge of the program. Mrs. Corbett, county chairman of illiteracy, had been asked to come and give her program on that subject, and she and Mrs. Davis of Hot Springs were presented by Mrs. Elmore. They gave a most informing program based on the fact that there is in progress a nation wide campaign to reduce illiteracy before the 1930 census is taken in April. Figures based on the 1920 census were given showing the need for work in our county and state. Some important facts that were brought out are: "North Carolina stood 41st among the states from the top in total illiteracy, having a total of 404,844 white illiterates, or more than the combined total illiterates in Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, North Dakota, Iowa, Oregon, South Dakota and Utah. (2) In 1920 illiteracy ranged from 6.4 per cent in Buncombe county to 22.4 per cent in Edgecombe county, with Madison being 12 per cent. (3) The 1920 census showed that there were 204,492 illiterates in North Carolina of voting age and that the state had a total of 205,938 illiterates in rural communities compared with 35,671 illiterates in urban centers. (4) The only states in the Union with more illiteracy than North Carolina were Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, New York, Pennsylvania and Texas. These facts put a definite impetus on the Women's Club to hold

The defendants, Sampson Landers and Arnold Landers, were arraigned before the court for murder in the first degree, which was taken up Wednesday, and a special venire of 100 men were summoned from which to select a jury.

The cases against Zack Treadway for cost, Wades Buchanan for H & B and Larceny, James James for transporting, Homer Meadows and Marion Wells for disturbing public worship, and Foot Landers for assault and sale of liquor, Carl Holt for manufacturing liquor, Dorsey Lunsford for abandonment, Henry Thomas for bill of cost, John Ferguson, Chas. Griffin, Bill Griffin and Talmadge Metcalf, Wrathly Thomas, for transporting and operating car intoxicated; Elisha Rice and Lloyd Rice for manufacturing liquor (the defendants Rice having forfeited their bond); J. J. Baldwin for false pretense; Fred R. Wild, 2 cases for worthless checks; Steve Bishop, 2 cases for disturbing public worship and carrying a concealed weapon, Violet Gosnell for F&A, were not proessed with leave of the Solicitor to take them up again if the defendants should be apprehended. Wade Austin and John Austin, who were convicted about a year ago, appeared and showed good behavior and were discharged. A. C. Burnett—good behavior shown and was discharged. Bill Doan and Howard Miller showed good behavior and were discharged. Abe Price was called and failed to appear, as he was bound to do, and sci fa ordered issued to bondsman and capias for defendant. Steve Lunsford, indicted in 5 cases, has not been taken. He is charged in 3 cases for C. C. W., one for drunkenness and for violation of prohibition laws, and has not been arrested, capias ordered issued.

In the case of State vs. Roy Howell for bill of cost was continued until May term on defendant paying \$25.00 on his bill of cost. In the case of State vs. Bruce Holt charged with transporting and larceny and was given 18 months on roads. The case of State vs. Dan Martin, Jr., and Dan Martin, Sr., and W. E. Buckner for bill of cost was remanded to W. E. Sams and there to be settled.

A true bill was returned against Carodus Higgins for the murder of his nephew in the California Creek section. The defendant will be tried at May term of court.

True bills were returned against Walter Rathbone for C C W, Sam Hensley for forgery of a check in sum of \$50.00 which he had given to A&P store for groceries and cash. The check was forged on Elmer Tweed of White Rock.

Two true bills were returned against June McDavitt for C C W and one true bill was returned against Major Davis and Floyd Davis for illegal possession of Harry Hagan Clark for operating car while intoxicated.

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