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MOTHER AND CHILD BURN TO DEATH ON SANDY MUSH

Father Also Seriously Burned In Rescuing Loved Ones

The modest home of Curtis Ledford, age 25, was burned last Saturday morning, resulting in the death of his wife and four-year-old daughter. The young man made a fire in the heater and then went to the kitchen some distance away to build another fire. He had just finished when he heard a scream from the shack. Looking back, he saw the little cabin in flames and caught a glimpse of his wife's frantic face at the window. He raced over the path to find the door smoke-filled. He tried frantically to open the window. It was caught fast. He hurried through the door and brought his wife out through the smoke. She was burned severely on her face and many parts of the body. He forced his way back into the cabin and brought out little four-year-old Kyra, their only child. She was so badly burned that skin tore away as he picked her up. Hailing a truck driver for his employer, Ralph Sprinkle, Ledford, whose own hands and face were badly burned, got his wife and daughter down the mountain and friends provided a fast car to take them to Mission hospital in Asheville. Little Kyra died at 11:50 o'clock and Mrs. Ledford died later. Ledford was suffering so from pain and shock that doctors had not told that their little girl was dead. Ledford's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Talmadge Ledford of Alexander, his sister, Oara, and his aunt, Mrs. L. J. Rolf, kept vigil at the hospital all afternoon. Mr. Sprinkle was there too. The cabin burned down in a few minutes, Ledford told his mother, destroying everything the young couple possessed, including their money. Ledford and Valerie MacMahan, who was 22 years old, were married five years ago. They went to live in the cabin last spring when Ledford obtained work at the sawmill. Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock funeral services were conducted over the burned body of little Kyra at Flint Hill Methodist church near Alexander. The mother never knew that the child died. Ledford's own burns are serious but his condition is not critical. His mother said the family believed the heater had dried out the wall of the cabin, and when the fire became too hot the wall blazed up. Mrs. Ledford and the baby were still asleep when Ledford left the cabin to go make the fire in the cookhouse to prepare breakfast.

DR. GAMON HERE SUNDAY

Services at the Presbyterian church in Marshall were held last Sunday morning by Dr. Gamon. A pulpit committee has been named who will make announcements of services for that church.

Mr. Dave Harris Making Good In Canton

Last Sunday's Asheville daily carried under its head, "Folks Worth While In Western North Carolina," Dave H. Harris, who is making good in Canton, having recently resigned as tax collector for the town to accept a position with the Champion Fibre Co. Mr. Harris, in 1928, married Miss Norma Ramsey, of Marshall, daughter of Mrs. Minnie Ramsey.

CIVITANS TO MEET FRIDAY

The Marshall Civitan club meets every first and third Fridays. It happens that February and March this year will start off with Friday. The meeting this week will be at the French Broad hotel at one o'clock.

BEN NAUGHTY KILLED BY AUTOMOBILE SATURDAY

Ben Naughty was found killed on the highway in the Laurel section last Saturday and the coroner's jury Monday found that he came to his death by an automobile driven by unknown person or persons. He was at one time in jail and was written up by Ripley on account of his name.

AT OAK RIDGE CHURCH SUNDAY

Mr. Everett Clark will preach at Oak Ridge community church next Sunday night at 7:30 o'clock, just after the young people's service. Everybody is cordially invited to attend this service. Mr. Clark is a young man starting out in this work, but he can tell us something about the Bible.

ILLNESS IN FAMILY OF DR. RICE

Dr. Otto Rice tells us that he is having his troubles on account of illness in his family. His only son, Otto, Jr., has been very ill but has fought bravely, through his illness for the last several weeks and is now recuperating. In the meantime, Mrs. Rice has entered a sanatorium in Asheville for her health.

BIRTHDAY DINNER

Mrs. W. A. Sams on Tuesday evening, January 29, entertained members of the family at a birthday dinner in honor of her mother, Mrs. Van Davis, who celebrated her 63rd birthday.

Mrs. Vivian Rector and Mrs. E. E. Ramsey gave a dinner honoring their aunt, Miss Jessie Sams, Monday evening.

BRYAN'S FILLING STATION ROBBED

A daring robbery was effected at about ten o'clock Wednesday night at Bryan's filling station in Marshall. Two men in a car bearing Tennessee license plates and flourishing sawed-off shotguns entered the filling station and proceeded to take \$15.00 in cash, several cartons of cigarettes, and then filled up the car with gas and oil and left.

If You Have TOBACCO MONEY and owe THE NEWS-RECORD Please Come In OR Send It

Many are renewing and new subscriptions are coming in. HOW ABOUT YOU?

WOMAN'S CLUB

The Woman's Club will meet Saturday afternoon, Feb. 2, with Mrs. J. N. West. Mrs. R. E. Ramsey will lead the program. A full attendance is desired. The program will include special music.

EDNEY-CARTER

Friends have received the following: MR. AND MRS. JAKE CARTER request the honor of your presence at the marriage of their daughter PALMA to MR. CALVIN R. EDNEY on Sunday Evening the third of February nineteen hundred thirty-five at eight-thirty o'clock Mars Hill Baptist Church Mars Hill, North Carolina

BIRTHDAY DINNER

Mrs. L. L. Storey entertained at a delightful six o'clock dinner Tuesday evening honoring her mother, Mrs. Will H. Morrow on her birthday. The invited guests were Mrs. Tom Morrow, Miss Mayme Morrow, Miss Mary Gagger and Mrs. H. L. Story.

N. B. McDevitt, Jr., Injured In Wreck

N. B. McDevitt, Jr., is in a serious condition at his home in Marshall as a result of injuries received Friday afternoon in a collision between a truck and his car, a roadster. The accident occurred at Laurel River bridge. Other occupants of the car were Miss Marian Morrow, Mr. John

50 OR MORE COMICS!

Each week the Baltimore American prints 50 or more famous comics in the new, handy-sized Comic Weekly. Everybody is pleased with this new Comic Weekly. You'll like it, too! Buy your copy of the BALTIMORE AMERICAN from your favorite newsboy or newsdealer.

Worth McDevitt, of Marshall, and Miss Lucille Brigman of Walnut. They escaped with minor cuts and bruises. An occupant of the truck, whose name was not learned, suffered two or three broken ribs, it was reported.

\$335,000 In New Roads In Madison

According to a press report from Raleigh Jan. 26, Madison County is to have spent in two years on new construction of roads the sum of \$335,000. This is for state highways only and not for county projects.

MARK HAYNIE DIES IN MADISON

Resident Of Near Enka Laid To Rest On Walnut Creek Monday Mark Haynie, age about 84, formerly of Madison County, recently of near Enka, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ed Bryan, of near Marshall Sunday, Jan. 27. Funeral services and interment were at the Walnut Creek Baptist church Monday afternoon conducted by the pastor, the Rev. Mr. Bragg of Marshall. Mr. Haynie, an uncle of Mr. Pete Haynie of Marshall is survived by one son, Vick Haynie of near Enka, and one daughter, Mrs. Ed Bryan of near Marshall. We understand he had been with Mrs. Bryan only a few days and died of heart failure.

MARS HILL

Woman's Club Present's Play The literature group of the Woman's Club had charge of the program for the regular meeting held on Thursday evening of last week. Miss Bonnie Wengert was the program chairman and introduced the topic for the evening, Folk Plays of the Carolina Playmakers, speaking especially of the work of Paul Green. Following this talk, "Magnolia" by Mrs. Gertrude Wilson Coffin, a play by the same author, was presented. The play was a dramatic presentation of a husband thru a matrimonial agency, was presented by other members of the group. Mrs. H. C. Edwards was director; Mrs. V. E. Wood took the part of Miss Tish Davis; Mrs. R. M. Lee played the part of the widower, Newt Norris; Miss Edna Ferguson was Magnolia Starnes; and Mrs. L. B. Olive was Bartholomew M. Burgess, of Arkansas, the man from the agency. Although the play was given only for the club members, the players used costumes, and the proper stage setting and had not much time on the preparation. Hostesses for the evening were Mrs. Ashe Carter, Mrs. J. G. Holt, and Mrs. John McLeod.

High School News

The regular meeting of the P. T. A. is scheduled for next Tuesday evening, Feb. 5, in the high school auditorium. Prof. Nolan has promised a good program and it is thought that a large number of parents will attend. Another program that promises to be interesting is a costume recital or musical playlet, "Mrs. B. Natural's Party," to be given at the chapel hour on Thursday, Feb. 7, by the music pupils of Mrs. J. B. Huff. The rhythm orchestra will also appear on this program.

Personals

The Rev. and Mrs. W. C. Taylor, S. B. C. missionaries to Brazil, arrived here last week to spend several months in the McCall cottage on the high school ridge. The children are registering for study in the college and high school.

Mrs. Frank Gibbs of Enka spent the week-end here with relatives.

Mrs. Nathan Runyon was called to Erwin, Tenn., Tuesday because of illness of her sister, Mrs. Paul Moreley.

ALL-STAR TOURNAMENT POSTPONED UNTIL WEDNESDAY

Illness Of Mrs. Marvin McClure Causes Postponement PROBABLY 8 TEAMS TO ENTER TOURNAMENT The annual All-Star Basketball Tournament of Madison County will start next Wednesday, January 30, at the Walnut high school court. Probably 8 teams will compete in this tournament. Much interest is being shown in this tournament and capacity crowds are anticipated at each game. The applications have been sent out, but the playing sched-

44,559 ACRES OF MADISON CO. SOIL LOST BY EROSION

As To Abolishing Home Demonstrator

News-Record: Many women of Madison County, especially of the outlying communities, have noted with dismay that our County Commissioners have abolished the office of Home Demonstrator. The pressure is strong on these good men to do everything in their power to relieve the taxpayers. That they have acted toward this end has earned them the good will of all hard-pressed citizens. Nevertheless, there are considerations possibly greater than the modest economy effected by the abolition of the office in question. In the era of rugged individualism, probably now passing, it was "every one for himself and the devil take the hindmost," but now we are becoming more considerate of the under-privileged. It used to be unquestioned that the people of the cities and towns were entitled to the best of educational and social advantages while those "in the sticks" got "what the little boy shot." But now we have achieved the more Christian attitude of regarding everybody entitled to the good things of life that all help to create. If people cannot get to educational centers we bring educational centers to the people. The offices of the County Agent and Home Demonstrator represent the latter movement. One is probably as important as the other. "An unthrifty woman throws out with a spoon what a thrifty man throws in with a shovel." Very probably the citizens of the little towns of Madison County where the school may be provided with home economics and domestic science teachers, do not feel the need of the Home Demonstrator, but wouldn't they like to see us of the outlying communities also enjoy the mysteries and new discoveries of the hearthfire and the kitchen? If the Commissioners are aware of community feelings involving the personality rather than the office of the Home Demonstrator, it is their duty to be sensitive and responsive to those feelings; but being rural men they should know that in order to swap horses it is not necessary to burn the barn. The office of the Home Demonstrator is an institution which would be sadly missed by many farm women.

MRS. JUANITA ZIMMERMAN, OPPORTUNITIES 4-H CLUB GIRLS WILL MISS WITHOUT THE OFFICE OF HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT

When home demonstration was put into the county eight years ago, my mother sent me to the 4-H Club and kept me there until I was large enough to realize the opportunity and the value of it. I have been a club girl eight years, the first two years we did not have an agent full time. Mrs. Sara Porter Ellis just came part of the time to the County as she was District Agent for the mountain counties. Since November 1928 we have had a full time agent. This office gives to the County and rural people what they cannot get from the schools or any other office in the county. The 4-H club girl and boy will be the future rural leaders of the county. Through these offices we learn organization and leadership. We have advantages the State and Federal Government give us that home economics in schools can not give us. Then it would not be probable for the girls in the remote sections of the county to receive any practical knowledge of home economics other than through the office of home demonstration agent. I have not taken advantage of all the opportunities it gave to me. We must work in 4-H club because we are competing with other club members in the county, state and nation. I have competed in the local club contests and won \$7.50 in money. Have taken part in county contests, district health contest and the state dress, record and judging contest. I found the girls in the counties where home demonstration work has been for years were better prepared than I. However, I won a medal on my record and was second in judging and dress contest. I am working harder for these contests when I attend the Short Course in Raleigh this summer. I feel that when I enter college this fall I shall be better prepared to select my vocation in life because of the experience I have had mostly through club work. There are other club girls in the county that feel the same and want to see the work kept.

ELLEN BROOKS, 4-H, Hot Springs.

Mrs. Marvin McClure Seriously Ill

Mrs. Marvin McClure is seriously ill at the home of her mother at Walnut. Mrs. McClure was before marriage Miss Margaret Leake and is a teacher in the Walnut school. Her many friends were deeply concerned about her the first of the week. She was much better Wednesday.

Madison County has lost the value of 44,559 acres, or 15.96 percent, of its total area because of aggravated erosion, according to the Soil Erosion Service of the United States Department of the Interior.

Of the 279,040 acres which comprise the county there are 24,851 acres already abandoned due primarily to severe erosion, the report shows. Also, there are 62,000 acres having 25 to 75 percent of the topsoil gone. The government has found that the county contains 156,381 acres of forest, and that there are 37,128 acres under cultivation, 36,157 acres of idle tillable land and 24,523 acres of open pastureland in addition to the twenty-four thousand odd acres of abandoned land. The section of the county most seriously damaged by erosion is French Broad Valley. The report is the result of an erosion survey made of the entire state under the direction of W. D. Lee and W. W. Stevens, soil specialists of the North Carolina area of the Soil Erosion Service, to determine the general land condition in North Carolina. Regional headquarters of the Soil Erosion Service is at High Point.

Erosion Survey Of Madison County Present Land Use

	Acres	% of Total Area
Cultivated land	37,128	13.32
Idle tillable land	36,157	12.95
Waste land	24,851	8.90
Open pasture land	24,523	8.78
Forested land	156,381	56.04
TOTAL AREA	279,040	

Steepness Of Land

Level to undulating	5,600	2.00
Moderately rolling	8,400	3.02
Strongly rolling	33,600	12.04
Low hilly	44,800	16.05
Hilly	79,600	28.52
Very steep	107,040	38.36

Extent Of Erosion

Little or no erosion	172,481	61.81
Severe (up to 75% of topsoil gone)	62,000	22.21
Very severe with gullying	44,559	15.96
Total area severely eroded, gulched, and abandoned	106,559	38.17

Meeting Of School Masters Club

The Madison County School Masters Club met Thursday evening, January 24, 1935, with the following members present: Supt. D. M. Robinson; Beech Glen, J. V. Howell; Hill; Hot Springs, W. L. Rikard; Young; Marshall, O. S. Dillard; Huff, Alden; Tomberlin; Mars Hill, Nolan, T. R. Gibbs, P. K. Ray; Spring Creek, Burgess, Angel, R. O. Meadows; Walnut, J. O. Wells, C. M. Roberts. The club entertained as honorary guest Mr. W. T. Davis of Hot Springs, who bravely through a many-minute resume of the pedagogical salary scale of the past few terms.

Mr. Robinson made a strong plea, especially to the high school principals, that they use every available method to cut expenses this year. He emphasized the fact that the transportation budget would be exhausted long before the end of the current term unless principals and bus drivers observe the strictest economy. Mr. Robinson always shows the highest spirit of cooperation with the whole school system in order to obtain the most education for the least expenditure. Last year the club selected as an issue for county-wide high school debate the present three per cent sales tax in N. C. This year the club decided that the schools will not debate as a county unit, but will adopt the state-wide triangular query. The High School Debating Union has adopted the query: "Resolved, That the United States should adopt the policy of extending federal aid to general public education." Some of the schools have already started work on this question. Madison County has sent debating teams to compete in the finals at Chapel Hill—let's go again this year.

As the Basketball Tournament for the high schools is not far in the future, anxiety has been felt as to the winners. Currents of rumor as to the eligibility of certain players on the winning teams is always heard after the Tournament. To avoid this feeling all the principals will submit a full list of their players for the thorough examination of the members of the Club at its next meeting, February 14, 1935.