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# Farmville Enterprise

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VOL. TWENTY-TWO

FARMVILLE, PITT COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1931.

NUMBER TWO

## Twelve Samaritan Girls Get State Prison Terms

### Eighteen Months to 5-Year Indeterminate Sentence Imposed

Caithage, May 20.—State prison doors today clanged behind 12 girls in their teens, unwanted for the most part by their own families, by society, or by the state's correctional institution, two of whose buildings they were sentenced in Moore county superior court here today for burning.

From 18 months to five years was the sentence pronounced by Judge Michael Schenk, who reminded them that it could and would lock them up, for 18 months, if they "behaved," for five years if they did not. And although a psychiatrist had adjudged the four prisoners whom he examined as mental defectives, Judge Schenk told them that he thought they could understand him as he recounted their offenses against society.

They listened attentively, the mental defectives, the daughter of a prostitute, the daughter of an insane mother, the daughter of a man now serving a term for a crime against his own child, the daughter of parents who had died in her infancy, leaving her a piece of undeveloped human driftwood, all listened until the judge came to the sentence of imprisonment in the state penitentiary. Then they broke into a wailing and sobbing, as violent as most of their demonstrations since they first flashed into public attention last March with the firing of two of the state institution's buildings.

The only other sign of emotion they had shown since the trial got under way yesterday morning came at the close of the day yesterday, and was provoked by the sympathy of Nell Battle Lewis, who had assumed the brunt of the defense counsel. As she made a brief plea to the judge for mercy for the children who were the products of their environment, of forces beyond their control or comprehension, the unconcern and defiance of the youthful defendants melted into tears, while handkerchiefs were also brought into use from behind the prisoners' seats in the packed court room.

Two of the 14 girls who submitted pleas of guilty of an attempt to commit arson with the understanding that the judge could dismiss any individuals against whom the testimony was not sufficient to convict, were given suspended sentences, conditioned on good behavior for five years. Rosa Mull, of Wilmington, 13 years old, and the youngest of the defendants, was placed in the custody of her family, a sentence of two years being suggested in the event she was not of good behavior. Margaret Pridden, of Waynesville, 15 years old, was given a suspended sentence of from one to three years. Both of her parents are dead, and she will be placed either in the home of a relative or in another home.

As the girls were taken from the court room, the same procedure was observed as that of yesterday. A deputy was stationed at the main entrance to the court room each time the girls were transferred to or from the room, the deputy being given orders to arrest anyone who attempted to pass through the door, while spectators were ordered to keep their seats until the girls had filed from the court, down the steps and through a sergeant of deputy sheriffs and court attaches to the waiting school bus which conveyed them to and from the jail.

When spectators descended from the court room today, the 12 sentenced prisoners were already speeding on their way to the state penitentiary in Raleigh, where they were placed above "Death Row," this wing being the only fireproof one of the prison.

Strangely enough, it is in this community, which is next door to Samaritan and which is itself the scene of jail disturbances, while the girls were being held here for trial, that the most sympathy is expressed for them.

"Them girls have already been punished twice over for everything they've done. They've been punished ever since they were born," was part of the comment which went along with the service of filling a gasoline tank and radiator.

"It does look like what they need is help, not punishment," a court house employe observed to a group on the steps as spectators filed from the court room.

"They haven't had a chance for anything else since they were born. They've been headed for the penitentiary all their days, and God help the rest of us because no one stepped in to intervene before it was too late. It is a case of being more sinned against than sinning," a more religious spectator observed.

There were also comments to the contrary to be heard, one to the effect that "I would have locked 'em up for the full ten years," and "There's

## FLOWER SHOW TO BE CONDUCTED BY GARDEN CLUB MAY 29

The annual spring flower show, sponsored by the Farmville Garden Club, a department of the Woman's Club, will be held at the American Legion Home Friday, May 29. This exhibition, which is expected to make a creditable showing for a town the size of Farmville, is a part of the Club's drive to make the town more beautiful and a more desirable place in which to live.

The following rules for entries must be observed: Flowers must be grown by person entering them. Entries must be made between the hours of 9 to 11, as flowers will be judged at 11. Bring flowers in own containers. List flowers in class in which you wish them entered. For finest specimen flower do not mix with others. Prizes and ribbons will be awarded for: Best exhibit pansies; best columbine, pink poppies, red poppies, best mixed basket, best arrangement sweet peas, finest specimen sweet peas; pinks, verbenas, red roses, white roses, climbing roses, basket mixed snapdragons, finest specimen snapdragon, best arrangement of flowers, best small arrangement, finest double larkspur, single larkspur, best arrangement double larkspur, single larkspur, best gaillardia, ragged robins, double, single ragged robins, coreopsis, nasturtiums, phlox, shasta daisies, gladiolus, potted plant, Easter lily, most artistic arrangement, best pansies, sweet william.

## METHODIST SERIES OF MEETINGS COMES TO CLOSE

The series of meetings being held in the Methodist church, of which Rev. H. L. Hendricks is pastor, closed Wednesday evening. The preaching has been done by the presiding elder of the district, Rev. Dr. McCracken, of Washington, who has endeared himself to the people of the community both as an ambassador of God and as a personal friend.

The meeting has been quite successful from every angle, the attendance holding up well and considerable interest being manifested by the entire community throughout the ten days.

## Rail Leaf Rate Is Disallowed

### Would Be Very Unfair to Newport News, Declares Commission

Washington, May 20.—The Interstate Commerce Commission has found that the proposed "reduced any-quantity rate on leaf tobacco from points in North Carolina to Norfolk and Richmond" was not justified. It ordered the proceeding discontinued. The new schedules were to become effective January 10, but operation was suspended until August 10. The action announced today eliminated the matter.

"If permitted to become effective," the commission said, "the proposed rate would result in an undue and unwarranted rate disadvantage to Newport News, with irreparable injury to that point as a port of call, and in a rate advantage to Norfolk and Richmond, which the evidence fails to justify. The schedules proposed would give Richmond a decided preference and advantage over all her neighbors based solely upon a fear that truck competition may hereafter deprive respondents of tobacco tonnage they now enjoy. Absolutely no present truck competition is shown. Before we come to consider the question whether this difference in rates will work an undue preference, the carriers seeking to justify a disruption of the existing relationship should show that the competition they rely upon is genuine. The actual effect of the proposed rate upon Smithfield and other origin points is not so clearly shown, but we are not convinced that the reduced rate would not be productive of undue prejudice to those points. Rates proposed to meet competition with other carriers which result in the prejudice of any shipper or any locality, or which go beyond genuine competition, are unlawful.

"We find that the proposed schedules have not been justified. An order will be entered requiring their cancellation."

## Brower Will Be Purchasing Head

### Governor Names State College Official Head New Position

Raleigh, May 20.—Alfred S. Brower, comptroller of State-College, was yesterday appointed by Governor O. Max Gardner as director of the new Division of Purchases and Contract created in the office of the governor by the present general assembly. He will assume his new duties at once in organizing his office for complete operation July 1. Several members of the general assembly have been mentioned in connection with the position. Governor Gardner stated that the salary which was left in his discretion will be fixed at \$6,000 a year.

Mr. Brower, who has been comptroller of State College since 1927, and who was business manager from 1924 to 1927, has during these seven years been responsible for all the purchasing of the college and for all operating and service divisions. He has been the responsible director of budget control and under the president responsible also for the fiscal policy of the institution.

"I have known Mr. Brower for more than ten years during my service on the executive committee of the state board of trustees of State College," stated Governor Gardner. "I regard him as one of the most highly qualified persons in North Carolina for undertaking the organization of the important work of directing the annual purchase of more than \$6,000,000 of supplies, materials, and equipment for the state departments and institutions."

"In ability, in experience, in personality, and in integrity he seems to me to just fit the requirements of this office, and it affords me the highest satisfaction to announce his acceptance of the position which was tendered him several days ago."

Mr. Brower is a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of College and University Business Officers of the Eastern States, and also a member of the Educational Buyers Association. From 1920 to 1928 he was director of the division of finance of the State Department of Education and put into operation the first budget system for the operation of the public schools of the state. During this period he served as the director of certification and reorganized this division of the State Department of Education.

Since all departmental and institutional purchases will be made through the Division of Purchase and Contract on and after July 1, Mr. Brower will be unusually busy during the next six weeks winding up his year's work at State College, working out the set-up of his new office, conferring with departmental and institutional heads, and in personally studying the operation of the Division of Purchase in some of the more important states that now have centralized control of purchasing and contracting. He plans to spend several days before the end of the month in travel tour of observation and study in some of the eastern and central states.

## POPPY SALE MAY 23

The poppy sale conducted annually by the American Legion Auxiliary will be held on Saturday, May 23, and the public is being urged to buy as liberally as possible of the significant red flowers.

Among the manifold blessings to be derived from purchasing poppies from the Auxiliary are these:

1. Money to those wives of disabled veterans, who make the flowers.
  2. Money to the department of rehabilitation from whom the flowers are bought.
  3. Means to carry on the Child Welfare and Rehabilitation program, and, lastly, the contentment and peace of mind to the man who realizes that we are carrying on for them.
- Money spent in this way will go to the relief of the men who suffered from the awful conflict across the high seas, and it is nothing but right that the people should express to them their gratitude by liberal purchases of poppies when they are placed on sale.
- Mrs. W. D. Bryan, president, and the local Auxiliary are hopeful of recording one of the greatest sales in years, but this will be impossible without public cooperation. Keep the poppy sale in your mind and when they are actually put on sale do your part by honoring the dead and helping the living.

When 21-year-old Marie Aubin lost control of her automobile at Plattsburgh, N. Y., it crashed through the side-wall of a frame house and hit the bed occupied by Walter Rizzi with such force that the slumbering man was hurled to the floor of the room.

Among the workers employed in a Paris (France) print shop is a 101-year-old woman who, notwithstanding her age, is still going strong.

## Milkman, Housewife, Sportsman, Winners in \$50,000 Contest



Top, James Thomas Sharkey, first prize winner; lower left, Mrs. Walter Sweet, winner of second prize; lower right, Julius M. Neitz, winner of third prize.

Pictures show the three major prize winners in the Camel cigarette contest. James Thomas Sharkey, a milkman in Boston, was awarded first prize of \$25,000; Mrs. Walter Sweet, mother of three children and wife of a Marine Corps captain stationed at the Brooklyn (N. Y.) Navy Yard, won second prize of \$10,000, and Julius M. Neitz, real estate dealer, and former secretary of the Duluth Commercial Club, received the third prize of \$5,000. In addition, five prizes of \$1,000 each, five prizes of \$500 each and twenty-five prizes of \$100 each were awarded.

The three fortunate prize winners will go to Winston-Salem, N. C., where Camel cigarettes are manufactured, to receive their checks.

## Griffon Firm Wins Verdict

### H. A. Hart & Brother Awarded Judgment of \$837 in Pitt Civil Court

Greenville, May 20.—H. A. Hart & Bro., Griffon, was awarded judgment for \$837.00 against J. B. Hardee and wife by a jury in the civil term of Pitt county superior court here yesterday.

The case centered about a note which the defendants gave the plaintiff for supplies, furnished them during the preparation of their crop.

The case occupied the major part of yesterday morning's session and after its completion hearing was begun in the issue of Mrs. L. E. Brewer against Roy Mays and the Ayden Veneer and Manufacturing Company. The plaintiff is asking for damages of \$2,500 for injuries which she alleges she received when a car in which she was riding collided with a truck of logs which the company was said to have left on the highway near Ayden.

Mrs. Brewer contends that she received painful injuries when a log protruding from the truck crashed through the windshield of the automobile in which she was riding.

The case was expected to consume the most of the morning session today and a decision was expected during the afternoon.

## BODY OF AMERICAN OFFICER RECOVERED

Brig.-Gen. Dunlap Perished in Avalanche; Relative Live in Hickory, North Carolina.

Paris, May 20.—French Army engineers today recovered the body of Brigadier General Robert H. Dunlap, U. S. M. C., who was buried alive in a Stone Age cave by a landslide near Tours yesterday.

They also recovered the body of Dennis Briant, a farmer, and they worked frantically to rescue Briant's wife, whose screams could be heard from the back of the cave, where they had taken refuge.

These reports came by telephone to the American embassy from Major Robert L. Walsh, whom Ambassador Edge sent down to Tours yesterday. The embassy notified Washington and sent an undertaker to Tours this morning to bring the general's body here. It probably will be sent home by steamer or on the cruiser Pittsburg, which is due soon at Marseilles on the way home from Manila to be scrapped.

Hickory, May 20.—Brigadier General Robert M. Dunlap, U. S. M. C., whose body was recovered today from the wreckage of an avalanche in Tours, France, was related to two residents of Hickory.

Mrs. Mary Heald, who makes her home here with her son, Prof. E. De Forrest Heald, of Lenoir-Rhyne college, was a first cousin of the general.

Mrs. Heald had a letter a few days ago from Mrs. Dunlap telling of plans to visit Tours.

## FARMVILLE MASONS WIN ATTENDANCE TROPHY

Farmville Masons, thirty-four strong, went to Grimsland Wednesday to attend the Fifth District meet, and brought home the cup offered in the attendance contest.

The local Masonic lodge, of which W. E. Joyner is worshipful master, has a roster of ninety-eight.

## PLAN TO BORE FOR OIL IN PERQUIMANS

Oil Exists in That County in the Opinion of Benjamin E. Land, Experienced Oil Man.

Hertford, May 20.—That oil will be found when the Pamlico Oil company drives one of its four test wells in Perquimans county is believed by many, since hearing the matter discussed by Benjamin E. Land, president of the company, who spoke to a crowd at the court house in Hertford recently. A number of owners of large tracts of land already have signed leases with the company.

Mr. Land told his hearers that he has had 34 years of practical experience in oil fields as an engineer, and that, from certain soil formation which he has observed, and certain tests which he has made, backed by the opinion of scientists, he is convinced that there is oil in Eastern North Carolina, in spite of the fact that the state geologists believed otherwise. He further stated that he is so thoroughly convinced that this is true that he has secured financial backing of northern capital sufficient to carry out the project of drilling for oil. As a vindication of his position in believing that there is oil in this country in the face of contrary opinions of geologists, he cited instances in which the geologists have been mistaken. One was the case of Cycle Hill, near Long Beach, Cal., where an oil well was drilled which became famous for its large production. He said that before oil was found, a certain man, who at that time was recognized as one of the best geologists in the state of California, said that he would drink all the oil found at that place. He said that in less than six months from the time this statement was made that well was producing 280,000 gallons of oil every 24 hours. He gave several other similar instances.

Mr. Land announced that he had no stock to sell, and asked for no money. The money, he said, already had been furnished by men who have never been in the state of North Carolina and who are backing him because of his judgment and that of the geologists which have been employed by the company. The only concession they ask is the lease of the land in solid blocks of several thousand acres for a period of five years or as long as oil is produced, for the purpose of mining for oil and for no other purpose, and agreeing to pay the owner one-eighth royalty on all the oil or gas found. They further agree to pay for any damage to growing crops on the land on which they operate. Only a small portion of land, something like a quarter of an acre, is required for the drilling of a well.

Following the address of Mr. Land the meeting was turned into a round-table discussion, with a number of questions being asked, to which enlightening answers were given by Mr. Land.

Tuesday morning, in acceptance of an invitation given by E. E. Bundy, superintendent of education for Perquimans county, Mr. Land spoke to the Perquimans high school students. This meeting was also thrown open for the asking and answering of questions.

## NEGRO SHOTS SWEETHEART

Dave Simmons, negro, is awaiting trial in the county jail at Greenville, charged with assault with a deadly weapon. It seems that Simmons loved Carrie Lee Jones "to kill," and while visiting her Sunday evening, calmly and deliberately shot her, saying, "I've got to kill you sometime, it might as well be now." The bullet entered the abdominal wall but the girl is recovering.

## Young Widow Given Her Freedom by French Jury

### PITT COUNTY GROUP WOMAN'S AUXILIARIES MET IN GREENVILLE

A very interesting and splendid meeting of the Episcopal Woman's Auxiliaries of Pitt county, was held in Greenville Friday in St. Paul's parish house, with the Greenville Auxiliary as hostess, and Mrs. J. L. Shackelford, of Farmville, the president, presiding.

The meeting opened at 10:15 with a celebration of the Holy Communion, by Rev. G. A. Lillierop, with 75 present. Mrs. W. Haywood Dail, president of the Greenville Auxiliary, cordially welcomed the group, to which Mrs. W. C. Askew, of Farmville, responded. Reports of the Christmas and Lenten activities were heard, and excerpts from letters received from one of East Carolina's missionaries to China, Miss Venetia Cox, formerly of Winterville, were read by her mother, Mrs. B. T. Cox.

The Young Peoples' work, their summer camp, Camp Leach, Washington, and the social service work of this convocation were emphasized in a program of short addresses, featured by those of Rev. W. A. Lillierop, Camp Leach chaplain. Mrs. Howard of the Students' Center, Greenville, and Mrs. Fred L. Outland, of Washington, chairman of Social Service. Among other interesting talks were those of Mrs. Waldo Gower, and a member of the Young Peoples' Service League, of Griffon. Miss Myra Scull, a student of the E. C. T. C., Greenville, rendered a solo.

It was decided that the usual Field Day of this group be held jointly with the Diocesan Rally Day at Camp Leach in June. A luncheon was served in the parish house dining room by the hostess Auxiliary after adjournment.

## FRIENDLY GOAL

Albany, N. Y., May 20.—Mrs. Geraldine Grey Loffredo, Buffalo, proposes to bind the friendship of Italy and the United States by using an Italian co-pilot on her projected goodwill flight to Rome.

The Buffalo woman, here today on her way to a Wilmington, Del., airplane factory, said she was seeking to procure as her co-pilot Renato Donati, Italian flier.

"I'm not going to attempt the flight alone," she said, "because I do not wish in any way to hinder the progress of aviation. It is not a trip for personal glory. It is a sincere attempt to arouse two nations to stronger feelings of friendship. So I am counting on having Donati as co-pilot."

## Finds Profits In Power Industry

### North American Company Changed from Railroads to Power

Washington, May 20.—How the North American Company lost money in railroads, but made it back when it turned to power operations was shown today in data placed in the record of the Federal Trade Commission.

Bonds and stocks, principally in railroads, that the company held when it was organized in 1890, declined in value until there was an accumulative deficit of about \$36,000,000 in 1901.

The capital structure was reorganized and the company, now one of the largest public utility holding groups in North America, turned to power operations. A. E. Lundvall, commission accountant, said the company had been increasingly profitable since.

Lundvall introduced data showing that the company's net income of \$2,688,956 in 1920 had grown to \$17,864,827 in 1929. He said this latter figure did not reflect the consolidated results of the system's operation, adding that the company's combined income in 1929 was \$28,806,824.

The witness said the North American Company's principal source of income was revenue from subsidiary companies, or companies in which it has substantial investments, including the North American Edison Company, operating in the Middle West; the Western Power Corporation, operating in California, and the Detroit Edison Company.

Lundvall testified that the North American Light and Power Company, operating in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas, was jointly controlled by the North American Company and the Insull group, each holding about 40 per cent of the outstanding common stock.

## Mrs. Charlotte Nixon-Nirdlinger Acquitted of Killing Husband

Nice, France, May 20.—Charlotte Nixon-Nirdlinger, St. Louis beauty, who shot her middle aged wealthy husband during a jealous quarrel, was acquitted by a jury of Frenchmen today.

The jurors accepted her story that Fred G. Nixon-Nirdlinger, Philadelphia theatrical man, had tried to strangle her in jealousy over the attraction her beauty had for other men, and acquitted her after 25 minutes' deliberation on the ground of self defense.

The jury, comprised of married men of moderate means, had heard her vehemently deny that she had a lover, or that she married Nixon-Nirdlinger for his money. The traditional sympathy of Frenchmen for women involved in a crime of passion was upheld by the verdict which set her free.

"Oh, I am so happy," Mrs. Nirdlinger cried as her mother and friends held her tightly in their arms. "I knew they would do the right thing." "No, I only want my children. We will sail for the United States as soon as possible. I never want to go back to that villa—I never want to see it again. It was the scene of the finish of my martyrdom of marriage. I only want to rest, with my children."

A few minutes later, after she had returned for the last time to the dark cell where she had been confined since March, Mrs. Nixon-Nirdlinger left the court house, amid the cheers of several thousand persons, many of whom threw flowers on her car.

The trial started this morning and the jury was out only 25 minutes, acquitting her on the grounds of self-defense.

Throughout the trial, Mrs. Nirdlinger, sitting in the high prisoner's box, had defended herself against charges of flirtations, love affairs and unfaithfulness to her husband. Sometimes she cried, but a moment later she would half arise from her seat behind the box-like prisoner's bench and defend herself with a fury that startled the court room. Again and again she raised her voice angrily to refute indirect charges of a love affair with an Italian and with an unidentified swimming instructor.

"It's untrue," she cried in French. "All of these stories are untrue." Mrs. Nirdlinger, wearing a modest black satin frock, was taken from her cell to the Assizes court several hours before the trial was to start, to avoid demonstrations.

She was weeping when the trial started and seemed confused by the rapid questionings of the judge.

The judge flatly accused her of a love affair with a swimming instructor, which brought Mrs. Nirdlinger to her feet, shouting a denial.

"Did you think your life was made for pleasure?" the judge asked. Didn't you think you had any responsibilities toward your husband and children? You led a life which you call model, but wasn't it true you had a love affair with a swimming instructor?"

"No, no! It's untrue," she cried. She sat down again, looking tearfully around the court room where her mother, Mrs. James E. Nash, of St. Louis, and friends, sat, and where a dozen photographers struggled for positions for their cameras.

Outside the court room were gendarmes, armed with rifles, keeping the crowd back. Suddenly a camera flashlight was set off and Mrs. Nirdlinger shrank back into a corner of the prisoner's box.

The first witness was a porter at the Nirdlinger villa, who described how he discovered Mrs. Nirdlinger lying in a blood covered night dress, moaning and saying "I shot my husband."

"You are not at a matinee," the court then cautioned the crowd when applause greeted a statement favorable to the defendant.

Irma Stolz, nursemaid for the two children of Mrs. Nirdlinger, testified that Mrs. Nirdlinger never flirted. "No, she was an ideal mother and loved her children," said Miss Stolz. "She was never out alone and her husband read every letter she wrote or received."

After recess the judge questioned Mrs. Winnifred May-Copley, wife of a wealthy British subject.

"Mrs. Nirdlinger was not forward, but, instead, was very serious," the witness said. "In fact, she was always too reserved for a married woman."

The crowd laughed loudly. After another recess at tea time Mrs. Nirdlinger became involved in a controversy with the blonde secretary of her late husband, Mlle Jeanne Birey, who charged the defendant had married for her husband's money.

"Why do you come here to defame me?" Mrs. Nirdlinger cried. "I don't defame you," the secretary (Continued on page 3)