

METHODIST CONFERENCE BEGINS TOMORROW NIGHT

PREPARATIONS ARE NOW COMPLETE FOR BIG RELIGIOUS GATHERING HERE

Ministers and Laymen to the Number of Over Four Hundred Expected—Will Begin to Arrive Tonight—Prominent Connectional Men to Deliver Addresses—Former Pastors of Main Street Church to Preach—Special Music Prepared.

Preparations which have been making for several weeks past for the entertainment of the twenty-seventh annual session of the Western North Carolina Conference of the M. E. Church, South, which convenes here in Main Street church next Thursday morning, have been completed and everything is in readiness for the reception of guests who will begin to arrive Tuesday night.

All of the 450 delegates, including both ministers and laymen have been assigned to homes and a neat directory of the assignments has been issued by the entertainment committee, of which Mr. J. H. Separk is chairman.

It is expected that, including visitors and connectional officers who are not regular delegates, there will be about 500 in attendance. With Bishop John C. Kilgo, of Charlotte, presiding, the conference will be officially called to order at 9 o'clock Thursday morning. The bishop and the eleven presiding elders who form his cabinet will hold a meeting Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock for the purpose of considering matters of importance that are to come before the conference.

Wednesday evening at 7:30 there will be a young people's rally in Main Street church with Dr. F. S. Parker, of Nashville, Tenn., editor of The Epworth Era, and general secretary of the Epworth League Board, as the principal speaker. The presiding elders forming the cabinet are Rev. C. A. Wood, Asheville district; Rev. L. T. Mann, Charlotte district; Rev. J. M. Weaver, Greensboro district; Rev. J. E. Gay, Morganton district; Rev. H. C. Sprinkle, Mount Airy district; Rev. T. E. Wagg, North Wilkesboro district; Rev. J. C. Rowe, Salisbury district; Rev. J. R. Scroggs, Shelby district; Rev. W. R. Ware, Statesville district; Rev. J. F. Rodgers, Waynesville district; and Rev. E. K. Boyer, Winston district.

Among the prominent connectional officers who will be here and who will deliver one or more addresses will be Dr. Henry H. Snyder, president of Wofford College, Spartanburg, S. C., who will be the principal speaker at the educational anniversary on Thursday night; Dr. W. F. McMurry, of Louisville, Ky., secretary of the general board of church extension who will speak on Friday night; Dr. John M. Moore or Dr. W. W. Pinson, representing the general board of missions, on Saturday night. Dr. Stonewall, of Nashville, Tenn., representing the general board of education, and Dr. T. N. Ivey, editor of The Nashville Christian Advocate, are also expected to be present and deliver addresses.

A feature of the conference which will be especially pleasing to local Methodists will be that part of the program which includes sermons by former pastors of Main Street church. These sermons will all be in the afternoons and will include one by Rev. E. L. Bain, now pastor of Tryon Street church, Charlotte, on Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock, one by Rev. J. E. Abernethy, now pastor at Monroe, Friday afternoon, and one by Rev. G. D. Herman, now pastor at Mount Airy, on Saturday afternoon.

The general program as outlined calls for business sessions Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday mornings and Monday night; sermons by former pastors Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons and addresses by connectional officers each night. Sunday morning at eleven o'clock Bishop Kilgo will preach at Main Street church while the pulpits of the other churches of the city will be filled by visiting ministers.

This will be the first session of the Western North Carolina Conference to meet in Gastonia since November, 1901, fifteen years ago. Since then the conference has grown wonderfully. In this period the membership within the bounds of the conference has grown from 74,432 to 106,303 and the number of pastoral charges from 190 to 232. The value of parsonages has grown from \$172,000 to \$495,000 and that of church buildings from \$958,000 to \$2,573,000; the salaries paid to preachers and presiding elders has increased from \$98,500 to \$211,000. The total amount raised for all purposes in 1901 was \$232,000. In 1915 it was \$577,000, an increase of \$345,000.

Among the numerous matters of interest to come before the conference will be that of considering the report of a committee appointed a year ago to report on the advisability, so far as it effects this conference, of endorsing a proposed organic union between the Northern and Southern branches of the Methodist church. Steps looking to this end were taken by the last general conference of the Southern Methodist church at Oklahoma City two years ago and by the Northern Methodist general conference which met last year at Saratoga Springs, N. Y. For more than a year this subject has been discussed in the papers both North and South and in some quarters there has arisen acrimonious debate. What action the Western North Carolina Conference will take here on the matter is entirely problematical.

Gastonia will extend the glad hand of welcome to the visiting Methodists. The town has begun to get the habit of entertaining conventions and likes it. Last year the Presbyterian Synod of North Carolina met here and this fall the State organization of the U. D. C. was held here. More than enough homes for entertaining all the delegates were tendered the entertainment committee and the only trouble now seems to be that there are not going to be a sufficient number of delegates to go round.

Rev. H. H. Jordan Sunday rounded out two years as pastor of Main Street Methodist church here and at the morning service gave a brief review of the work accomplished under his pastorate thus far. This year 129 members have been received. Last year the number was more than 150, making a total of a little more than 250 in two years. The net gain was 255. The enrollment in the Sunday school has passed the 600 mark. During the past 12 months this church, in addition to raising the largest amount in its history for regular church causes and current expenses, something over \$6,000, has contributed more than \$3,000 to outside causes, such as assisting flood sufferers, building and equipping a big tabernacle for the Browning-Stepleton revival campaign, assisting worthy young men and women to get an education, etc. The expenses of the year have been met in full and this church will present a clean sheet at conference, as it has always done heretofore.

The following are the special musical programs which have been prepared for the various sessions: WEDNESDAY EVENING. Organ prelude—"The Pilgrim's Chorus." Anthem, "Hallelujah." Vocal solo, "Jesus Only." Miss Frew.

THURSDAY EVENING. Quartette, "Crossing the Bar", Messrs. Spencer and Sloan, Mr. Atkins and Dr. Anderson. Vocal solo, "Oh, Eyes That are Weary", Mrs. H. B. Moore.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON. Organ prelude. Quartette, "They That Sow in Tears", Mrs. Spencer, Miss McAllister, Messrs. Todd and Durham. Vocal solo, Mrs. B. T. Morris.

FRIDAY EVENING. Organ prelude. Anthem, "Praise the Lord". Vocal solo, "The Land of Pure Delight", Miss Jordan.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON. Anthem, "Calvary". Vocal solo, "Glory to Thee, My God, This Night", Mrs. J. Holland Morrow.

SATURDAY EVENING. Prelude, violin solo, Miss Lillian Atkins. Anthem, "Awake, Jerusalem, Awake".

SUNDAY MORNING. Organ prelude. Anthem, "Lift Up Your Heads". Vocal solo, "My Redeemer and Lord", Mrs. Mac Holland.

SUNDAY EVENING. Prelude, clarinet solo, Mr. F. D. Barkley. Anthem, "The Radiant Morn Hath Passed Away".

MONDAY EVENING. Prelude, by Atkins Orchestra. Anthem, "Oh, Lord, How Manifold". Postlude, organ solo.

Flowers for conference. Torrence-Morris Company. MARRIED HERE.

Popular Kings Mountain Widow Became Bride of Salisbury Man Who is in the National Guards—Married Saturday by Rev. H. H. Jordan.

A dispatch from Kings Mountain dated Sunday says: A marriage that took the entire town by surprise, was that of Mrs. Lucy Ragan of his place to Mr. James Julian of Salisbury, which was solemnized at the Methodist parsonage of Main Street Methodist church, Gastonia, yesterday afternoon.

Rev. H. H. Jordan officiating. Mrs. Ragan is a well-known and popular young widow of our town, and Mr. Julian is an electrician of Salisbury, but at this time he is a member of the North Carolina National Guards and is assigned to recruiting duty at Salisbury. The couple met for the first time last October at the celebration here of the "Battle of Kings Mountain."

The young widow left Kings Mountain yesterday afternoon and met the groom in Gastonia. The couple returned to Kings Mountain last night, the bride only being away from home about one and a half hours. —The toll bridge at Sloan's Ferry, Belmont, is now completed and open for traffic. The approaches to the bridge on both sides of the river have been put in good shape. The charges are reasonable, there being no extra charge at night as was the case with the ferry.

DR. W. H. HOFFMAN DEAD

FUNERAL HERE THIS AFTERNOON AT 3

End Came Sunday Night at Home of Son in Ambler, Pa.—Had Been in Declining Health for Several Months—Body Arrived on No. 37 This Morning—Funeral at 3 P. M. in First Presbyterian Church—Was Long One of Gastonia's Leading Citizens.

Dr. W. H. Hoffman, for thirty years or more one of Gastonia's leading citizens, died Sunday night at the home of his son, Mr. Miles P. Hoffman, in Ambler, Pa., following a period of declining health covering a period of several months. The body, accompanied by the son and Miss Susie Hoffman, his only daughter, arrived on No. 37 from Philadelphia this morning and was removed to the establishment of the Ford Undertaking Company. Funeral services will be held at 3 o'clock this afternoon in the First Presbyterian church of which he was a member. Rev. J. H. Henderlier, the pastor, officiating. The pall-bearers will be S. N. Boyce, T. W. Wilson, H. B. Moore, P. J. Falls, J. K. Dixon and J. O. White. Interment will be in the family plot in Oakwood Cemetery. Dr. Hoffman was a member of Gastonia Lodge No. 369 A. F. and A. M. and the burial will be conducted by this lodge. The members will meet in the lodge room at 2 p. m. and attend the funeral in a body.

News of the death of Dr. Hoffman brought great sadness to many hearts in Gastonia where he was for more than a quarter of a century a familiar figure. He located in Gastonia about thirty-five years ago for the practice of dentistry, in which profession he was leader. His sunny disposition and cheery smile was always welcome and this phase of his character made for him friends wherever he happened to be. He always had a word of cheeriness for those he met, whether on the street or elsewhere, and his smile oftentimes served to put new courage into the heart of some one who was downcast and discouraged.

Dr. Hoffman was a native of Gaston county. He was born on Long Creek June 16, 1836, the son of Daniel Hoffman, and was hence in his 81st year. He was the last of the immediate family, all of his brothers and sisters being dead. They were Fred, John M. and Rufus Hoffman; Margaret, who married Moses H. Rhine; Myra, who married Caleb Rhodes; Eliza, who married James Quinn; Dorcas, who married first John Jonas Rhyne and then James Davis; Susan, who married John Withers; Sarah, twin sister of Susan, who married Elwood McKeown, and Cynthia, who never married.

July 2, 1867, he married Miss Elmina Jenkins, a daughter of the late David A. Jenkins, one-time treasurer of North Carolina. Of the children born to them only two survive, namely: Mr. Miles P. Hoffman, a prominent cotton yarn broker of Philadelphia, and Miss Susan Hoffman, of Asheville. Another son, Dr. Cull Hoffman, died soon after entering upon the practice of dentistry here a number of years ago. Another son, Mr. Beverly P. Hoffman, died two or three years ago and another daughter, Mrs. W. E. Kindley, died several years ago. He leaves a large family connection throughout this section.

Enlisting in Company M, Sixteenth Regiment North Carolina Volunteers, at the outbreak of the War Between the States, Dr. Hoffman served throughout the conflict as regimental dentist and clerk to General Pender. After the war he located in Charlotte where he practiced several years, moving to Gastonia about 35 years ago. He continued to practice his profession until some five or six years ago when advancing age caused him to give it up. For the past several years he has been spending the winters in Miami, Fla., and the summers with his son at Ambler, Pa. Going north in the Spring and South in the Fall he always stopped for a few weeks in Gastonia and his large number of friends were always delighted to have him even if for only a brief period. His last visit here was in the Spring of this year. At that time he was in feeble health, though able to get about. He was a man of remarkable vitality and physically maintained his strength until within recent months.

Add a finishing touch to the table with flowers. Torrence-Morris Co. New Fire Horse Secured.

A deal has recently been made by the City of Gastonia with Messrs. Craig & Wilson for a horse to take the place of Faithful Dan in the fire department. The new horse, white new to Gastonia, is not at all new to the work of the art of fighting fire, having been in the employ of the Salisbury fire department for the past five years. The big horse is a fine looking animal and tips the scales at 1,345 pounds, is a chestnut sorrel and makes a good running mate for Frank, the other horse. "William Jenkins Bryan" is the name that the new horse came to Gastonia with but the members of the city fire department, although believing that Bryan was a good name, decided to re-name the horse and chose Henry for short, Patrick Henry being the full and official name that he will be known as if the occasion should arise. The citizenship of Gastonia will doubtless extend a hearty welcome to William J. Bryan.

WILL HAVE NEW BAKERY

TODD'S BAKERY WILL BE ENLARGED

A Contract for Bakery Building Has Been Awarded—Messrs. W. E. and Kenneth Todd Have Purchased \$10,500 Worth of New Equipment for Plant—Will Have All Modern Conveniences and Will Be Second to None in the South—Project Shows Faith in Future Gastonia.

Messrs. W. E. and Kenneth Todd, proprietors of Todd's Steam Bakery, have closed a contract with J. B. Beal for the erection of a modern brick building on East Airline avenue which when completed will be occupied by the bakery, they having just placed an order for a large bakery equipment of the most new and up-to-date type known to the baking industry.

Plans and specifications, which are already in the hands of the contractor, for the new building call for a two-story brick structure having a frontage on Airline avenue of 40 feet with a depth of 80 feet. The building will be erected on the Beal property East of and adjoining the Gastonia Garage building. Brick will be used throughout in its erection and when completed both the first and second floors will be occupied by this popular Gastonia baking establishment.

The baking equipment that the Messrs. Todd have placed an order for is one of the most modern that could be secured and was purchased at a heavy outlay. Among a great many other things this equipment consists of the following: A three barrel dough mixer, a four sifting and blending outfit, an automatic tempering plant, a large pie machine which has a capacity of 500 pies an hour, besides numerous other accessories which are necessary and essential for the equipping of an up-to-the-minute baking plant. Two patent continuous steam baking ovens, manufactured by one of the largest oven companies in the United States, have also been purchased and will be erected in the new building.

Mr. W. E. Todd, senior member of the Todd's Bakery, stated this morning that it has been his desire since entering the bakery business in Gastonia over 14 years ago to give this city and the surrounding counties one of the best baking plants possible and one that would be second to none in this section of the country. When this new plant is finished Gastonia will have not only the most modern but one of the most sanitary baking plants in the South.

An ever-increasing business from Gaston and surrounding counties has made such demands on the firm for their products that additional equipment and bigger and more commodious quarters were made necessary. When this new plant is put in operation a daily output of 15,000 loaves alone will be made possible besides pies, cakes, rolls, etc.

That the Messrs. Todd believe in the future of Gastonia is evidenced by the fact that they have spent quite a sum in fixtures and machinery at this time when flour and other things entering into the manufacture of bakery products are selling at the highest prices known. As a further evidence of this belief Mr. Kenneth Todd will, within a very short time, leave for New York city where he will take a special course at Fleischmann's Laboratory in Baking Chemistry. The services of another expert bread maker have also been secured, who will take charge of the plant in the new building.

The building will probably be completed and ready for occupancy by February 1, 1917. At the opening of the new plant Messrs. Todd will extend a special invitation to the general public, and especially the ladies, to visit the bakery and become more familiar with the manufacture of bread by machinery. All of the new machinery will be electrically driven. Gastonia people should feel proud that the owners of the bakery have

A NEW TEXTILE PLANT

SHORT LOCAL ITEMS

CHARTER ISSUED FOR \$500,000 CAPITAL

The Ranio Manufacturing Company the Title of Latest Cotton Fabrics Plant in Gastonia—Will be Built at Ranio on P. & N. Lines—Messrs. W. T. Love, John C. Rankin and C. M. Dunn are the Promoters and Incorporators.

That Gastonia is to have another textile plant is the definite announcement just made by Messrs. John C. Rankin, W. T. Love and C. M. Dunn, of this city, who are the promoters of the new enterprise. A charter has already been received for the mill and it has been incorporated as the Ranio Manufacturing Company.

The new plant will be built just across the public highway and East of the Rex Spinning Company on the land known as the Jno. C. Rankin property at Ranio. The site selected is an ideal one, being in easy access to both the P. & N. and Southern Railroad connection. While no immediate steps have been taken toward building the new mill, plans have been made and it is very likely that the preparatory work will be begun within a short time.

Beginning with 6,000 spindles the new plant will be built with the view of increasing that number several thousand at a later date if the business demands. Sea Island cotton will be used exclusively in the manufacture of fine combed yarns which will in turn be woven into high grade cloth.

The mill is chartered with an authorized capital stock of \$500,000, one-half of which is to be preferred and the other half common. The organization has not at this time been perfected and therefore the names of the directors and officers are not available.

Billie Burke in Gloria's Romance and Who's Guilty Ideal Thursday.

Mrs. Sue Moss left Sunday for Rock Hill, S. C., where she is spending the week with relatives.

Mr. W. K. Gardner, of Charlotte, spent Sunday in the city with friends.

Mr. W. A. Klutz, of Hickory, spent Sunday in Gastonia with friends.

Mr. A. M. Whitesides reports that he is still getting late roasting ears from his garden, having had them for dinner yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Spencer and two children returned Saturday from a visit of several weeks to relatives in Dallas and Garland, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Henry, Mrs. J. S. Craig and Miss Edna Craig motored to Union Sunday and attended communion services at Union Presbyterian church.

Mrs. H. K. Youngblood, of Gaffney, S. C., spent several days here last week with Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Beamguard. From here she went to York to visit friends.

Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Thorn left yesterday for Trenton, N. J., where they will spend two weeks visiting Mr. Thorn's daughter and other relatives.

Fresh shipments of flowers daily during conference. Torrence-Morris Company.

decided to give to this city and the county such an excellent and modern baking establishment. The move on the part of the backers of the project in investing so heavily at this time bespeaks their faith in Gastonia and its great future.

—Mrs. G. W. Ragan and Miss Mary Ragan will spend tomorrow in Charlotte.

—Mr. Stephen B. Dolley spent several hours in Cherryville yesterday on legal business.

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

—Esquire I. F. Mabry, of McAdenville, was in Gastonia on business Saturday.

—Mr. J. W. Timberlake, of the local bar, was a visitor to Lincolnton and Concord last week.

—Mr. and Mrs. Draper Ward spent Friday in Charlotte with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Ward.

—Mr. John B. Dilling, a member of the Southern local freight crew, spent several hours in the city yesterday.

—Miss Lillian Atkins returned home Saturday from a two-months visit to friends in Virginia and West Virginia.

—Mrs. B. J. Caldwell and Mrs. Dana J. Caldwell, of Columbia, S. C., left yesterday for Florence, Ala., to spend ten days with Mrs. B. J. Caldwell's sister, Mrs. Lou Cathey.

—Mrs. Louisa Wilson returned home Saturday from Durham after spending a month with her son, Prof. R. N. Wilson, who is a member of the faculty of Trinity College.

—Friends of Mrs. J. Mack Jenkins, who underwent a serious operation at the City Hospital last Tuesday, will be glad to learn that she is making a very satisfactory recovery.

—Mr. T. C. Abernethy, of Lincolnton, spent several hours in the city last night with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Abernethy on route to Jacksonville, Fla., on a several days business trip.

—Mr. Fred Dunn, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Dunn, returned home Sunday night from Foughkeeps, N. Y., where he has been for the past six months in attendance at Eastman's Business College.

—Mr. G. W. Ragan and son, Master G. W. Ragan, Jr., left on No. 38 last night for Baltimore, Md., where the latter will undergo a medical examination. They will be absent from the city several days.

—Dr. L. N. Glenn and Dr. H. M. Eddleman are in Lincolnton today attending a meeting of the Lincoln County Medical Society. Dr. Glenn, while not a member of the society, has been asked to read a paper before the association this afternoon.

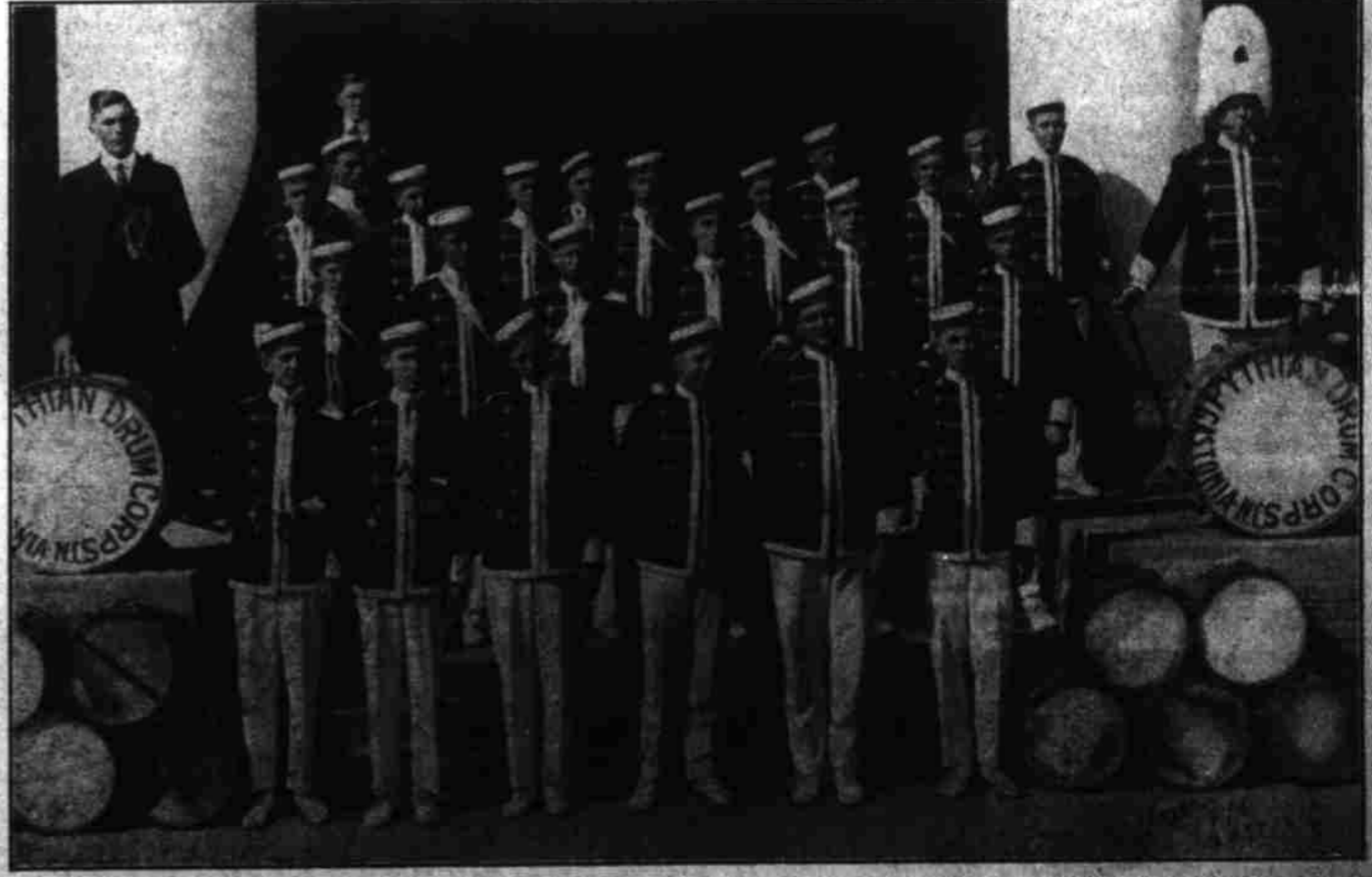
—Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Smith and family, who have been residing for the past 11 years in Hugo, Oklahoma, will arrive in the city within the next ten days and will make their home here in the future. Mrs. Smith is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Rhine, who live in East Gastonia.

—Rev. Raymond Browning, of Lincolnton, and Mrs. Browning, passed through the city Saturday afternoon en route to Henrietta, where Mr. Browning is conducting a very successful revival meeting, having had a large number of conversions. Mr. and Mrs. Browning expect to return to Gastonia this week to attend the sessions of the Western North Carolina Conference.

—Rev. G. P. Abernethy, pastor of Loray Baptist church, and Rev. J. W. Whitley, pastor of East Gastonia Baptist church, are in Lincolnton today attending the meeting of the executive committee of the South Fork Baptist Association. Rev. Mr. Whitley is a member of the committee and Rev. Mr. Abernethy goes to represent Mr. H. B. Moore, another member of the committee.

Billie Burke in Gloria's Romance and Who's Guilty Ideal Thursday.

After ramming and sinking one of her conveying tugs in the Race at New London, Conn., last Friday, the German merchant submarine Deutschland has been prepared to resume her interrupted voyage to Bremen.



GASTONIA PYTHIAN DEUM CORPS WHICH WILL TAKE A PROMINENT PART IN THE BIG DOKIE PARADE AT CHARLOTTE TOMORROW.