

Disasterous Fire Destroys Two Hotels at Palm Beach

Loss of Life is Feared When a Checkup of Guests of the Breakers and Palm Beach Hoteliers are Checked Up, Probably Today.

YOUNG GIRL KILLED AS AUTO HURRIES TO FIRE

Extent of the Damage Estimated at in Excess of Four Million Dollars; Apparatus of Three Cities Aid in Bringing Conflagration Under Control.

Palm Beach, Fla., March 18.—Fire, which for a time threatened to wipe out an entire section of this famous winter pleasure resort, was brought under control tonight after two big hotels, "The Breakers" and the "Palm Beach" had been reduced to piles of glowing ashes. Property damage was estimated in excess of \$4,000,000.

Early in the night the fire threatened to extend to the Royal Poinciana, another great hotel nearby, and guests were ordered to leave as a precautionary move. Blazing embers were thrown across Lake Worth to West Palm Beach and the entire north-end of Palm Beach was considered in grave danger for a time.

Fire fighting forces from Palm Beach, West Palm Beach and Lakewood fought the flames.

Four cottages belonging to the burned Breakers hotel, and lying immediately south of it, were burning at 7 o'clock tonight. One of these was occupied by Leonard Ahl, and another by Charles F. Schotte, Jr., both of Boston.

A number of shops lying along the North Lake trail, in the vicinity of the burned Palm Beach hotel, also was burned.

A young girl was run over and killed in West Palm Beach by an automobile when driven rapidly to the fire.

First reports of loss of life in the fire which destroyed the famous Breakers hotel.

Reports from the Palm Beach hotels, which were made by the authorities tonight, it was announced that an elderly man and woman, whose identity is still unknown, were burned to death. It is believed by the investigating officers that other names will be included in the death toll when the final accounting is made.

Flapper Grandmother a Musical Comedy Greatly Enjoyed

With a doubt, the musical comedy "The Flapper Grandmother," presented in the High School auditorium Thursday evening under the auspices of the Parent-Teacher's Association, was the best local attraction ever staged here. It can be truthfully said that there was fun and real entertainment from beginning to end; the laughs coming one after another in rapid-fire order.

It would be hard to single out the stars in this show, as each and every character acted his or her part with ease and to perfection.

Miss Thelma Marie Richardson, the director, is worthy of much praise for the wonderful success of the attraction, and is herself a most graceful and clever actress as well as an instructor.

The total gross receipts of the performance proved most satisfactory to all parties concerned, amounting in round numbers to \$467.00.

This amount is split fifty-fifty with Parent-Teacher's Association and the Sewell Lyceum and Producing Co., who not only furnish a director and actresses, but also all costumes and advertising matter.

In the Nominating contest for a Queen to represent Farmville at the Eastern Carolina Exposition to be held in Southfield April 13th-15th, Miss Ethel Pittman was the successful nominee, with Misses Elizabeth Elliott and Elizabeth Fletch running a close second.

FUNERAL OF MR. JOE LANG

The funeral services of Mr. Joe Lang, who died of pneumonia in Ellington, S. C., on March 14, was held at the home of his brother, Mr. E. O. Lang, in this city, Monday afternoon, Rev. B. B. Slaughter conducting the services. The body was laid to rest in the Lang family burial plot at the old home place about six miles west of Farmville.

Mr. Lang was fifty-five years of age and had never married. He is survived by three sisters, namely: Mrs. Ben May, of Goldsboro; Mrs. E. O. Smith and Mrs. Core L. Barrett, of this city, and five nephews, namely: Mr. E. O. Lang, of Ellington; Mr. S. E. Lang, of Washington;

First Lady



An excellent new portrait of Mrs. Alvin Coolidge, wife of our 30th President.

LAUGHING-HOUSE MAY BE NAMED

Dr. Cooper and Shore Also Advocated As Successors of Rankin

Raleigh, March 18.—The name of Dr. Charles O'H. Laughinghouse, of Greenville, for the past fourteen years a member of the state board of health, is being widely mentioned as the successor to Dr. W. S. Rankin, who is resigning from the secretaryship of the board to assume charge of the newly created Duke Hospital Fund. Dr. Rankin's successor will be chosen at a meeting of the board which will be held at Pinehurst April 28, 29, and 30 in conjunction with the convention of the North Carolina Medical Society.

Other physicians who have been mentioned for the position are Dr. G. M. Cooper, who has been assistant secretary of the board for two years, and Dr. C. A. Shore, director of the state laboratory of hygiene. Dr. Cooper last night denied published implications that he had stated that he would resign in the case certain physicians were appointed. He declared that he felt that the new secretary should be a resident of North Carolina and should be an outstanding man in his profession, well acquainted with the technical work of the state's health work.

"I have the best interests of the board at heart too much to miss any disturbance over any appointments," he stated.

Dr. Shore could not be reached at his home last night, but his friends doubted if he would accept the position if it were offered him. They pointed out that he has made a name for himself as one of the greatest men in the country in his particular line of work, that he is vitally interested in his present work, and that the difference in salaries of the two offices would be too insignificant to tempt him.

Dr. Cooper's friends suggest that his long service in the department and his intimate knowledge of the technical details would make him an admirable successor to Dr. Rankin. He had charge of the board's activities while Dr. Rankin was held director for the committee on municipal health practices of the American public health association.

The executive committee of the state board of health will meet in Raleigh within the next ten days, but it is thought by close observers that it will pick no candidates to recommend to the board. The date of the executive committee's meeting has not yet been decided upon. It is composed of Dr. J. Howell Way, of Waynesville; Dr. E. H. Lewis, of Raleigh; and Dr. Charles O'H. Laughinghouse.

Members of the state board of health are Dr. J. Howell Way, of Waynesville, president; Dr. E. H. Lewis, of Raleigh; Dr. Charles O'H. Laughinghouse, of Greenville; Dr. Cyrus Thompson, of Jacksonville; Dr. D. A. Stanton, of High Point; Dr. T. E. Anderson, of Statesville; Dr. T. J. Crowell, Charlotte; Dr. E. J. Tucker, of Roxboro, and James P. Stowe, of Charlotte.

Jagson Tatters was squabbling with his neighbor about the latter's chickens. "I've got a saxophone in my closet that hasn't been used for years," Jagson said finally, "and if you don't keep your chickens at home, I'll get the darn thing out and play it every night."

OFFICIALS MUST WALK TO CHURCH

Attorney General Rules On Two Sections Only of New Automobile Law

Raleigh, March 18.—"I am suggesting that all officers, agents and employees of the State should be careful not to offend against its provisions and in cases of doubt get the opinion declares Attorney General Dennis G. Brummitt in his first formal ruling on the recent statute forbidding private use of public owned automobiles.

"I am ruling on these questions only as they are presented," said the attorney general with a smile in explanation of his failure to include in his ruling an interpretation of the proviso of section 3 of the act, which threatens to have far reaching and drastic effect.

"That proviso reads: 'Provided further, however, that nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize the purchase or maintenance of any automobile at the expense of the state by any state officer unless he is now authorized by statute to do so.'

Very few state officers can show that they are 'authorized by statute' to maintain automobiles which they have already purchased with state funds.

However, the ruling of the Attorney General, which was in the form of a reply to an inquiry from Dr. C. Banks McNairy, superintendent of Caswell Training school, settles three points.

It is unlawful to go to church in a state owned automobile, or to send children to school in one.

State owned cars may be used to transport employees to and from their work by the simple expedient of making that a condition of employment.

It is unlawful to maintain at state expense any automobile privately owned, although a department may have a car available for use for private automobile use on public business.

The letter of Dr. McNairy follows in full:

Attorney General's Ruling: "I have your letters of March 13th and 14th with reference to the act to prohibit the use of public owned automobiles for private purposes. I herewith send you a copy of this act. You will observe that it became operative upon its ratification. March 10th.

"The act is very definite in its terms and in most cases should require very little from this office for its construction or interpretation. You will observe that it prohibits the use for any private purpose of any motor vehicle belonging to the state, any county, or any institution or agency of the state. If the state supplies you with an automobile, you may use it when engaged in the state's business and only when so engaged. You would have no right to use it for any private purpose. I think that the act prohibits your use of the car in taking your family to church, as suggested in your letter. Taking your family to church can only be held to be a private and not a public purpose. For that reason, I advise that you should not so use a car owned by your institution.

"You state that you operate a state owned bus that carries your employees to town and back, and the children of the employees to and from school each day. If some of your employees live at a distance from the institution and you have made a contract with them under the terms of which your institution is to transport them to and from their homes so as to perform their duties or work at the institution, I think that this would not be a use of the car for a private purpose. For that reason, I advise that you should not so use a car owned by your institution.

"Under the act you would not be permitted to use the vehicle in transporting them to and from church, nor do I think that it could be used in conveying their children to and from school. I think that under the act this would be a private purpose and condemned by its provisions.

"It may be that section 2 may have some application to your situation and I, therefore, give you my views on that also. It appears that some officers, agents and employees of state institutions and agencies own their cars under an arrangement by which the upkeep of the car, including tires, oil, gasoline and other accessories, is taken care of by the particular institution. Section 2 would prohibit such an arrangement.

ROTARIANS TO HEAR CONVENTION PLANS

Committees Will Make Reports at Weekly Session Tomorrow. Women Are Busy. Arrange Attractive Entertainment for Wives and Daughters.

Richmond, Va., March 17.—Every member of the Rotary Club is looking forward to the meeting tomorrow at 1 o'clock, at Chamber Club, at the final announcement about the forthcoming district convention are to be made by Chairman Gordon Shearin and his various committees. An enthusiastic meeting of the chairman of the committees, held Saturday, revealed the fact that every detail has been attended to, and that every help is needed in the shape of additional committees, in order to handle the big crowd that is coming to Richmond from North Carolina and Virginia, besides from practically every other section of the International Rotary.

Reservations have been made for two thousand people, and more are yet to be heard from. Several bands will accompany delegations, and in some instances the delegations will represent one hundred per cent membership of the club.

It was estimated that the attendance yesterday that was reported by the wives and daughters of delegates. This means that the committee from the local club, embracing wives, daughters, and mothers of Richmond Rotarians, will be busy during the whole week. This committee, it is reported, prepared a most attractive program, which takes the visitors around the city for a night seeing trip, to the Chamber Club, where luncheon and entertainment will be provided.

The program will include a social functions, dancing, and a tea, and to the benefit of the American Red Cross.

The program will be given by the Academy Players beginning at 8 o'clock. Following this a dance will be given in the Winter Garden at the Richmond Hotel. And on the following night a dance and buffet luncheon will be given at the Winter Garden.

President William M. Anderson stated officially yesterday that the entire program had been completed.

BLUE SKY LAW MOST DRASTIC IN U. S.

Governor Declares New Law Enacted by the 1925 General Assembly

Raleigh, March 18.—Declaring the "blue sky law" enacted by the 1925 general assembly to be the most drastic measure of the kind ever put upon the statute books of any American state, Governor A. W. McLean expressed the opinion yesterday that the statute will put an end to fraudulent stock selling schemes in this state.

"The enforcement of the law has been transferred from the insurance department to the corporation commission, but I do not believe that under the law practically all of the applications received will have to be declined," declared the governor.

The law, which was an administrative measure, was modeled on the Missouri statute, heretofore considered the strongest in the country, with several stringent provisions added. One section makes it a criminal offense to receive a note for stock without a notation on the face of the note making the paper non-negotiable.

cars and that they receive a reasonable allowance per mile for the use of the car while used on official business. Such an arrangement is permissible under the act in question.

"There may be circumstances other than those mentioned in your letter under which you may be in doubt as to the prohibitions of this act. It should at all times be construed by those affected so as to carry out its purpose and intention and to correct the conditions at which it is manifestly aimed. We will be glad to advise you further upon any circumstances which may arise, but I am suggesting now that all officers, agents and employees of the state should be careful not to offend against its provisions and in cases of doubt get the opinion of this department before acting."

DECLINES TO INCREASE TAX B. & L. SHARES

Legislature Defeats Measure to Increase Rate from 10c Per Share to 30 and 50c

Consider legislature acted wisely in declining to increase tax on investments or shares in building and loan associations, now 10c per share, proposed to make it 50c per share, then 20c, which was defeated practically unanimously.

A large majority of states impose no tax whatever on similar institutions, for the reason the entire function is for homes—all funds are required to be loaned on first mortgages as these associations are our greatest factor for making home owners, and for every home constructed additional tax values are put on the books.

Organized for community benefit and officered by community folks not for a few—as all shareholders share alike—strictly mutual.

The only institution in the state that gives wage earner and salaried men the plan of repayment on easy weekly or monthly payments in purchase of homes.

Assets have grown in North Carolina in five years from \$23,000,000.00 to \$70,000,000.00—with a gain last year of over \$10,000,000.00.

Building and Loan provides a safe place for the saver as the record for North Carolina is no failures since placed under state supervision years and years ago, the regular systematic plan is, so far, unexcelled.

Economically run, average expense for all associations in the state for the past four years is only one per cent per annum on the basis of assets.

Value your own local associations as a character builder and what they have meant to the community.

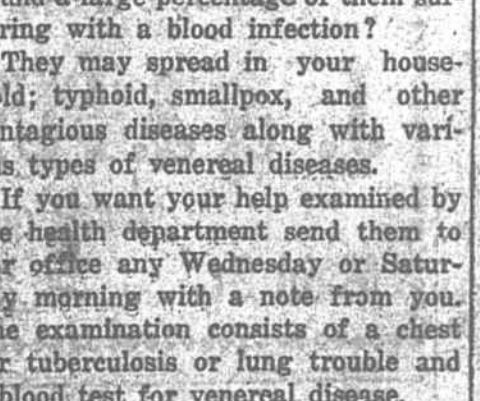
A home, the greatest developer for happier families and for institutions that will contribute to the American life.

THE PITT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ASKS

Dear Householder:

- 1. Do you know whether or not your cook is free from disease?
2. Do you know whether the nurse for your children is harboring some contagion?
3. Do you know that an infected cook or nurse, or other helper around the home is liable to spread disease among the members of your household?
4. Do you know that a very late percentage of those examined are infected?
5. Do you know that in a series examined more than 90 per cent were positive for venereal diseases?
6. Do you know that your doctor or the health department is ready and glad to advise you in regard to those working for you?
7. Do you know that we have already examined a number of cooks and nurses in private homes and found a large percentage of them suffering with a blood infection?
They may spread in your household; typhoid, smallpox, and other contagious diseases along with various types of venereal diseases.
If you want your help examined by the health department send them to our office any Wednesday or Saturday morning with a note from you. The examination consists of a chest for tuberculosis or lung trouble and a blood test for venereal disease.

\$150,000 Dry Cleaner



ROTARIANS MAKE FINAL PLANS TO GO TO RICHMOND

At the regular Tuesday evening luncheon of the Farmville Rotary Club held in the high school building final arrangements were announced by the On to Richmond Committee, and many of the fellows let it be known that their wives had promised to take them, while several others had promised to take their wives.

A well arranged Bays' Work program was again crowded out by matters of business and guests with various messages.

Jimmy O'Connell, the outfielder, whom the Giants paid \$150,000 for who was last fall kicked out of baseball in the bribery scandal, is this Spring running a dry cleaner shop in San Francisco.

Tornado Leaves Death and Destruction Along Its Path



Rep. Nick Longworth, who for fifteen years has battled to come out from under the handicap of being non-in-law of the famous T. R. at last wins by his own ability and is the new speaker of the House in the 66th Congress.

Murphysboro, Ill., in Center of Storm Area, Reported Last Night to Be in Flames With a Death Toll of Probably 200.

TOTAL DEATHS GIVEN AT 9 P. M. WERE 850

Property Damage Still Unestimated, May Run into the Millions—Great Twister Swept Across Three States, Hitting and Skipping With Regularity.

Chicago, March 18.—A tornado tore through Southern Illinois today after lashing Western Missouri, and then caused considerable damage in Indiana before it died out to the northeast after collecting a reported toll of 3,631 persons, dead or injured, on the basis of estimates available tonight from the storm swept regions, where communications largely were destroyed.

While darkness and prostrated wire made collection of data difficult, estimates which came in through various sources with ever increasing totals, placed the total dead at 957 and the injured at 2,674 before midnight.

The destruction of property was enormous, several towns being almost entirely wiped out and such populous places as West Frankfort and Murphysboro having lost whole blocks of buildings.

In the town of Parrish only three persons are said to have escaped death or injuries out of a population of 500.

The storm was so strong at Parrish that bodies were carried more than a mile, it was reported. At Murphysboro, where the dead totaled 100, a schoolhouse was blown from over the heads of 245 pupils, while at DeSoto, late estimates placed the dead at 100, and the injured at 300 out of a total population of 705.

A school house at DeSoto, Mo., was blown from its foundation.

The latest reports say that 700 persons were killed at Parrish and West Frankfort alone, but other information placed the loss in these towns somewhat lower.

Horton Advanced as Candidate in 1932

Wilmington, March 18.—Judge J. Loyd Horton, who this week retires from the bench to resume the practice of his profession in Raleigh, was advanced as a gubernatorial candidate for the 1932 race by members of the Wilmington Bar association. The suggestion was made at a banquet given by the local bar association in honor of the retiring jurist.

METHODIST MEN'S CLUB HOLDS INTERESTING MEET

One of the most interesting and enjoyable meetings of the Methodist Men's club since its organization something over a year ago was held around the banquet tables of the club rooms in the Farmville high school building last Friday evening, when after the regular routine of business the program of the evening was put on by team number three, led by its chairman, M. V. Jones. Interesting and helpful talks were made by Rev. J. L. Rumley and Judge J. Loyd Horton, a quartet was rendered and then a great stunt was pulled.

Historian L. M. Cox rendered a most interesting and well drafted report of the club's activities for the past year, and came very near relating a most treasured secret in regard to the near future anticipation of one of the members.

There were about forty of the fifty-five members present.

SILVER TEA

The Young Peoples' Missionary Society of the Methodist church, entertained at a Silver Tea on Tuesday afternoon from 3:30 to 5 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Walter Newton on Wilson street.

As the guests arrived they were met at the front door by Mrs. Newton and Mrs. G. M. Holden and shown into the living room where a musical program was rendered by Mrs. Haywood Smith, Mrs. J. M. Joyner and Miss Lila Della Flanagan. From here they were shown into the dining room by Misses Hazel Williams and Bettie Joyner where they were served green lemonade and sandwiches in shimmering glasses by Misses Lewis, Bynum, Bundy and Williams.

The house was lovely in its St. Patrick's Day decorations, a color scheme of green and white was beautifully carried out in every detail. They were made aided by Mrs. Eliza Booth Elwell.