

THE GASTONIA GAZETTE

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK—TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS.

GASTONIA IS A BUSY TOWN.

GASTONIA, N. C.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 31, 1914.

\$1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

NO. 26.

SINGLE COPY 3 CENTS.

VOL. XXXV.

BIG REAL ESTATE DEAL

MORRIS BROTHERS SOLD FOR \$40,000

Property at Corner of South Street and Main Avenue Purchased Saturday Night by Long Brothers—Second Big Deal in Gastonia Dirt Within the Week—Humors as to Purposes of New Owners.

For the second time within a week a big deal in Gastonia real estate was made when Messrs. V. E. and L. H. Long Saturday night purchased the property at the corner of South street and Main avenue owned by Messrs. B. T. and S. M. Morris for the sum of \$40,000. On Monday the Love building, in the block immediately west of the Morris Brothers corner, sold for \$50,550 as chronicled in Tuesday's Gazette. Mr. W. W. Glenn being the purchaser. That property fronted 112 feet on Main avenue and brought a fraction over \$450 a front foot. The Morris Brothers property fronts 50 feet on Main avenue and runs back 110 feet. It brought \$800 a front foot. This is the highest price ever paid for real estate in Gastonia and is a fabulous sum when compared to the market value of property here a few years ago.

Not only in the sum which changed hands but in the rapidity with which this sale was consummated did this latest big deal in dirt set a new record in local real estate circles. It required only a few minutes to close the deal. As reported by witnesses to the transaction, it took place about this way, the time being Saturday night, one of the busiest of all nights in Gastonia:

Mr. V. E. Long said to Mr. S. M. Morris: "I'll give you \$35,000 for this property."

"We'll take \$40,000," replied Mr. Morris.

"It's a deal," replied Mr. Long, who explored his pockets and brought up four silver dollars, all the change he had with him, and passed it over to bind the trade. The other parties interested were phoned for and an agreement was drawn up. Yesterday morning the deeds were properly made out.

At present there are two brick store-rooms in this property, each having a 25-foot front. The one on the corner is occupied by Morris Brothers as a department store, they having been in business on this corner for 26 years. The other building is occupied by the Standard Hardware Company. Each is two stories high.

When the Messrs. Morris came to Gastonia from Dallas 26 years ago a small wooden store building stood on this corner, now one of the most valuable business sites in the city. The late Mr. John H. Craig was conducting a general merchandise business there. They took over the business and a few months later purchased the property, paying between \$700 and \$800 therefor. A little later they built the brick building on the corner still occupied by them and about 10 years ago erected the store-room adjoining occupied by the Standard Hardware Company. Both of these firms will continue to occupy their respective store rooms for another 12 months, the transaction including a year's lease on both buildings.

No real estate transaction which has ever taken place here has caused as much comment as this one. It was the talk of the street Saturday night and is still being talked of. The general opinion seems to be that while the price was a high one the property is worth it. There has been much speculation as to just what use the Messrs. Long Brothers would put this property to. Among the things mentioned as possibilities are a theatre, a hotel, etc. The probability of a big drug store on the corner ground floor is also mentioned. The owners themselves have had nothing to say as to what they intend to do with this valuable piece of property.

Farm Demonstration Assured.

Though there were many farmers in Gastonia Saturday it was impossible to get them together for a meeting, which had been scheduled for the city hall at 9:30 o'clock because of the widespread interest in the county school commencement. Mr. E. S. Millsaps, district manager of farm demonstration work, was here and was to have addressed the farmers. He spent the large part of the day here conferring with various persons interested in the proposed demonstration work and as a result of his visit it was assured that Gastonia county is to have a farm demonstrator. Something more definite on this subject will be announced at an early date.

Read
The
Want Ads
On Page 5

IN SOCIAL CIRCLES

LATEST EVENTS IN WOMAN'S WORLD

STORY HOUR FOR MISS GILL'S ROOM.

On Friday afternoon of this week, beginning at 2 o'clock, Miss Jessie Stockard will conduct a story hour at the library for all the pupils of Miss Gill's room.

S. AND O. CLUB WITH MRS. BRISON.

The regular meeting of the S. and O. Club will be held Thursday afternoon of this week at 3:30 o'clock with Mrs. R. Hope Brison at her home on West Main avenue.

BETTERMENT TO MEET FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

The Woman's Betterment Association will hold its regular meeting in the auditorium of the Central school at 3:30 o'clock Friday afternoon of this week. All members are especially requested to attend. Two very important events are scheduled for the next two weeks. Miss Van Burck's lecture next Monday afternoon and Spring "Clean-Up" day on April 13th.

U. C. CLUB MET WITH MRS. JONES.

The regular meeting of the U. C. Club was held last Friday afternoon with Mrs. A. C. Jones at her residence on Dallas street. The club is studying Italy and the topic for the afternoon was "Rome," and papers were read by Miss Blake on "Famous Ruins at Rome," and by Mrs. Henderlite on "Art Treasures in Rome." Miss Mary Ragan gave a very interesting reading from Mark Twain's "Innocents Abroad" and Mrs. Timberlake gave a reading on "The Vatican." At a business meeting which was held at the conclusion of the literary program Miss Ragan was elected a delegate to represent the U. C. Club at the meeting of the State Federation in Fayetteville May 6 to 8.

COMPLIMENTARY TO MRS. J. D. DUFF.

The following is from yesterday's Rock Hill, S. C. Record:

Complimentary to Mrs. Dudley Duff, of Clover, who was the house guest last week of her sister, Mrs. J. E. Parker, Miss Mary Marshall entertained very delightfully Thursday afternoon a number of friends. At small tables arranged in rooms effectively adorned with lovely spring flowers, a series of interesting games of "Bingo" was played progressively. At a late hour a delicious salad course was served and the affair was a most enjoyable one.

Those present were: Mesdames Dudley Duff, Sadler Love, Calvin Stevenson, W. H. Brice, Rachel Roddey, Robert M. Murphison, J. P. Hollis, Misses Nellie Reid, Mamie Steele, Fessie Wilson, May Lyons and Julia Boyce.

DIED SUDDENLY.

Sergeant Preston K. Gilbert of Gaston Guards Answers Inspection Roll Call and Falls Dead—To be Buried in Lincoln County.

A moment after answering "here" to roll call at the annual inspection of Company B in the armory yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock Sergeant Preston K. Gilbert fell out of a chair in which he was sitting to the floor in an unconscious condition and was dead within 10 minutes. He was not feeling well and was present to respond to roll call, having informed Captain Bulwinkle that he did not feel well enough to drill. Drs. Stovall and Anders were summoned immediately but Gilbert was dead when they arrived. Heart trouble was assigned as the cause of death.

Deceased was in his 31st year and was married. He is survived by his widow and one or two children. He was employed as an operative at the Lory Mill and was known as a quiet and industrious young man. He had served in Company B for three years and in January of this year he was inlisted for another three years. He was faithful in his attendance on the drills and took great interest in the company's affairs.

Because of the death of a member of the company in the armory the official inspection was limited to a drill and inspection of the armory and equipment. Capt. R. C. Langdon, P. S. A., and Col. Thomas Stringfield, N. C. N. G., conducted the inspection. Col. J. T. Gardner, of Shelby, and Capt. W. R. Robertson, of Charlotte, were present as spectators. The officers stated that the local military company has the best equipped armory in the State. They found everything in number one order. There are at present 47 enlisted men and three officers in the company, which has a splendid rating with the war department.

Mrs. Roth to Lecture.

Mrs. Julia T. Roth, of Toledo, O., national secretary of the Daughters of America, will deliver a lecture on Immigration and the Public School System at the Central school auditorium Wednesday night, beginning at 8 o'clock. The lecture is given free under the auspices of Gastonia Council No. 68, J. O. U. A. M., and everybody is cordially invited.

SHORT LOCAL ITEMS

THE MOVEMENTS OF GASTON PEOPLE

Personal Items About Gaston Folks and Their Friends—Short Items About People and Things That Are of Interest to Gazette Readers.

Mr. J. F. Thomson was a business visitor to Yorkville yesterday.

Rev. R. A. Miller, of Lowell, was a Gastonia visitor Saturday.

Mr. L. A. States spent yesterday in Lincoln on business.

Dr. J. M. Caldwell, of Blacksburg, S. C., was a visitor in the city yesterday.

Mr. W. E. Clemmer has purchased a farm just west of the city from Mr. J. W. Vanderburg.

Mr. A. Q. Kale, of High Shoals, was a business visitor in the city Saturday.

Miss Lena Green, of Belmont, was the guest Saturday of Dr. and Mrs. C. J. McCombs.

Mr. Harry Palls, of Greensboro, spent Sunday here as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Long.

A handsome new steel ceiling is being put in the offices of the Gastonia Insurance & Realty Co.

During the month of March 1915 cases were tried in the Municipal Court.

Mr. C. S. Carson, of Bessemer City, was a Gastonia visitor Saturday.

Capt. C. M. Nolan, who has been confined to his home by illness for the past two or three weeks, was able to be out again Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Carpenter and little son, of the Landers Chapel neighborhood, attended the county commencement Saturday.

Mr. H. P. Mackley, a senior at Oak Ridge Institute and captain of the baseball team, was a guest Friday of his sister, Mrs. A. E. Woltz.

Brown Wilson, one of the Gazette's carrier force, is laid up with mumps at his home on West Airline avenue.

Mrs. E. N. Hahn left last week for Lenoir on a visit to her sister, Mrs. W. L. Minish, and other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Love, of Monroe, are the guests of Dr. and Mrs. C. J. McCombs. Mrs. Love is undergoing treatment at the City Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. V. B. Higgins will leave tomorrow for Greenville, S. C., where they will make their home in the future. Mr. Higgins is building inspector for the Southern Railway.

Gastonia's new photo-play and vaudeville theatre "The Cozy," located in the Craig & Wilson building, will have its opening Thursday night of this week. See display ad on page eight.

Mr. R. P. Parker has dissolved partnership with his son, Mr. C. T. Parker, and opened up a new general merchandise business in his old stand on South Oakland street near the Dunn Mill.

Mr. Mark Wilson has purchased from Mr. J. Y. Miller a lot on South street adjoining the property of Mr. W. C. Abernethy. It has a frontage of 100 feet on South street. Mr. Wilson may build on this lot.

Mrs. E. C. Wilson went to Charlotte today to be present this afternoon at a presentation of a portrait of Harvey Wilson by Mr. George E. Wilson to the Charlotte Law Association. Harvey Wilson was the father of Mrs. Wilson's husband.

The baseball teams of Trinity College and Davidson College are in the city for the game scheduled to be played at 3:30 this afternoon, but at 2 o'clock the indications are that a downpour of rain will interfere with the playing of the game today.

The United 5, 10 and 25 Cent Stores, whose Gastonia store will occupy the Adams building, will have their formal opening Friday night from 7:30 to 9:30 and be open for regular business Saturday morning at 9 o'clock. Nothing will be sold at the formal opening except candies. Further announcement will be made in Friday's Gazette.

Dallas, Route 1, News.

Correspondence of The Gazette.

DALLAS, Route 1, March 26.—Mrs. Eiter, of this community, and a Mr. Moss, of Cherokee, S. C., were married at Blacksburg Tuesday. We wish for Mr. and Mrs. Moss a happy and prosperous married life.

Mr. Ralph Costner has been confined at home the past week with mumps.

Miss Etta White visited Mrs. W. J. Clemmer, of Bessemer City, Tuesday last week.

Mrs. George Pasour spent Tuesday in Bessemer City with her mother, Mrs. W. R. Thomas.

Mrs. Beeler Lineberger visited friends in Dallas the first of the week.

Mrs. Eliza White spent one day last week with her sister, Mrs. J. L. Clemmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Price Ratchford visited at Mr. Luther Best's the first of the week.

Durham's Million Dollar Fire, the biggest that ever happened in the State, shown in pictures at Lumina Theatre today.

FIRST COUNTY COMMENCEMENT GRAND SUCCESS

ABOUT FIVE THOUSAND SCHOOL CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN MAMMOTH PARADE

Gaston County's First Commencement Held Here Saturday Drew Nearly Ten Thousand People to Town, Half of Them Pupils of the Public Schools—Event Was a Grand Success from the Big Parade to the Athletic Events—Names of the Winners in the Several Contests—Was a Gaiety Day in Gastonia.

From the time the band began to play in the morning until the athletic events, including a baseball game, were concluded in the afternoon Gaston county's first commencement of the public schools, held here Saturday, was to use a slang expression, "a howling success." In the early morning hours the clouds lowered threateningly over the land and doubtless kept hundreds of people in remote sections of the county from coming to witness the events, notwithstanding which fact there were, according to conservative estimates, something like ten thousand people in town. Of this number between 4,000 and 5,000 were school children and marched in the big parade.

It was indeed an inspiring sight, that long line of public school pupils, ranging in age from six or seven-year-old tots to grown young men and young women, marching together under banners which stood for public schools and public education. As they marched along Main avenue, crowded as it had probably never been but once before, these young people, "the hope of Gaston county" as one expressed it, were loudly cheered by enthusiastic spectators.

It was about 11 o'clock before the lead of the procession struck the business section of Main avenue. It was led by the Junior Order several hundred strong who were headed by the High Shoals Band. The line of march was along the northern side of Main avenue to York street and back on the southern side of Main avenue to Oakland street where ranks were broken. It required about three-quarters of an hour to complete the march. Each school carried a banner showing the enrollment and the younger pupils of several schools wore distinctive uniforms. Gastonia's banner showed an enrollment of 1,550 and was, of course, the largest in the procession. The uniforms were of white and green, the smaller pupils having green book satchels at their sides. Belmont's uniform was white and red and several other schools had distinctive colors.

But for the fact that epidemics of measles, mumps and other contagious diseases prevailed in several sections of the county, preventing whole schools from attending, the parade would no doubt have contained 6,000 or more pupils.

No accident occurred to mar the pleasure of the day and the order maintained by all classes of people was exceptionally good.

During the parade contests were held, according to program in several balls and the results of these are given below in detail:

AT THE METHODIST CHURCH.

The spelling, short story and essay contests were in charge of Mr. H. A. Query at the Methodist church. In the spelling contest three separate heats were spelled, the winner of two out of three of these being awarded the Hall medal for spelling. There were six contestants as follows: Ernie Queen, of the High Shoals school, Dallas township; Ava Payseur, of the East Kings Mountain school, Crowders Mountain township; Paul Traywick, of the Belmont school, Mary Lineberger, of River Bend township; Prue Crowder, of Gastonia, and Ruth Harnelson, of Cherryville township. Master Ernie Queen was the successful speller and to him was awarded the medal in an appropriate speech by Rev. J. E. Abernethy.

Mr. Query announced that the judge of the short story contest was Editor J. C. Patton, of The Charlotte News, and that Editor J. S. Miller, of The Charlotte Evening Chronicle, was to have acted as judge of the essays, but that on account of sudden illness at the last moment was unable to do so. In his stead Superintendent H. P. Harding, of the Charlotte schools, judged the essays. The entries in the short story contest were as follows: Dallas township, "Such Pitts as a Father Hath," River Bend township, "Black Wins," Crowders Mountain township, "A Birthday Adventure," Gastonia township, "A Horseback Trip to and from Ohio," South Point township, "The Haunted Church," Cherryville township, no entry.

The following letter from Mr. Patton was read:

Belmont, N. C.
My Dear Sir:—

I herewith return the manuscripts of short stories left with me.

After going over them carefully I have decided that in my opinion the story entitled, "The Haunted

Church" is the best of the lot and merits the first prize. It is a splendid piece of imaginative production, and from the standpoint of forceful and terse expression it is unusually good.

It is a difficult job to pick the prettiest flower from a garden of pretty ones, and I assure you it was not easy to select the best story in this lot. They were all good, unusually so, much better than the majority of short stories appearing in our college magazines.

It was a real pleasure to go over them. Respectfully,
J. C. PATTON.

P. S.—I should like to print these stories if agreeable.

The author of the story, "The Haunted Church," was Mr. Ray Armstrong, of the Belmont school. His story will be printed in the next issue of The Gazette.

The following were the entries in the essay contest:

Dallas township, "The Regulators"; River Bend township, "Educational Development in North Carolina Since 1900"; Crowders Mountain township, no entry; Gastonia township, "North Carolina's part in the Battle of Kings Mountain"; South Point township, "North Carolina in the Civil War"; Cherryville township, no entry.

Prof. Harding's letter in explanation of the essay contest was read as follows:

Mr. H. A. Query,
Gastonia, N. C.

Dear Mr. Query:—

I have read with much interest all of the essays submitted. It is hard to decide which is the best, all of them are so good. After considering composition, subject matter and the general arrangement of facts I have decided in favor of "North Carolina in the Civil War."

I congratulate the school authorities of Gaston county on the splendid work that is being done in composition in the public schools if those essays are representative of that work.

Very Truly,
H. P. HARDING.

The author of the essay, "North Carolina in the Civil War," was Mr. Ray Armstrong, of the Belmont schools. It will appear in The Gazette at an early date.

All the above essays and stories were submitted to the judges on the same footing, despite the fact that there were some which exceeded the length limit of 1,500 words.

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The girls' recitation contest was held in the First Presbyterian church. The exercises were in charge of Prof. Ray Funderburk, of Mt. Holly.

There was a very large attendance, the audience of a thousand or twelve hundred people overflowing the main auditorium and gallery into the Sunday school room. This contest was a drawing card among the multitudes of people who came to Gastonia for the county commencement day, and those present were not disappointed. There were six contestants for the medal and every one of the six did first-class work. Nothing connected with the great day reflected more credit on the schools of Gaston county. Although there was a long and tiresome delay in getting started, the large assemblage awaited through to the last piece with undiminished interest.

The programme was as follows: Miss Alina Rhyne, of Dallas, "As the Moon Rose"; Miss Irma Reid, of Lowell, "The Sweet Girl Graduate"; Miss Annie Lee Craft, of Cherryville, "As the Moon Rose"; Miss Juanita Rollins, of Bessemer City, "Naughty Zella"; Miss Lollie Rankin, of River Bend, "Aunt Sophronia Taber at the Opera"; Miss Louisa Reid, of Gastonia, "Four Bars in the Key of G'."

The judges were Rev. R. S. Burwell, of New Hope, Mr. Wharton and Miss McKenzie of Charlotte. The last named being the teacher at the press in Queen's College. The judges had no easy task, but after some conference decided that the palm should go to Miss Louisa Reid, of Gastonia. The prize in this contest was a gold medal offered by Mr. D. P. Dellinger, of the local bar. Mr. Dellinger will continue to offer this beautiful trophy for annual contest among all the girls in the schools of Gaston county. The medal was awarded in a brief speech by Rev. J. H. Henderlite, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia.

Although this was an unusually strong contest throughout and every effort was first-class, yet along with the winner, Miss Louisa Reid, special mention should be made of the fine work of Miss Irma Reid of Lowell, and little Miss Juanita Rollins, who captured her audience with the pranks of "Naughty Zella."

AT CENTRAL SCHOOL.

At the central school auditorium the oral reproduction of stories contest was held under the supervision of Prof. J. S. Wray. There were six contestants, one from each township, the third from Bessemer City represented by Miss Virginia ... the fourth from Belmont, represented by Miss Nell Stowe, the sixth from Mt. Holly, the tenth from Dallas and the eleventh from Gastonia, represented by Miss Louisa Reid, who won the medal, which is given by Mr. H. M. Van Sleen. The judges were Mr.

Victor L. Stephenson, of the local staff of The Charlotte Observer, Miss Sarah Kelley of the Charlotte high school, and Miss Sude Blankenship, the principal of the Dilworth school, Charlotte. The medal was presented by Mr. A. E. Woltz, of the local bar, who, on account of the length of the contest and the lateness of the hour, made only a few remarks. The crowd in attendance at this contest as at the others was large and the interest keen. This is one of the most unique of the county contests and this is the first year a medal has been offered for oral reproduction of stories in the county.

AT THE OPERA HOUSE.

The declaimer's contest was held in the opera house where Prof. J. B. Henson was in charge. Mr. S. N. Boyce, chairman of the county school board, is the donor of the gold medal given annually for the best declaimer in the county. There were five contestants, as follows: "Patrick Henry and British Segregation," by Jennings Rhyne, of Crowders Mountain township; "The Sufferers of Our Fallen Braves," by Magnus Edwards, of River Bend township; "Eulogy on Vance," by Ernest Warren, of Gastonia; "Appeal to Arms," by Earl Ramsey, of Dallas; "Boys of America," by Conley Robinson, of Cherryville. The judge in this contest was Mr. A. F. Long, of Mecklenburg, who also delivered the medal. Mr. Ernest Warren, of Gastonia, being the winner. An excellent address was made by Mr. S. J. Durham, of Gastonia, and Mr. Boyce, the donor of the medal, made a few remarks. There was a good crowd in attendance and the exercises were highly entertaining throughout.

AT THE COURT HOUSE.

One of the most interesting contests of the county commencement was that for the debater's medal which was held in the county court house under the supervision of Prof. Joe Nixon of the Cherryville graded schools. The gold medal for the best debater in the county is given annually by the Torrence-Morris Co., of Gastonia. The judges were Rev. J. C. Deitz, pastor of the Gastonia Lutheran church; Prof. Howerton of the Shelby graded schools, and Hon. A. L. Quickel, of the Lincoln town bar. The subject debated was the same one used in the High School Debaters Union of the State this year, namely, "Resolved, That the Constitution of North Carolina should be so Amended as to Allow the Initiative and Referendum in State-wide Legislation."

Messrs. Judson Shannon, of Gastonia; Horace Nims, of River Bend, and Ray Armstrong, of South Point, represented the affirmative and Messrs. Walden Weaver, of Cherryville; Ernest Lineberger, of Dallas, and Cassie Williams, of Crowders Mountain, the negative. The affirmative won the decision and Mr. Walden Weaver, of Cherryville, who led the negative side, was picked as the winner of the gold medal.

All of the debaters acquitted themselves exceedingly well and numerous comments were made to the effect that the speeches were very much better than the average argument before a jury, more like the speeches of lawyers than those of school boys. The medal was presented by Hon. A. L. Quickel, of Lincoln. Rev. W. E. Abernethy, of Shelby, who was to have delivered an address, declined on account of the lateness of the hour and made only a few remarks. The attendance was large and all present thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

ATHLETIC EVENTS.

The athletic events were held on South York street in the afternoon and under the direction of Prof. James, of Bessemer City, drew quite a good crowd. The events were as follows:

100-yard dash won by Leland Morris, of Gastonia, time 12 seconds.

220-yard run won by Leland Morris, of Gastonia, time 25 seconds.

440-yard run, won by Kendrick, time 64 seconds.

Relay race won by Gastonia.

Running broad jump, won by Kendrick, of Cherryville.

Standing broad jump, won by Fred Pearson, of Gastonia.

Running high jump, won by Fred Pearson, of Gastonia.

Throwing baseball, won by Cherryville contestant.

Baseball game won by Cherryville, Score—Cherryville, 17; Dallas, 7.

Majestic Range Demonstration.

A demonstration of the Majestic range is being held this week at the store of the Standard Hardware Co., exclusive agents here for this well-known kitchen equipment. Mr. R. S. Carroll, representing the Majestic Manufacturing Company, is in charge of the demonstration. Hot biscuits and coffee made on a Majestic range are being served free. This "cooking school" will continue through Saturday of this week and the proprietors of this store invite all the ladies of Gastonia and surrounding country to visit their place and see what the Majestic will do. This afternoon is given over to the children. How to make a good cake being given you want in a minute and a half will be demonstrated tomorrow. Thursday the menu will be "How to bake a biscuit that will keep fresh for a week." On Friday it will be "How to broil steak and how to buy steak." As a special offer this week the company is giving absolutely free with each range sold an \$5 set of cooking utensils.