

DEATH PENALTY IS DEMANDED FOR MINISTER

Christmas Time Finds Case of Distressing Need in Goldsboro

70 YEAR OLD WOMAN HERE IS PENNILESS

Aid Is Needed For Person Without Family, Who Is In Dire Need

The Goldsboro News does not have one hundred needy cases to report at this Christmas time, but it has one case of distress that it would like to call to the attention of its readers in the belief that they will afford the relief, an old woman passed sixty years of age, temporary relief. She is homeless, without family and penniless.

The case was called to the attention of W. W. Minton, the business manager of The News, who says:

"It would be hard to believe that in Goldsboro, a city of plenty, there would be any person who is destitute, with no person, relative or friend to care for them either in sickness or infirmity. YET THIS IS THE CASE.

Nearly 70 Years Old

There is an elderly lady, approximately seventy years of age, who has no relatives, except two maiden sisters, near her own age residing in another section of the United States, who themselves are in wretched circumstances. This woman though very reluctant in accepting charity, is nevertheless, an object of such, though very much against her wishes.

Legally, she cannot become an inmate of the COUNTY HOME, due to the fact that she has not resided in this county long enough to be considered a citizen of it. She has to claim on any fraternity. She cannot enter the Old Soldiers' home, as she is from the northern part of the state, yet she is in dire poverty, and is at present being cared for at the home of a good lady of this city, who is obliged herself to accept paid guests in her home, in order to care for herself and children. She is not even able to meet her obligations to this woman as a paid guest.

SOLID CAR SCALLOPS SENT FROM BEAUFORT

BEAUFORT, Dec. 23.—The Beaufort News says that when the heavy rains in September occurred, it was thought that great damage had been done to the scallops in local waters and predictions were made by some that the output this season would be a complete failure. It is likely that some damage was done to the scallops but it is by no means a failure. A great many of these scallop bivalves have been gathered already, and many more will be taken before the season is finished.

ATTEMPTS TO TAKE LIFE FOLLOWING SHORTAGE

BOSTON, Dec. 23.—Caleb S. Jackson, whose resignation yesterday as vice president and treasurer of the Eastern Massachusetts Railway Co., was accepted because of "a distinct breach of his fiduciary relationship" in connection with employees' insurance money, attempted suicide early today at his home here.

OXFORD CITIZENS HAVE PURCHASED EXCHANGE HOTEL

OXFORD, Dec. 23.—The Exchange Hotel, owned by L. F. Smith, has been purchased by a number of Oxford citizens, who will form a hotel company known as Oxford Hotel Company. Their plan is to make improvements on the present hotel, and operate it as it is at the present. In the future the company contemplates erecting a modern up to date hotel. The new manager for the hotel has not been selected yet.

FALSE TEETH POPULAR

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 23.—The wearing of false teeth has attained a strange popularity in Constantinople. This form of dentistry only recently being introduced into the Turkish capital, and now false teeth are being installed into the mouths of most of the well to do persons of the city. Their advantage to personal health is being emphasized.

WOMEN TRY TO KEEP OUT OF JAIL

Women, try to keep out of jail will be before we have to try to keep months gained 15 pounds.

Wife Slayer Again Held to Be Insane

CINCINNATI, Dec. 23.—Judge William H. Luebbers today declared Binton Perrin, 56, former grange mill operator, insane, late today despite the finding of Hamilton county alienists, who found that Perrin was "now sane and always had been sane." Perrin recently was acquitted by a jury in criminal court of the murder of his mother-in-law on the sole ground of insanity.

MR. MITCHAM PAYS BONUS

Goldsboro Contractor Rewards Employees in Handsome Way For Their Services

Christmas bonuses, ranging from \$50 up were presented to his twenty employees yesterday, by W. O. Mitcham, one of the leading plumbing contractors of North Carolina, in recognition of his appreciation of their efforts in making 1924 the most successful year in the history of his business. In addition to the cash bonus, they get from four to five days with pay to fittingly observe Christmas unless a general freeze up should demand their recall to handle emergency work.

News of the bonus, probably the largest awarded by any Goldsboro concern, was revealed yesterday afternoon following an oyster roast at Pineview Park, at which Mr. and Mrs. Mitcham were hosts to the employees and a few close personal friends.

While no statement as to the volume of his 1924 business could be secured from officials of the contracting concern, it is estimated that the total probably exceeds half a million dollars. Among some of his big jobs were the plumbing and heating fixtures in the \$100,000 home of Herman Hardy, at Jason; all of the dormitories in the eastern North Carolina Teachers Training School, at Greenville; a \$60,000 job at the Cannon Training School, at Kinston; the Wayne National Bank building at Goldsboro, and all of the new buildings at the negro insane asylum here. These were in addition to scores and scores of smaller jobs all over eastern North Carolina.

Although Mr. Mitcham started in life without a dollar, figuratively speaking, he has built up one of the largest plumbing contracting firms in the state. His headquarters are maintained here.

DEAD ARE BEING BURIED FROM 1000 FT. DEPTH

ROME, Dec. 23.—In response to queries, prompted by a report that he was ill with influenza, was stated this forenoon that the Pope was perfectly well.

RAIN WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

Rain Wednesday and Wednesday night; probably clearing Thursday morning; somewhat warmer Wednesday; colder Thursday.

ROYALL AND BORDEN SUSTAIN BIG LOSS IN RALEIGH FIRE

RALEIGH, Dec. 23.—Flames took a heavy toll early Tuesday morning in the large furniture store of Royall and Borden on Fayetteville street and the place is now idle, whereas only Monday the concern was in the midst of its heaviest Christmas sale. The exact damage has not been estimated but it is thought that the loss will be well over \$50,000.

The bulk of the damage was confined to the first floor, where fire, water and smoke combined to mar Christmas goods, furniture and bric-a-brac. Some damage was on the second floor, but it is thought the loss in that sector of the establishment will be light.

The fire was discovered by Patrolman Catts, the flames were confined to a small area directly above the furnace room.

FORTUNE OF YOUNG WOOD WINDLES

Wife, Suing for Divorce, Says Young Speculator Is "Hard Up"

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—Lieutenant Osborne Cutler Wood, son of General Leonard Wood, whose Wall street operations are said to have netted a large fortune, will be sued for divorce, Mrs. Wood, who was Katherine Thompson, of Brookwood Farm, Greenville, Del., announced at her father's home today. Mrs. Wood has been separated from her husband for several months. They were married in Manila several years ago.

Mr. Wood resigned from the army last April. Mrs. Wood also declared that her husband had "lost practically all he previously made. She refused to believe that he had made \$2,000,000 more in the stock market recently, as reported from Paris.

"Mr. Wood," she said, "is not a success financially." Mrs. Wood spoke of her married life reluctantly.

"We are separated," she said, "and have been for several months. I shall start suit for a divorce. I do not know where as yet, and I do not care to disclose the ground, but I have made up my mind to divorce my husband."

"I am tired of the widespread impression that my husband is worth a fortune. Why only two weeks ago he cabled me to send him an immense sum of money—about \$10,000. Of course I didn't do it. It is ridiculous to think I could supply any such amount."

"As far as the sums he has made in the past are concerned, I am too poor at figures to remember the exact amount of his winnings at various times. But it is a wrong impression to regard him as a man of wealth."

Mr. Wood's successful speculations in the stock market were first brought to light in December, 1923, when Congressmen became interested in reports that the Governor General's son had been speculating by cable from Manila. At that time Wood was serving on his father's staff.

His father in law, who had been to the Philippines on a visit to his daughter, said he had admonished the young soldier to quit the stock market speculation, and he had agreed to do so.

Mrs. Wood is a granddaughter of Gen. James Harrison Wilson, U. S. A., retired. Her two children are now with her.

DUKE GIVES \$10,000 TO N. C. MINISTERS

DURHAM, Dec. 23.—James B. Duke, through Trinity College, has again distributed ten thousand dollars to superannuated Methodist preachers and the families of deceased preachers of the North Carolina and Western N. Carolina Conference. Ten years ago Mr. Duke started this custom and each year he has contributed \$10,000 to this cause thereby making possible a more enjoyable Christmas for those who have labored faithfully in the service of the church. Each conference claimant receives an amount proportionate to the sum allowed by the Conference Board of Finance.

CONVICTS GET COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE

Several Wayne county prisoners will be able to spend their Christmas at home. Although their names could not be secured yesterday, several prisoners serving time on the Wayne county roads, whose terms will expire before the 25th day of January, will be able to spend Christmas at home with their families under the provisions of Governor Morrison's clemency act.

BLACKMAILER ASKS \$20,000 OF KIP'S DAD

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Bern Sirro, 20, may spend Christmas in jail instead with his parents in Fresno, Calif., with \$70,000 to spend as he anticipated. In consequence of his failure to recognize a group of "loafers" in Battery Park as disguised detectives, Sirro today faces charges of attempted blackmail and extortion.

Having written letters to Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt and Philip Rhineclander, threatening to "take action accordingly" if money was not delivered as directed, it is alleged, Sirro tried to blackmail the former out of \$5,000 and the latter out of \$20,000. One of the letters containing Sirro's threat was received by Henry A. Kegan, Mrs. Vanderbilt's sec. and the other by Francis Valk, Mr. Rhineclander's secretary.

POISONING PLOT IS NOW BEFORE JURY

Mrs. Sweetin, Asserts Counsel, Would Face Death With a Smile, "Because She Is Innocent"

MT. VERNON, Dec. 23.—The state demanded the death penalty in argument late today before the jury trying Lawrence M. Hite, former Ina, Hite, clergyman, and Mrs. Elsie Sweetin, for the alleged poisoning of her husband, Wilford Sweetin.

Counsel for Mrs. Sweetin, on the other hand, appealed to the jurors to send her home to her children, but added, "whatever your verdict is she will take it with a smile, for innocent meets death with a smile."

State's attorney Joe Allen, opening for the state, urged the jurors not to let the fact that one of the defendants is a woman sway them in their decision.

With Sweetin frequently Robert E. Smith, attorney for Mrs. Sweetin, emphasized the testimony showed Hite had been with Wilford Sweetin, frequently before his death and had ample opportunity to administer poison to him.

Speaking of the testimony of Mrs. Francis Fisher, aunt of Mrs. Sweetin who had testified she had warned Elsie of the gossip about her and her preacher, Smith said:

"Men, if there were more women like Mrs. Francis Fisher in Ina, then Ina would be better off. God bless Mrs. Fisher and women like her. She didn't go up the alley and talk. She went to Mrs. Sweetin and told her what she heard."

Smith then reviewed the testimony about Mrs. Sweetin's efforts to avoid the trial, how she turned off the street and went around the block to avoid meeting with him.

"They want you men to believe she poisoned her husband and yet within five minutes after she found he was sick she went for a doctor. That doctor went away. Elsie wanted to send for another. Wilford said, 'no, I'll get better.' What did you do?" She went without his knowledge and called Dr. Harper and his testimony shows that when he got there Wilford said, 'why, hello doctor, I did not know you were coming.'"

"Men, whatever your verdict is she will take it with a smile for innocent meets death with a smile."

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President of the University of North Carolina To Speak At Alumni Banquet

Dr. W. W. Chase, president of the University of North Carolina, will deliver an address here on the evening of December 31, at the annual banquet of the alumni association. The annual banquet of the Wayne county University of North Carolina will be held December 31. The committee in charge is particularly happy to be able to announce that the occasion will be a gala one, graced by the presence of Dr. W. W. Chase, president of the University of North Carolina. His coming at this time is a real privilege for local alumni, who will be quick to avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing him. An announcement he brings will be certain to be of greatest interest, and a stimulus and inspiration leading to fuller comprehension of present conditions and needs at U. N. C. and re-dedication of all alumni to a more sympathetic understanding and loyalty to their alma-mater. The subject of his address will be announced at a later date.

4 KILLED IN PLANE CRASH

One Of Victims Was Being Rushed to Hospital For Treatment

NORFOLK, Dec. 23.—Three navy men and a civilian met death this afternoon when a naval ambulance seaplane returning from Hatteras, off the North Carolina coast, with a hospital patient, swamped at the Hampton Roads naval air station landing.

The dead are: E. M. Keyser, and A. S. Manwaring, chief petty officer, P. S. Gavin, a hospital apprentice and Uriah B. Williams, Jr., of Huxton, North Carolina. Williams was being brought to Norfolk hospital for treatment for pneumonia.

Blackmailers Get Commutation of Sentence

Several Wayne county Prisoners Will Be Able To Spend Their Christmas At Home

Although their names could not be secured yesterday, several prisoners serving time on the Wayne county roads, whose terms will expire before the 25th day of January, will be able to spend Christmas at home with their families under the provisions of Governor Morrison's clemency act.

In this executive pronouncement made on the eve of Christmas, Governor Morrison has extended to prisoners in jails and chain gangs over the state what is probably the biggest blanket Christmas gift ever made by a governor of North Carolina.

According to a message received by the Sheriff's office yesterday, every prisoner now serving life in jail or on the roads whose sentence expires before January 25, 1925, had his sentence commuted to take effect yesterday. The only exception was for prisoners serving time for contempt of court.

The commutation of Governor Morrison reads, as follows:

"I hereby commute all and every prisoner in North Carolina in the state prison, in any county jail or county chain gang in any county whose term of imprisonment as fixed by the court under which the prisoner is serving terminates on or before the 25th day of January, 1925, so that said term will expire on Tuesday, the 23rd day of December, and the officers in charge of said prisoners are hereby directed to release them and send at once to my office the name of such prisoners the crime for which imprisoned and length of term sentenced. I do this in order that all prisoners in the State whose term in the regular order of their punishment would expire in thirty days from Christmas, will be at liberty to enjoy the Christmas season, believing that this is a proper expression of the compassion and sympathy and mercy of a Christian state."

"This order is not to apply to imprisonment for contempt of court of which term there is doubt of my authority to pardon."

CAMERON MORRISON, Governor.

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