

# 33 CHARRED VICTIMS OF CHRISTMAS EVE TRAGEDY AT LAST IDENTIFIED

## Little Oklahoma Settlement Prepares Dead For Burial. Plans For One Big Grave Abandoned When Bodies Are Identified. Only One Door For Exit When Fire Broke Out. Teacher Dies For Children.

Hobart, Okla., Dec. 26.—All of the thirty-three victims of the fire which destroyed the schoolhouse during a Christmas eve entertainment having been identified, the people of Babb's Switch settlement today set about the work of interment.

Plans for using a common grave, first considered when it appeared that identification of all bodies would be impossible, were abandoned last night when the identity of the last victim, little girl of 11, was established. Joint funeral services for sixteen of the dead will be held this afternoon, followed by burial in individual graves. The Rev. G. W. Estes, pastor of the Presbyterian church, was named to conduct the services, with ministers from all denominations participating. The remaining seventeen victims of the fire probably will be buried tomorrow.

Twenty persons injured in the fire are still in hospitals. All are considered to have at least an even chance for recovery.

A committee of Hobart citizens has been appointed by Mayor F. E. Gillespie to provide for the care of the children orphaned by the fire and to work toward rehabilitation of the home life to Babb's Switch. A movement is under way to raise funds for a monument to those killed in Oklahoma's worst Christmas tragedy. The monument would be placed either in Hobart or on the site of the fire.

Three small fires in Hobart yesterday added to the city's tension. One of the blazes, originating in a jewelry store, caused a mild panic in two nearby theaters, but no one was injured seriously.

Authorities said they expected to take action toward investigating the Babb's Switch fire. Vigilance of the school trustees in placing wire netting over the outside of the school windows to keep out vandals was held chiefly responsible for the heavy loss of life. Could the windows of the one story structure have been used as a means of egress virtually all of the 200 persons in the building could have escaped, it was believed. As it was, the door was the only exit, and there was such a rush for it that the persons farthest from it had little chance to escape, as the fire, starting from a candle on the Christmas tree, swept through the small structure.

At two previous Christmas eve celebrations at the school, Christmas trees caught fire, but were extinguished without serious damage. Last Christmas, William Curtis, who lost his life in this year's fire, played the role of Santa Claus and, during the distribution of gifts, his white beard caught fire, but he quickly extinguished it.

Babb's switch is a prosperous farming community 7 miles south of Hobart. Cotton and wheat are the principal products. The population is about 250.

### Candle Started Fire.

Hobart, Okla., Dec. 25.—With the identification of the last victim established, the re-checked death list in the Christmas eve fire at the Babb Switch rural school, stood at 33 tonight. Twenty injured persons are still confined in two hospitals. One is expected to die and two others are in a critical condition. Funeral services for 16 of the dead will be held tomorrow.

With 32 bodies, most of them burned beyond recognition, lying in a temporary morgue in two store buildings, and 27 others listed as missing as a result of a Christmas eve fire at the district school house at Babb's Switch seven miles from here, Hobart citizens tonight were continuing their efforts to identify the dead.

At a mass meeting today, called by Mayor F. E. Gillespie, committees were named and the relief work was going forward systematically.

It has been decided to bury all the unidentified in one large grave in the Hobart cemetery and late today a crew of men broke the snow that blanketed the burial ground to throw up a long trench of earth.

Early tonight, only ten of the dead had been identified, despite the fact that the morgue was early thrown open to the public. A steady procession of grief-stricken relatives filed all day long between the shrouded forms, but so terribly had they been burned that it was impossible in most cases to mark the features of loved ones.

### Family of Four Recognized.

Among those who have been recognized is the family of T. C. Caffey, a farmer living near the Babb's Switch school. Six bodies, the father, mother and four little forms, have been placed to themselves. Survivors tell a heart rending story of how the family, standing in the center of the blazing schoolroom, every means of escape cut off, threw their arms about one another and in a last gesture of devotion fell together into the inferno as blazing rafters loosed from the roof struck them down. Amid the awful confusion of the scene survivors say they were struck by the placidity with which the Caffey family met death.

For Her Children.

There, too, in a place apart, is the body of Mrs. Florence Hill, teacher at the school, who might have escaped had she not tarried in a futile effort to find some avenue of escape for the little charges that were hers.

### Way To Step 'Em

(From The News and Observer)

The number of accidents by drunken, or drinking, men calls for more drastic punishment than has heretofore been meted out. A fine is no punishment to most of them. They have found out how to give the right medicine in Kansas City. A man named Ehn had a head-on collision with a street car. The motorist testified that he saw that the mashup could not be averted and he stopped his car and waited for the inevitable. "All I remember," Ehn explained, "was that I took one drink. I was cold and I thought the drink would warm me. The next I knew I was in the police station."

"You don't remember hitting the street car?" asked the judge.

"No."

"And in your condition you might have run over a person without realizing it?"

"Yes."

Then the judge gave Ehn the dose that stops drunken driving. He said: "Well, you must pay for your drink. Your fine is \$100 and I forbade you to drive your car until March 1, 1925."

It is said that his car remains idle—that Ehn has quit drinking—and goes by every day and counts the hours till March 1, 1925.

That medicine ought to be meted out, plus a fine, in Raleigh and other North Carolina towns.

### Apples and Apples

(From Gastonia Gazette)

Channing Pollock, the playwright and author, ought to come to North Carolina to get some apples. Not a hundred miles from Gaston county, and on the streets of Gastonia, by the truck and car load, he can find such apples as he wants. He is evidently used to eating good apples and we can sympathize with him as he tries to eat the tasteless things that are sometimes offered as apples.

A good apple a day, better still, two or three of them, is the best medicine in the world and the best eating. No wonder Mr. Pollock cries out in despair:

"Are there any good apples in the world?"

"Those obtainable in the public markets seem to me typical of our time—externally attractive; nothing worth while under the skin."

"I am one of thousands who love an apple firm, tart, with juice enough to trickle down your chin—when you were a small boy—and leave a white mark. Today, unblushing, the itinerant Italian or corner Greek takes your time in exchange for something round and mealy and as guiltless of lousid as the exterior of a dentist's rubber sheet. The best apples on earth grow in New York, but these apparently rot on the trees, while refrigerator cars cross thousands of miles, bringing us desert sand in scarlet skins—delight to the eye and disappointment to the palate. 'No Baldwins in market!' 'No Winesaps or Northern Spies.' Dust and pigment. If the serpent hadn't been a better picker our customers still would be being designed by a landscape gardener!"

"This is frankly an appeal. I made the same appeal years ago through F. P. A. . . and got thirty-four samples of dry-rot and juiceless gingerbread. Maybe you're a better humorist. I'm in the market for Baldwins—at any price—once I've satisfied myself that they are Baldwins, and not Bucks!"

### ROCKFELLER CHALLENGES THE SOUTHERN BAPTISTS

John D. Rockefeller, sr., who several years ago gave \$300,000 in securities to the Relief and Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist convention, to be invested as a permanent fund, has advised Secretary William Lunsford that he will make an additional gift of \$100,000 to the board of Southern Baptists during 1925 will give an additional \$400,000 making a total of \$500,000 for the year to care for the work of relieving the aged Baptist preachers and their dependent ones.

Secretary Lunsford announces that the Board is now caring for 1,000 beneficiaries in the various states of the Southern Baptist convention. He is challenging Southern Baptists to accept Mr. Rockefeller's proposition.

No wife should start a quarrel with her husband until she has possession of the pay envelope.

Another way not to get away from trouble is joy-riding in an installment-plan automobile.

The brains of an automobile are behind the steering wheel, but they are not always working.

## Carpenter Heads The Chamber Of Commerce

From The Herald.  
The Kings Mountain chamber of commerce held its annual meeting Friday night in the Pythian club room and elected directors and officers, except secretary, which the directors elect, O. B. Carpenter, was re-elected president and Dr. J. E. Anthony, first vice president, and Dr. I. S. McElroy, second vice president.

Following are the directors elected Friday night: O. B. Carpenter, Wiley H. McGinnis, C. E. Neisler, J. O. Plonk, J. R. Davis, Dr. I. S. McElroy, P. D. Herndon, W. P. Fulton and Dr. J. E. Anthony.

The chamber voted to ask the directors to appoint a committee to confer with the Corporation commission as early as practicable with reference to securing a new Southern railway depot for the town.

### BLANTON-ELLIS WEDDING DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Mr. John Lee Ellis, son of Mr. G. A. Ellis and Miss Thelma Blanton, daughter of Mr. Albert A. Blanton, were happily married December 23rd by Squire Glead Green at the home of the bride's parents in the western part of No. 6 township. Only a few friends witnessed the ceremony. Both are prominent young people who have the best wishes of their many friends.

### DR. R. C. HICKS

Dentist  
Office Shelby National Bank Building.  
Phone 421. Shelby, N. C.

### DR. JOE OSBORNE

DENTIST  
6-7 ROYSTER BLDG.  
SHELBY, N. C.

### DR. DAVID M. MORRISON

Optometrist  
Eyes examined, glasses fitted, lenses duplicated same day as received.  
Office in New Fanning Building—Telephone 585

### NOTICE OF SALE.

By order of the Board of Highway commissioners of No. 3 township we will sell to the highest bidder for cash or with note of approved security on January 10th, 1924, at 10 o'clock a. m., at Patterson Station in No. 3 township, two Fordson tractors, being the property of the said township.  
L. I. KENDRICK, Chairman.  
J. C. BRIDGES, Secretary.

### PAINTING—Paper-Hanging—

It's a known fact throughout this section with most people that painting, room decorating and papering done by WM. HENRY QUEEN Looks better, lasts longer. Ask those for whom I have painted. There is a secret to the beauty and lasting part of painting. The kind of paint and the way it's mixed with the right painter is the whole secret of a satisfactory job of painting. When you spend your money for painting you want your money's worth and not waste money on poor painting and work. I can furnish high class references from different parts of western N. C., from parties I have painted for that I am honest and will give a square deal. I keep good workmen and try not to bother the people I am painting for no more than I can possibly help. Do not mess nor tear up around a house while painting. You may rest easy if you turn your painting over to me. May cost a little more for me to do your painting but its worth more than it costs. I am a new painter in Shelby, recently moved here from Morganton but I am no stranger here. Just moved to be more in the center of my territory. I do not reach all work I am asked to do but will do my best this year to reach all work I can. Don't be afraid to write me about your painting. Don't cost anything even if we don't trade.  
Anything in the painting line done.  
W. H. QUEEN,  
Box 485, Shelby, N. C.  
Try a Mottled Wall Decoration, It's Fine.

## HAMLET CHILDREN ARE ELECTROCUTED

Hamlet, Dec. 26.—Three children were electrocuted by a high-power electric transmission wire which broke and fell as the result of a rifle shot, at Roberdel, a small town four miles from here, about 6 o'clock this evening.

The dead are Arthur, aged 16; Ethel, aged 11 and Willie, aged 9, children of Mr. and Mrs. Pearl Martin, of Hamlet.

Reports reaching here are that Arthur was shooting at targets with a 22-caliber rifle, and that one of the bullets hit a high-power wire under which they were standing.

The impact of the bullet was sufficient to break the wire which fell upon the boy, entangling him and holding him helpless.

Ethel and Willie, seeing his plight, rushed in to extricate him and were themselves caught. It is supposed that they were killed almost instantly.

Neighbors discovered the three dead children, according to reports, within a few moments after the last shot of the rifle. Information here is that there were no eye-witnesses to the accident.

The brothers and sister left home early this morning to spend the day with their grandparents in Roberdel. The mother and father supposed them to be in safety until the news of their sudden death was borne to them here.

The county coroner was notified, but on a brief investigation decided an inquest was not necessary and released the bodies to the relatives.

The occurrence caused a sensation in Hamlet, where the children lived and went to school. It is not recalled that such an accident, with its peculiar circumstances, has ever happened in this section before.

### FLORENCE MILLS TO RESUME NIGHT WORK

Frest City Courier.  
The announcement of Supt. N. H. Welsh made to the Courier yesterday that Florence mills will resume full time night work on January 5th will be cheering news to the community at large, as well as to the workers in the mill.

A double shift will be employed, both night and day forces to be put on. This means a great deal more work for employes, whose prosperity will be reflected in an increased business activity among our merchants.

The general outlook for 1925 seems good and it is with renewed hope and confidence that we approach the New Year.

### INDIAN ROY IS CHAMPION DANCER OF ALL TRIBES

Washington.—Little Crow Feathers four years old, of the Glacier National Park reservation, is regarded as the champion juvenile Indian dancer of all Indian tribes.

This gives him the grand championship, for there is no grown Indian that is so nimble or can take the steps this tot goes through. The boy is a veritable prancing performer with the agility of a wildcat.

He is a full blooded Blackfoot. His father, Chief Crow Feathers, is a Carlisle graduate who played on the famous Carlisle football team which defeated all eleven and was only tied once, the season the celebrated Indian played Thorp was with Carlisle. Chief Crow Feathers' adopted name is Orcar Boy.

### A Kiwanian Recognition.

(From the Monroe Journal.)  
By resolution the work of Miss Katherine Farmer, county health nurse, was endorsed by the Kiwanis Club at its luncheon Friday evening of last week. A number of Kiwanians knew something of Miss Farmer's activities, and the club desired to go on record as being appreciative of a good service well rendered to the people of Union County. Not only that, but the Kiwanians went further and stated they desired to have the county health nurse office continued as they considered it of great value to the schools of the county and to the people as a whole.

### ASHEVILLE'S COLDEST CHRISTMAS SINCE 1906

Asheville, Dec. 26.—Asheville yesterday experienced the coldest Christmas since 1906.  
With a freezing wind prevailing all day, the mercury slipped down to 18 degrees late yesterday afternoon, while the highest temperature recorded all day was 23 degrees. Christmas day, 1906, witnessed a minimum of 6 degrees and a maximum of 20.  
The minimum temperature of the past few days was recorded at 7 o'clock this morning, when the weather bureau reported 14 degrees, lasting until after 8 a. m.

### OLDEST WOMAN IN COUNTY TO CELEBRATE 103 BIRTHDAY

(Special to The Star.)  
There will be a birthday dinner at Mr. Andrew Leek's January 1st. The dinner will be for Aunt Nellie Ledford who will celebrate her 103 year. She is the widow of Uncle Bob Ledford. Everybody is cordially invited to come and bring well filled baskets and enjoy the day with the old lady.  
A. FRIEND.



## WINTER IS HERE—

### Are You Fixed Comfortably?

PHONE 97—We'll heat you in a Jiffy.



Happiest is the home where there is plenty of heat where you want it most. Whatever your problem may be in heating your home, do not let things slide, but come in and see us. We have just the sort of stove or heating arrangements that will meet your need. Whether it be a little "wood burner" or a large heating stove. You will be surprised how easily and economically your home or any particular room may be kept warm with the right supply of heat. And supplying heat is our specialty.

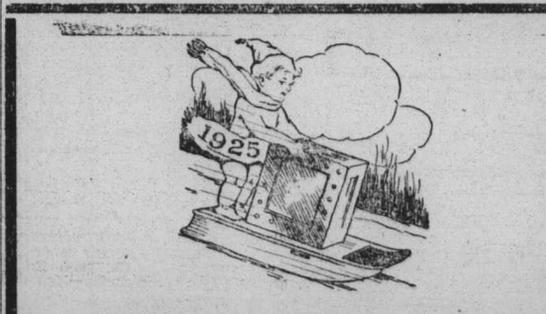
### J. D. LINEBERGERS SON

PHONE 97 SHELBY, N. C.

## ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE NEW YEAR

And at the dawn of new Ambitions, we pause to meditate upon the accomplishments of the year gone by, and the good friends who inspired them. And so, we wish you a New Year filled with realizations of your fondest hopes.

### W. L. FANNING & CO.



## CAN YOU OPEN 1925'S TREASURE CHEST?

Wrapped up in the days of the New Year are opportunities for each one to get ahead in life—to reach some of the goals every ambitious person aims for.

Energy, honesty, skill, experience—these you need. But they are not all.

You need the confidence and the support of money in bank—a reserve of strength that will help you when your chance comes, if it is getting the home you want, or a share in business, or more land, or new equipment, or other things that cost money.

You will write your own record in 1925. May it be the kind you want and hope for—and may the New Year prove the best you have ever had!

### CLEVELAND BANK & TRUST CO.

SHELBY, N. C.  
New interest period opens January 1st in our savings Department. Deposits made up through January 5th will draw interest from January 1st.

Surveying, Sub-dividing, Estates, Roads, Streets, Water & Sewer.  
**D. R. S. FRAZIER**  
Civil Engineer and Surveyor.  
Courtview Building, Phone 578.



ZEB COSTNER is a Jitney driver. He drives 4,500 miles a month. He uses Seiberling ALL-TREADS. There's a reason. Ask him why. Never has a tire been its equal. Sold exclusively by MISENHEIMER TIRE CO. and IDEAL SERVICE STATION, Shelby, N. C. Vulcanizing. Phones 482 and 194.

## T. W. Ebeltoft

Grocer and Book Seller  
Phone --- 82

### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE.

Under and by virtue of the power of sale in me conferred in a certain Deed of Trust executed by M. A. Francis and wife, Jessie May Francis, dated November 10th, 1921, to the Shelby and Cleveland County Building and Loan Association and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Cleveland county, N. C., in Book 117 at page 22, and default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness therein secured and having been requested to sell said property I will on

Monday January 5th, 1925 at 12 o'clock, noon or within legal hours sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate:

One house and lot in the town of Earl, Cleveland county, N. C., and it being Lot No. 1 and on the east side of the C. C. and C. railroad and it also being on the north corner of the 10 acre lot, fronting 70 feet 8 1-4 inches on Main street and running back 260 feet to a second street, and being that same lot which was conveyed to M. A. Francis and wife, J. May Francis by J. J. Shuford and wife, E. J. Shuford by deed dated October 30th, 1919 and recorded in the office of the register of deeds for Cleveland county, N. C., in deed Book G. G. at page 112, said lot known as the J. J. Shuford home place, adjoining lots of J. A. Earl on the South and W. C. Surratt on the north and containing one-half acre, more or less.  
This December 5th, 1924.  
JNO. P. MULL, Trustee.

### PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS.

North Carolina—Cleveland County. In the Superior Court, before the Clerk.  
G. Lee Goode and wife, Lois A. Goode, Pearl Wolfe and husband, G. F. Wolfe, Ada Rhyne and husband, H. B. Rhyne, Blanche Abernethy and husband, Earl Abernethy, D. Basil Goode and wife, Mabel Goode, T. B. Goode and wife, Bessie Goode, Gertrude Austell and husband, B. Austell, Petitioners,  
vs.  
Mary Good, James Good and Sarah Virginia Good, minor defendants. To Mary Good and James Good, non-resident defendants:

You and each of you are hereby notified that a Special proceeding, as above entitled, has been instituted in the Superior court of Cleveland county, N. C., in which the petitioners are asking for the sale of the real estate of which Thomas F. Goode died seized for partition and division among heirs at law of the said Thomas F. Goode and that, by the terms of said petition, it is set forth and alleged that Mary Good, James Good and Sarah Virginia Good are the children of Sallie Good, deceased, and own and are entitled jointly to an undivided one-eighth (1-8) interest in and to the real estate belonging to the late Thomas F. Goode, and you are further notified that you are required to appear before me at my office in Shelby, N. C., on Saturday, January 17th, 1925, at 10 a. m., and answer to the petition filed in this case, or the petitioners will apply to the court for the relief prayed for in said petition. This December 15th, 1924.

GEO. P. WEBB, Clerk Superior Court.  
Ryburn & Hoey, Attys for Petitioners.