

# THE GASTONIA GAZETTE

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GASTONIA, N. C., FRIDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 15, 1916.

\$1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

## ACCIDENTALLY KILLED ED McALLISTER VICTIM OF OWN GUN

Ed McAllister Shoots Self With Shot Gun — Coroner Grier Holds Investigation and Decides Inquest Unnecessary.

Coroner Vernon G. Grier was called to the home of Emanuel Cloninger two and a half miles north of Dallas, early this morning to investigate the death of Ed McAllister, aged 34, who was instantly killed about six o'clock this morning by the discharge of a shot gun in his room at the Cloninger home. Coroner Grier found that McAllister had a gunshot wound in one side and that the back portion of his head had been blown off.

An investigation developed the fact that McAllister, who lives with the Cloningers, had a shot gun which he had probably just loaded. He was sitting in front of the fire place. Being subject to epileptic fits the most reasonable supposition is that he was seized with one of these fits while holding the gun and that as he fell to the floor it was discharged, causing his death. In what manner, however, the two wounds, either of which would have proved fatal, were inflicted is somewhat of a mystery.

The only other person in the house was Mrs. Cloninger, who is an aged lady. She was in the kitchen and heard the shot. Rushing into the room she put out a blaze which the shot had started in the clothing of the unfortunate man. He was dead, his death being instantaneous. Mr. Cloninger was at the barn and was summoned at once. Coroner Grier was at once notified and accompanied by Esquire W. Meek Adams, went to the scene without delay. After conducting a thorough examination of the coroner, with the facts as above set forth in his possession, decided that it was clearly a case of accident and permitted burial arrangements to proceed, without the formality of an inquest.

Try Charlotte Daily Observer, 15c Week. All subscriptions begin with Sunday's issue.

### Stanley Happenings.

**Correspondence of The Gazette.**  
**STANLEY, Dec. 14.**—Last Saturday afternoon Mrs. F. L. Carpenter entertained the Book Club, at which time she celebrated her fifteenth wedding anniversary and also announced the approaching marriage of her sister-in-law, Miss Katherine Carpenter, to Mr. Thomas H. Cline, of Raleigh.

Rook was played at six tables, Miss Mamie Peterson winning the prize for highest score, a beautiful handkerchief, which she in turn presented to the bride-elect. A delicious salad course and also a dainty ice course was served by the hostess. A number of out-of-town guests were present, among them being, Miss Catherine Mason, Mrs. M. A. Carpenter, Mrs. J. G. Carpenter and Mrs. Lee Bulwinkle, of Gastonia; Mrs. Fred Robinson, Miss Emma Cornwall, Miss May Durham, Misses Stella and Katie Lee Lewis, of Dallas, and Mrs. S. C. Corwell, of Tennessee.

Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock Mrs. Charles H. Pugh gave a beautiful linen shower in honor of Miss Katharine Carpenter, whose marriage to Mr. Thomas Cline will take place on Thursday evening, December 21. The home was beautifully decorated with holly and potted plants and a color scheme of pink and white was beautifully carried out in the refreshments, which consisted of salads, chocolate and mints. Little Miss Clara Blanche Pugh presented the bride-to-be with a lovely pink basket filled with a number of dainty and useful pieces of linen.

GIVE \$1.00.

**Shriners Make Handsome Contribution to Building Fund of Orthopaedic Hospital.**

A donation of \$1,000 was made by Oasis Temple of the Shrine at its winter meeting in Charlotte Tuesday night to the North Carolina Orthopaedic hospital, an institution which is to be built in Gaston county. This subscription is to the \$50,000 building fund now being raised and will be paid when the full amount has been subscribed. The Shriners are given to doing a large amount of philanthropic work and this contribution is a splendid one to a noble cause.

In this connection it is of interest to note that a "tag" day will be celebrated in Charlotte between now and Christmas day in the interest of this hospital for cripples. The date is yet to be announced. The movement has been officially endorsed by Mayor Kirkpatrick of Charlotte and the details of the event are in the hands of Miss Lena Rivers Smith, field agent for the hospital. On that day every pedestrian, as well as every auto in Charlotte will be tagged with a neat pennant and the one tagged will be expected to make a silver offering to the hospital.

By the consent of Suppt. H. P. Harding of the Charlotte city schools the Christmas offering of the school children of that city will go to the hospital also and a good sum will no doubt be raised in this way.

## PYTHIANS TO CELEBRATE GRAND PRELATE OWEN, GUEST OF HONOR

Local Lodge of Pythians Are Planning to Hold Sumptuous Banquet Next Monday Night in Armory Building Following the Initiation of Large Class of Candidates — Rev. R. B. Owen, of Charlotte, Will Deliver the Principal Address — Good Time is Promised.

Local members of Gastonia Lodge No. 53, Knights of Pythias, are making preparations to entertain several hundred here on next Monday night, December 18, when a banquet will be served in the Armory building following the initiation of a class of 20 candidates into the rank of page. Invitations have been extended to all members of the Pythian lodges in Gaston county and other neighboring towns.

Grand Prelate Rev. R. B. Owen, of Charlotte, will be the guest of honor and will make the principal address at the banquet. Invitations have also been mailed to several other Pythian dignitaries and it is expected that one or more of the Grand Lodge officers will be here for this event.

The banquet will be served in the lodge room immediately after the candidates have been initiated. The committee in charge of the affair have prepared an excellent menu of tempting delicacies for the banquet. Quail, roasted pig and baked oysters being only a few of the good things that will be served in abundance.

Gastonia Lodge of Pythians is just closing one of the most successful years in its history and with the initiation of these candidates its membership will be swelled to nearly 200. Officers recently elected for 1917 will be officially installed early in January.

The Gazette has been asked by the committee to announce that the banquet will be served between 8:30 and 9 o'clock and all Pythians are urged to come to the lodge room without eating the usual afternoon meal in order to do justice to the festive board.

Special arrangements are being made for the charter members of Gastonia Lodge who will attend.

### STUDY CLUB WITH MRS. J. H. KENNEDY.

The Study Club met with Mrs. J. H. Kennedy Tuesday afternoon. The meeting was a most delightful one. Historic buildings of London was the subject for study. After roll call and the answering with current events, Mrs. J. M. Sloan read a paper prepared by Mrs. T. W. Wilson, who was absent on "The Tower of London." Mrs. H. B. Moore read Byron's "Battle of Waterloo." Then followed a round-table discussion on Westminster Abbey led by Mrs. H. M. Eddleman. At the conclusion of the program the hostess invited the guests into the dining room where the spirit of Christmas was flooding the room with bright lights and a snow scene. On the table was a Christmas tree laden with miniature horns and other toys of like nature. These were fastened with red ribbons running out to the place cards and were drawn by the guests at the conclusion of a dainty and delicious meal served by the hostess's sister, Mrs. Frost Torrence.

Buy It In Gastonia.

### REV. J. P. KNOX DEAD.

Pastor of A. R. P. Church at Columbia, S. C., Expires Suddenly—Was Known Here.

Many Gastonians will read with sorrow of the death of Rev. J. P. Knox, regarding whose demise the following dispatch was sent out from Columbia, S. C., yesterday:

Rev. J. P. Knox, pastor of the local A. R. P. Church, and a native of Mecklenburg county, N. C., died unexpectedly this afternoon as he was pumping up his automobile tires. He had been in ill health for nearly two years. Funeral arrangements have not yet been made. Rev. Mr. Knox is survived by a wife and three brothers and one sister, all residents of Huntersville.

Rev. Mr. Knox was chairman of the board of trustees of Erskine College, and chaplain of the South Carolina House of Representatives. He was 56 years of age.

Rev. Dr. J. C. Galloway, pastor of the First Associate Reformed Presbyterian church here, is a brother-in-law of Dr. Knox and was notified this morning by wire of the latter's death. Dr. Galloway will leave this afternoon for Columbia to attend the funeral which will take place in that city tomorrow morning at 10:30 o'clock. Deceased is survived by his widow, who is a sister of Mr. A. G. Brice, of Chester, S. C., and Mr. J. S. Brice, of Columbia for the past seventeen years and was held in the very highest esteem by the residents of that city.

It is said of him that he was perhaps known by more people, especially railroad men and the laboring classes, than any other man in Columbia. Taking a weak struggling church there 17 years ago he had built it up into a strong and influential congregation. He was at one time pastor of Hickory Grove and Smyrna churches in York county and held pastorates in Virginia. He had preached many times in Gaston county and has a host of friends here who mourn his passing.

## PEACE PLAN IS STATED CENTRAL POWERS OFFER TO END WAR

Germany and Her Allies Ask Foes to Consider Peace — Would Suggest That Territorial Status be Unchanged—Allies Are Pessimistic.

A special dispatch from Berlin by wireless to Wednesday morning's papers had this news story:

Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg announced today to the Reichstag that Germany, together with her allies, "conscious of their responsibility before God, before their own nations, before humanity," had proposed this morning to the hostile powers to enter at once on peace negotiations.

The proposal was made in a note transmitted by the Chancellor to the representatives of the United States, Spain and Switzerland, whom he received in person. These nations are the ones protecting German interests in hostile foreign countries, and the request was made that their Governments bring the note to the knowledge of the Governments hostile to Germany and her allies.

The Governments at Vienna, Constantinople and Sofia transmitted identical notes, and, as did Germany, also communicated with the Holy See and all other neutral powers.

Emperor William sent to his commanding Generals the following order, which is to be read to the German troops:

Soldiers: In agreement with the sovereigns of my allies and with the consciousness of victory, I have made an offer of peace to the enemy. Whether it will be accepted is still uncertain. Until that moment arrives you will fight on.

The Emperor's order was addressed also to "my navy, which in the common fight has loyally and effectively staked all its strength."

The peace proposals which the central powers have submitted to the allies are said to include the following:

The complete restoration of Belgium. Evacuation of Germany of all territory captured in Northern France. Establishment of Poland and Lithuania as independent kingdoms. Restoration of Bulgaria of all territory taken from that country in the Second Balkan War.

Restoration of the German colonies in Africa and other parts of the world.

Restoration to Austria of any territory captured by Italy in the vicinity of the Adriatic Sea.

Retention of Constantinople by Turkey.

In British diplomatic circles today the belief was expressed that the Allies will "conditionally" but not flatly turn down the peace proposals suggested by Germany.

In administration circles it is felt that it is practically certain that England will not accept the terms proposed by Germany. However, great importance is attached to the fact that the proposals may form the "entering wedge" for peace parleys that may bring the gigantic conflict to a close.

Charlie Chaplin in his newest comedy "Behind the Screen" Cozy Theater Monday.

### WILL ENTERTAIN TONIGHT IN HONOR OF GUESTS.

Misses Mabel Miller and Essie Robinson, of Hickory, will arrive in the city this afternoon to spend the week-end as the guests of Miss Miller's sisters, Mrs. W. L. Coon and Miss Katie Miller. Miss Katie Miller will entertain this evening, at the Colonial Hotel, in honor of the guests.

### SEALS HAVE BUSINESS VALUE.

Insurance Companies Find that Money Invested in Seals Brings Great Returns.

(State Board of Health Bulletin.) To enable their policy holders to live as long as possible was the sole reason for a large life insurance company buying last month 43,000 Red Cross Christmas Seals at one time. This firm made the statement that their action was dictated solely by business reasons, and that they could not for any reason claim any credit on the score for philanthropy. They believed it good business on the following grounds:

That presence of tuberculosis means a great financial loss to the community, and its greatest ravages are found among the poor.

That it is more logical to spend money to get rid of the disease than to reflect the cost of supporting its victims in an increased tax rate.

That the affliction of the bread winner of the family with the disease means lowered efficiency and less earning capacity, which in turn means a lessened power to provide the proper nourishment and environment to successfully combat its growth, and that his incapacity often throws his family upon the public charge.

That no one makes a profit upon a dead man but the undertaker, and he makes it only once, whereas a live man is a constant source of profit to every one with whom he does business, and the more alive and the more prosperous he is and the more business he does, the greater are the profits of those with whom he deals.

A Charlotte city ordinance requiring the use of "dimmers" on glaring automobile headlights goes into effect today.

## BIG SWINDLE SHOWN UP LOCAL CONCERN ONE OF EIGHT INVOLVED

Eight Companies, Including the Gaston County Gas Company, Are Named in Alleged Fraud Just Uncovered by Inspectors at Philadelphia — Concord Gas Company is Also Included in the List — Will Not Affect Workings of Local Plant.

The following story, which appeared in last Monday's Washington, D. C., Times, under a Philadelphia, Pa., date line, will be read with interest by Gastonians because of the reference it has to the Gaston Gas Company, of this city:

A gigantic swindle, exceeding even the wildest dreams of the mythical J. Rufus Wallingford, was brought to light here today when United States postal inspectors conducted a wholesale raid that resulted in the arrest of men who formerly had stood high in Philadelphia business circles. One of the swindles is declared by the authorities to have involved \$2,500,000, most of it money of widows and orphans.

"Eight companies are named by the authorities as being involved in the 'big steal.' They are:

"The International Gas & Electric Company, Philadelphia; Bachman & Company, banking firm, Philadelphia; Bank of Independence, Logan, Philadelphia; Concord Gas Company, Concord, N. C.; The Suburban Gas Company, of East Syracuse, N. Y.; the Gaston Gas Company, Gastonia, N. C.; Georgetown Railway & Light Company, Georgetown, S. C.; and the Southern Gas & Electric Company, Philadelphia.

"According to Postal Inspector Frank W. Smith, who conducted an investigation into the affairs of the companies that lasted a year, the International Gas & Electric Co., was the principal concern in the scheme. Its worthless stock of \$1,500,000 was sold broadcast among 500 victims. The other concerns were used mostly as 'come-ons.'

"With the single exception of the Bank of Independence, all passed into the hands of a receiver in December, 1915, in one grand smash, leaving behind a trail of ruin, according to Smith.

The developments of this alleged swindle will not affect the operations of the Gaston County Gas Company in this city, which is being managed in a very capable and efficient manner by Mr. H. K. Logan, receiver for the local concern. Mr. Logan has no interest in the plant other than its management as receiver, the company having been thrown into bankruptcy a year ago along with the other enterprises.

Charlie Chaplin in his newest comedy "Behind the Screen" Cozy Theater Monday.

### Hickory Grove News.

Correspondence of The Gazette.  
**HICKORY GROVE, Dec. 14.**—Miss Myrtle Metcalf and Miss L. Reep spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Mauney.

Miss Essie Biggerstaff was the guest Saturday of Misses Ferris and Ora Fronberger.

Mr. Grady Farris and Miss Hattie Dellinger drove to Gastonia Wednesday and were married in the court house.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Clark spent Sunday at the home of Mrs. Sarah Deck.

Mrs. Norah Rayfield, of the Beavertown section, has moved to the Columbus Stroup place.

Miss Bryte Hayes spent Saturday with Misses Mae and Essie Mason.

Mrs. A. C. Clark spent Sunday with Mrs. William Wells.

Mr. Oscar Blackburn was the guest Saturday of Mr. Earl Clark.

Mrs. J. L. Farris spent Sunday with Mrs. W. M. Mauney.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Clark spent Saturday with Mrs. Sarah Deck.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Blackburn were the guests Sunday of Mrs. Bronson Davis.

Mr. F. T. Carpenter, of the Beavertown section, has moved back to his residence at Cherryville.

Mr. and Mrs. Sylvanus Clark spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Kiser.

Mrs. Etta Alexander and Miss Lana Stroup were the guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Grady Farris.

Rev. Mr. Watkins, the Presbyterian evangelist, will preach at Hepzibah Saturday night, December 16, and Sunday morning and night. The public is cordially invited to attend these services.

Mrs. Harry C. Wells, aged 44, was burned to death at Hickory yesterday. She leaves a husband and eight children.

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**THE GAZETTE \$2.00.**  
On and after January 1, 1917, the subscription price of The Gazette will be \$2 the year instead of \$1.50 as at present. Until that date new subscriptions and renewals will be taken at the old price. All subscriptions are strictly cash in advance. This increase in the price of the paper is rendered imperative because of the unprecedented increase in the cost of print paper and all other materials which enter into the making of a newspaper.  
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## WILL PROSECUTE CASE GASTON COMMISSIONERS TAKE A HAND

Passed a Resolution at Special Meeting Tuesday Offering Their Assistance to Gaston Citizens Who Are Trying to Show That Fraud Occurred at County Line Election — Rumors of Numerous Instances That Corruption Was Practiced Are Heard — Will Be Interesting Case.

The commissioners of Gaston county passed a resolution Tuesday afternoon offering their support, on behalf of the county, to the citizens who are endeavoring to establish the fact that the election held in April, 1915, for the purpose of changing the county line between Gaston and Cleveland counties was managed in a fraudulent manner and is therefore illegal. The action of the commissioners was taken after a score of sworn statements had been examined by them which set forth facts and circumstances tending to show that the election is illegal because of the fraud that was practiced.

Witnesses will be summoned and the veracity of these statements passed upon in a suit which will be brought by Gaston against Cleveland county at a very early date. It is understood that the only phase of the suit which will be pushed by the citizens of Gaston county and the commissioners will be as to the legality of the election. In the event that the evidence is strong enough to prove that corruption occurred at the polls the election will be declared illegal and the boundary line will remain unchanged.

Territory which is involved includes the town of East Kings Mountain, there being three cotton mills within its bounds valued at more than a million dollars in taxable properties.

While the commissioners have not made known the contents of the affidavits filed at the meeting Tuesday rumors have leaked out to the effect that thousands of dollars in money were expended by prominent citizens of Cleveland county; that votes were bought at prices ranging from a few dollars to more than \$15; that whiskey played a prominent part in the election, numerous votes having been cast by persons while under the influence of liquor and who were too drunk to vote intelligently, and numerous other things which will require a civil action to set straight. Rumor also has it that an affidavit in the hands of the Gaston commissioners signed by a resident of Cleveland county which alleges that he was employed by well-known men to furnish 25 gallons of whiskey for them which was used in the county boundary line election. Other instances of fraud are also charged.

County Attorney A. G. Mangum and associates have the matter in charge with instructions from the commissioners and Gaston property owners who would be affected by the change of the county line to prosecute the case. The case promises to furnish some interesting revelations as to how the election was carried and it will doubtless be a hard-fought legal battle.

### POST-LEGISLATIVE WEDDING AT LENOIR.

A wedding of interest to Gastonians because of the fact that the bride formerly lived here, was solemnized at Lenoir yesterday when Miss Sadie Downum became the bride of Mr. Charles C. Postelle, of Florida. The ceremony took place at noon in the First Methodist church, the officiating ministers being Rev. J. M. Downum, father of the bride, and Rev. J. C. Postelle, father of the groom. The bride is a graduate of Davenport College, Lenoir. The groom is in business at Atlantic Beach, Fla. Several years ago Rev. J. M. Downum lived here, being pastor of West End Methodist church.

Charlie Chaplin in his newest comedy "Behind the Screen" Cozy Theater Monday.

### TO ESTABLISH TRAINING CAMP.

Students Who Are 14 Years Old or Over Are Eligible—Begins With College Year.

Correspondence of The Gazette.  
**WEST RALEIGH, Dec. 14.**—A reserve officers' training corps, under provision of the National Defense Act, will be established at A. and M. College, beginning with the next college year.

All students who are citizens of the United States, 14 years old or over, and whose bodily condition indicates that they are physically fit to perform military duty are eligible for the corps. Members of the National Guard are not eligible, but authority to obtain their discharge has been secured from the War Department.

### Killed Fine Buck.

There is on display in one of the show windows of the Swan-Slater Company the excellently mounted head of a fine buck which was killed in the Adirondacks by Col. G. H. Marvin on a hunting trip in October. Mr. Marvin and Mr. Chas. Ford spent several weeks in the Adirondacks and in Canada this fall and Mr. Marvin brought down this specimen on October 6th. The animal was a big fellow, weighing over 200 pounds, and the taxidermist did excellent work in mounting the head. The antlers are perfectly symmetrical and form a splendid trophy of the chase.

## IN SOCIAL CIRCLES LATEST EVENTS IN WOMAN'S WORLD

### MUSIC CLUB WILL MEET WITH MISS SHUMFORD.

The regular December meeting of the Music Club will be held next Wednesday afternoon, December 20, beginning at 3:30 o'clock, with Miss Lowry Shuford at her home on West Franklin avenue. The program for this meeting is a very interesting one, the topic being "Musical Statistics of Our State."

### TUESDAY AFTERNOON CLUB WITH MRS. LAFAR.

A very enjoyable meeting of the Tuesday Afternoon Club was held this week with Mrs. D. R. LaFar at her home on South Chester street. Mrs. A. M. Dixon, a newly elected member of the club, was present for the first time, and Mrs. J. M. Caldwell was present as an invited guest. Members brought their Christmas sewing and spent a pleasant hour in social conversation, after which a delicious two-course luncheon was served by the hostess.

### U. C. CLUB WITH MRS. M. P. KIRBY, JR.

The U. C. Club held its regular meeting yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock with Mrs. M. P. Kirby, Jr., at her home on South Marietta street. The subject for study was "Women Novelists." Mrs. Kenneth Babington read a paper on "The Life of Jane Austen" and read a selection from "Pride and Prejudice." Mrs. A. E. Wolts read a paper on "The Life of George Eliot" and gave a reading from "Adam Bede." Following the program delicious refreshments were served. Besides club members the only guest present was Mrs. A. G. Myers.

### STANLEY COUPLE MARRIED HERE.

At six o'clock on Saturday evening December 9, Mr. Marvin Spargo and Miss Gertrude Clark, both of Stanley, were united in marriage at the Lory Baptist church, the ceremony being pronounced by the pastor, Rev. G. P. Abernethy. The bride party, including Mr. Euclid Morris and Miss Texas Spargo, a sister of the groom, came by automobile to Gastonia and returned to Stanley soon after the wedding. The groom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Spargo and the bride a daughter of Mrs. Ella Clark. Both have a large number of friends who will be interested in the news of their marriage.

### WAS HOSTESS IN HONOR OF GASTONIA GUEST.

The following is from Tuesday's issue of The Lancaster News:

Miss Etta Skipper entertained Saturday at rook and bridge in compliment to her guest, Mrs. E. O. Jennings, of Gastonia. Three tables of rook players and two of bridge filled the living room and parlor which were decorated with holly and the scores were kept on Christmas cards to which were tied sprigs of the same beautiful Christmas berries and leaves. Mrs. T. E. Doster won the bridge prize, a pair of lingerie pins. Mrs. W. R. Thomson the rook prize, also lingerie pins, and the honoree was presented with a Spaxey-peare calendar. The hostess was assisted by Misses Guy Skipper and Caroline Porter in serving a delicious salad course.

### HIGH COMPLIMENT PAID TO MISS TORRENCE.

The following from Sunday's Charlotte Observer will be read with great interest by Miss Torrence's many Gastonia friends:

Miss Marie Torrence, of Gastonia, is now a pupil at the New York School of Music and Art, and friends here have been advised that the director of the school pronounces her voice capable of higher and rarer flights than the voice of even Evelyn Beech Yaw, who is recognized as America's most gifted soprano in the field of her high notes.

Letters come to the parents, also, of this young woman, Mr. and Mrs. Frost Torrence, of Gastonia, that she has been selected as soloist of the Bronx Forum, One Hundred and Sixty-sixth street and Boston Road, New York City.

Next Sunday she will sing there, with orchestra accompaniment by Clarence De'Boix Royer, director of the violin department of the New York School of Music and Art.

February next, Miss Torrence will give a recital in New York, using in her repertoire French, German, Italian and English, being equally at ease in her renditions with either language. Then she will be awarded an "artist" diploma.

It is hoped by her parents that Miss Torrence will be returning to Gastonia during February. Then, not only Gastonia but also other friends of North Carolina may realize the rich good luck of having among them and as among their own a singer artist of the first class.

Charlotte Daily Observer, 15 cent Week.

### Gastonia Cotton.

Good middling ..... 17 3/4c  
Cotton seed ..... 52c

A suffrage league has been organized in Union county with 54 members having as its motto the national slogan, "Ballots for Both."