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FIRE DESTROYS ESKRIDGE BUILDING AND RENDERS FIVE FAMILIES HOMELESS

Damage About \$18,000 With No Insurance. Fire Started From Kerosene Oil Heater. Other Buildings Threatened.

Five families were rendered homeless and a property damage of \$18,000 to \$20,000 was suffered Monday morning in a fire which destroyed the Mrs. Webb Eskridge two-story frame building on West Marion street, and for a time threatened the Chas. L. Eskridge garage, the T. W. and Frank A. Hamrick Arcade building, the Roberts-Mauney Auto parts store building owned by Leo B. Weathers, and Bost's Bakery owned by J. F. Harris, A. M. Hamrick and E. Y. Webb. The fire originated shortly before eight o'clock when an oil heater used to heat a tank of water in the bath room of the apartment occupied by Mr. and Mrs. David Roberts exploded and started a flame which soon enveloped the room. Mrs. Roberts heard the explosion and rushed to the room where she saw the flame and gave the alarm.

Damage \$18,000 to \$20,000. The occupants were soon scampering out, carrying their personal belongings and in the rescue work hundreds of others helped carry out furniture, but all of the five tenants lost heavily with no insurance whatever. In the hurry to carry out furniture, much damage was done, but the people worked faithfully and the members of the fire department as well as the volunteer workers put up a magnificent fight. Although the Eskridge building was burned completely, the valiant fighters holding four lines of hose on the tongues of fire, confined the flames to this one building. Mr. Chas. L. Eskridge says it is impossible to estimate the damage but thinks it will run between \$18,000 and \$20,000, the largest fire since Thompson's lumber plant was destroyed last June, entailing a loss of nearly \$40,000. The rear of the building contained many auto parts, such as engine blocks, fenders, tractor parts, etc., belonging to Mr. Eskridge.

Because the building was of frame construction and close in the fire limits, the insurance rate was prohibitive, none was carried on building or contents.

Five Families. The five families occupying the building were Mr. and Mrs. Hardin Lee, Mr. and Mrs. David Roberts and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Eskridge, the male members of these families being employed at Eskridge garage; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ledbetter, Mr. Ledbetter working at Bost's Bakery and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Crocker.

Fighting started from the roof of Eskridge garage, the nearest building to the flames and near the room where the oil heater exploded. This building was in danger but every precaution was taken to protect the roof. The automatic sprinkler system, installed some weeks ago in the garage, never got hot enough to melt the heads, except in the skylight on the saw-tooth roof. The city firefighters had 700 feet of hose in four lines playing on the flames from Marion and Morgan street and from the Eskridge garage roof while more hose was brought from Shelby and Eastside mills. The fire engine operating on Morgan street had 180-pound pressure which required six men to hold the hose. Superintendent Toms says the water was ample and pressure good all the time, except in the longer lines of hose.

Cherryville Comes. The fire department from Cherryville was called to assist in the event the adjacent buildings caught and Captain Burns with eight men made the run in 23 minutes, but by the time they arrived the flames were under control. Municipal officers and the public appreciate the assistance of Cherryville in Shelby's hour of peril and the proffered help of Gastonia which sent out a fire fighting unit but was turned back when it was found their services would not be needed.

200 Telephones Out. A large telephone cable on Marion street was melted by the heat and 200 phones were put out of commission, but Manager Arwood had new poles and a crew of workers repairing the damage by ten o'clock and expected to have all connections made Monday afternoon.

The Bost Bakery building caught on the roof fully 25 times, but men with a hose line extinguished the flames as fast as they started. Plate glass show windows in the Roberts-Mauney building and the Hamrick Arcade building were broken by the intense heat. Had the wind been blowing as it did on Sunday, the fire might have spread across the street and wiped out the main business section of Shelby.

Timely help on farm problems may be secured by consulting the county and home agents or by writing to the State college at Raleigh for an extension publication dealing with the problem.

COTTON FARMERS ARE OPTIMISTIC

Farm Folks of Cleveland Are Smiling Now With Good Stands of Cotton and Fine Crop Prospects.

When the farmers of Cleveland county smile good cheer prevails all over the county and even in the towns, for the farmers are the mainstay of the county. Last week an optimistic feeling gradually entered the county and by the end of the week farmers who gathered in town were wreathed in smiles over crop prospects for the year.

Some weeks back the farmers were inclined to have the "blues" because of the cool spell that prevented the cotton from coming up and in many sections the talk began to center around re-planting, but with several summer-like days the "blues" have vanished and there is probably more enthusiasm over the coming crops than ever before. There is a good stand of cotton, in practically every section of the county and the "white gold" is growing fast with the hot days and consequent cultivation. The farmers who say that the crop this year will be better than ever base their prediction on the fact that the land over the county was prepared better this year than ever before; the good stand, proper fertilization and a diversified crop that looks well to take care of the necessary feed for farm stock.

County Agent Lawrence believes that the feed crops this year in Cleveland will be considerably larger than ever before and that less feedstuff will have to be bought than ever before—which has been one of the major programs of the county board of agriculture. All in all say many of the county's leading farmers: "Prospects for a good crop are brighter at this period of the year than in our memory."

Use More Fertilizer. More fertilizer was used by Cleveland farmers during the planting season this year, or since January 1, than in the farm history of the county, according to an estimate made by County agent Lawrence who in making the estimate used actual figures to base his total amount. His belief is that at least 35,200 tons of fertilizer has been used which with the minimum average price of \$30 per ton would make \$1,056,000 that was spent for fertilizer. One million dollars and more for fertilizer in one county! Is there any wonder why Cleveland farmers lead and are smiling.

SCHOOL AT KNOB CREEK PROPOSED

Five Districts Combined in No. 9 and No. 10 Townships. Election to Be Held. Other Meetings.

The county board of education held a special session Friday afternoon at 2 p. m. in the court house auditorium at which time the county-wide plan of school organization was modified, affecting all of the schools of No. 10 township, together with Belwood and Richards schools of No. 9 township. At the regular meeting of the board at the first Monday of June a petition will be presented signed by a number of the qualified voters and the school committee in the Belwood, St. Peters, Ledfords, Mulls and Pleasant Hill school districts, asking for an election to vote on the levy of a fifty cent tax on all real and personal property with a view to erecting a ten or twelve room brick building at Knob Creek church in No. 10 township. This consolidation comprises the above school districts in full with the exception of Pleasant Hill and Richards schools. All the territory in the Pleasant Hill school district west of Knob Creek was transferred to the White school district of No. 11 township. Only the territory in the Richards district east of Knob Creek is to be included in the new proposed district; all the territory lying west of said Knob Creek shall remain a part of the Piedmont high school proposed consolidated district.

Offers Site Free. It is proposed that at some future time to make Philbeck school of No. 10 a part of the Casar school district. A generous donation has been offered from Mr. George Martin of four to six acres for a school site at Knob Creek church, one half mile from the state highway and in full view of same.

This meeting was attended by all

W. H. THOMPSON.



MR. W. H. THOMPSON BURIED SATURDAY

Well Known Lumber Manufacturer in Business 50 Years, Succumbs to Bright's Disease at 72.

Mr. W. Horace Thompson, life-long lumber dealer and manufacturer Friday afternoon at his home on West Warren street following an illness of several weeks with Bright's disease and his body was buried in Sunset cemetery Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, the funeral services being conducted from the residence by Rev. C. F. Sherrill, assisted by Rev. A. L. Stanford, a large crowd of friends and relatives attending.

Mr. Thompson was forced to retire from business about four years ago because of failing health and gradually his condition has been growing from bad to worse until he became unconscious several days prior to the final summons. Mr. Thompson was a native of Lincoln county and was 72 years old last December. For nearly half a century he was a leading lumber dealer and manufacturer, half of which time he operated in upper Cleveland, the other half in Shelby. For a number of years he operated a shingle mill and when the Southern railway was building extensively in the South, he filled an order for two million shingles. The manufacture of sash, doors and blinds, mouldings etc., was begun at Belwood. In 1900 he moved to Shelby and for awhile was proprietor of the Commercial hotel. As a lumber manufacturer, he had a number of partners, the firm name being Thompson and Blackwood, Thompson and Gantt, Thompson and Sons, Thompson-Branton Co., and later The Thompson Co., with his sons as partners.

Mr. Thompson joined the Methodist church and was a steward at Kadesh. For many years he was active in church work and a Sunday school teacher. He was married to Frances Hoyle who was a most faithful wife and mother. She survives and is a twin sister of Mrs. R. E. Porter, mother of Mrs. Charles L. Eskridge. The following children also survive: Mrs. A. C. Durham and Mrs. J. W. Austin of Beltingham, Washington; Mrs. Dwight Carver of Miami, Fla.; Dr. C. A. Thompson of Hugo, Okla.; Emmett, of New York city; Z. J., Carl and Rush Thompson of Shelby. Also surviving are two brothers, O. F. Thompson of Bellingham, Wash.; Cicero Thompson of Shelby; two sisters Mrs. F. M. Dixon of Hendersonville and Mrs. W. J. T. Stynes of Cherryville.

At the funeral services three vocal selections were rendered by Mrs. P. L. Hennessy, Mrs. Grady Lovelace, Mrs. T. J. Babington Messrs. C. A. Burrus and Fred Callahan. The following served as pall bearers: J. H. Quinn, M. M. O'Shields, C. S. Young, J. L. Lackey, W. D. Broadway, W. D. Babington and Dr. E. A. Houser.

Chautauqua Here All Next Week

Redpath Chautauqua will be in Shelby all next week, the program covering five days from Tuesday, June 2, through Saturday, June 6 inclusive. The program of the Chautauqua, an annual attraction in Shelby, is said to be better than that of last year and highly entertaining and educational.

Tickets are being sold by various committees of the Womans and members of the club hope to have the required number sold by the first of the week if possible. Those who intend to buy tickets are urged to do so this week. Sales will be made by any members of the club, and those who are not visited should call Mrs. Fred Morgan, Mrs. T. W. Hamrick or any of the committee heads.

Plenty of binder twine on hand at O. E. Ford Co's. ad For Geiser threshing machines and parts see O. E. Ford company. ad

ROBERTS ELECTED MASONIC LEADER

Local Masons Hold Election and Last Meeting in Old Hall. Will Meet in New Temple Friday Night.

The last regular meeting of local Masons in the old Masonic hall on La-Fayette street was held last Friday evening, at which time officers of the lodge were elected. Attending the meeting was one of the largest crowds in some time it being necessary to provide additional eating facilities to accommodate the many Masons attending.

In the election Capt. J. Frank Roberts was elected worshipful master. Carr E. Cline was elected senior warden; George Washburn, junior warden; C. S. Young treasurer, and Russell Laughridge, secretary. The other officials will be appointed. Retiring officers were: C. S. Young, worshipful master; Will Metcalf, senior warden; Carr E. Cline, junior warden; J. F. Roberts treasurer and Russell Laughridge secretary.

To Enter New Temple. On next Friday night the Masons of this section expect a big event when they gather for the first time in the handsome new Masonic temple on the Washington-Warren streets corner of the court square. At this meeting there will be work in the first degree with three candidates.

The new temple is practically complete and the interior decorations and furnishings ready for the opening. The grand lecturer, who visited Shelby recently, termed the new lodge rooms in the temple the best fitted and most beautiful of any he has seen in recent years. The temple itself ranks among the leading Masonic structures in the state and is a credit to the high standard of the men by whom it was erected.

FRANK DIXON DIES IN NEW YORK CITY

Prominent Member of Cleveland's Most Famous Family Passes. Son of the Late Tom Dixon.

Dr. Frank Dixon, nationally famous lecturer and a member of Cleveland's most prominent family, died Saturday in New York where lives his brother Tom Dixon, internationally known playwright and author, according to dispatches from the metropolis. The deceased was rated as perhaps the most noted member of the great Dixon family and was born here, the son of the late Rev. Thomas Dixon, one of North Carolina's outstanding pioneer Baptist ministers.

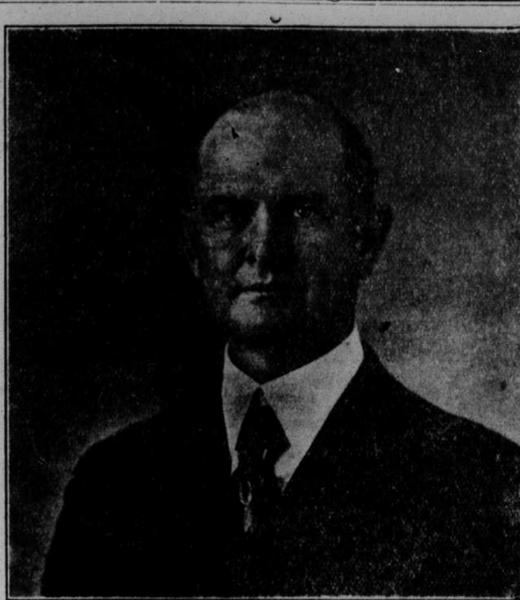
His family consisted of two brothers and two sisters: Rev. Amzi Clarence Dixon, renowned as a church leader and minister in America and Europe; Tom Dixon, author and playwright, of New York, and creator of "The Birth of a Nation"; Dr. Delia Dixon-Carroll, well known woman physician of Raleigh, and Mrs. Thacker, wife of a well-known Presbyterian minister of Richmond.

The Dixons were all born here and received their education in this section, leaving Carolina for wider fields and greater renown. Frank Dixon is known and well remembered by all the middle-aged and elderly folks of the county who recall easily incidents and episodes in his early life when the famous family lived here. His last visit was several years ago to attend a reunion of his family, which was quite an event in the life of Shelby and the county. He was a power on the lecture platform and combined the swaying powers of his two famous brothers in his ability to charm mammoth chautauqua crowds the country over. Although he devoted the major portion of his time to the lecture platform he was also renowned as a church leader.

A Raleigh dispatch regarding his death adds: "Dr. Dixon's illness called his sister, Dr. Dixon-Carroll, to him but he died two hours before she reached him. He was regarded in many respects the most noted of the boys in the family. He was but a little short of Tom Dixon in his platform powers and was as highly esteemed for church leadership as his brother, Amzi Clarence."

Expression Recital. The expression class of the Shelby high school will give a recital Tuesday evening in the Central school auditorium under the direction of their instructor Miss May Washburn. The program is said to contain some interesting numbers and as the first expression program in the school will be largely attended it is expected.

Girls no doubt have a fondness for fifty clothes, but they are not entirely wrapt up in them.—Florence (Ala.) Herald.



MR. GEORGE BLANTON OF SHELBY

Mr. Blanton was one of the nominees last week as district director of the North Carolina Cotton Growers Association, but it is not known whether he will accept if elected. Mr. Blanton is active vice-president of the First National Bank of Shelby, with total resources of over four and a half million dollars, one of the largest farmers in this section of the state, chairman of the board of trustees of the N. C. Orthopaedic Hospital at Gastonia and otherwise prominently identified with the business life of the county and state.

"CASEY" MORRIS LEADS SHELBY HIGH TO SECOND STRAIGHT STATE TITLE

16-Year-Old Jack Hoyle Stops Clayton With Four Hits And With Errorless Support By Young Surprise Team Easily Wins Championship Game. Grice Stars At Bat, And Victory Gives Town A Thrill.

"Just another title," laconically remarked 13 determined youngsters who returned Sunday from Chapel Hill, where on Saturday they surprised the state by winning the state high school baseball title for the second time, defeating Clayton Highs, Eastern champions, 5 to 1. It was not the first surprise the little club, coached by "Casey" Morris, has handed out this season for their string of victories has been a succession of surprises and not until the final game did Shelby fans realize that the peppery bunch knew not the meaning of defeat, and that besides being the youngest club to ever cop a state title was also the hardest fighting, winning a state title when the odds were against them, even at home.

As the score trickled into Shelby by innuendo Saturday afternoon with one goose egg after another going up the large crowd of fans gathered about realized that the little club was putting up its best battle and when the early frames had been passed without a marker being chalked up against "Morris" boys it was figured that the youngsters were well by the stage-fright period and victory could easily be seen. Needless to say when the end of the game brought Shelby the state baseball title twice in succession—a record for the state—there was quite a demonstration and a miniature celebration for the boys and their coach for the honor brought again by them to the town.

Give Hoyle Great Support. To Jack Hoyle, the youthful Shelby hurler, goes much of the credit for the state title by holding the heavy hitting Clayton boys to four scattered hits he made the victory possible, but to his teammates, who for an oddity, even though in a tense title game where veterans blow up, played their first errorless game and never once bobbled or wavered during the contest as the twirler they supported never weakened. To Grice, young guardian of the initial bag, went the hitting honors with the fleet-footed Magness and Captain Beam as close seconds. And to Morris, the big silent coach who makes champions out of apparently hopeless looking youngsters, goes the honor of directing a championship club in his first year out of college. To the town comes another realization now—that of having a coach without equal in the state, and to Bill Fetzer there must have been some pride in witnessing the success of his favorite pupil and Carolina's most popular athlete—and this summer many will be the Shelby fans that will journey to the professional games in which that coach performs.

For eight frames Hoyle held the Eastern champions to two hits, the two others coming in the ninth after two were out and without a score being made. Williams, Clayton's famous high school moundsman, was nipped

CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT IN SHELBY

Miss Bowman, Health Nurse, Cites Cases Of Distress That Moves Kiwanians To Open Purposes.

Miss Irma Bowman, city school nurse, touched the hearts of Kiwanians Thursday night when she spoke on the "Underprivileged Child," a question which has been commanding the attention of Kiwanians wherever they are organized and while the club has adopted a policy not to take up collections, the sympathetic hearts of the members impelled them to give something toward the relief of children right here in Shelby who are suffering for medical, moral and mental attention. The collection was a liberal one and was made without solicitation after she had reported a number of homes where children are becoming charges on the community because of defective teeth, impaired hearing, undernourished bodies, diseased tonsils. In a number of cases the parents are too poor to pay for medical and surgical attention to correct these defects, too poor to buy proper food to nourish their frail bodies and in some cases too ignorant to feel the necessity for such important treatment.

Miss Bowman came not to seek money, although funds are needed for systematic charity in Shelby. But the startling facts of distressing cases which she reported were new to the ears of many within the sound of her voice and they would not leave the meeting without making a contribution for these underprivileged children.

Ignorance and Prejudice. Miss Bowman has done a great work among the children in the Shelby Public schools. After finding defects by an examination of the entire student body, she has visited all of the parents and advised that they consult a physician, dentist or oculist, or change the child's diet, but in too many cases ignorance and prejudice on the part of the parents have caused them to neglect these children and as a result thereof, they will go through life under a great handicap, become charges on the community or meet a premature grave.

There is another class of defectives who belong to homes of affluence where the parental love is so great that the parents had rather their condition continue than to see them suffer any pain. Speaking from the standpoint of a physician, Dr. E. B. Lattimore expressed the hope that a clinic could be held in Shelby again this year so these children can receive attention at a minimum of cost or without any cost whatever. He expressed the opinion that many of the cases are due to ignorance and prejudice on the part of parents but that as the years go by and hospitals are provided, the "underprivileged children" are growing fewer in number.

Rev. W. A. Murray speaking from the standpoint of a minister called upon the men to give their children a right sort of moral training, which he declared more important than the physical and mental defects because the moral side of a child's life concerns its eternal salvation. He appealed to the fathers not to "pass the buck" to mother but cited scripture to prove that the father has a responsibility for the child's religious training that is just as heavy and important as mother's duties.

ROBED KLANSMEN CALL ON ERRING NEGRESS

Visitors in town from the Patterson Springs section on Saturday told of a night visit in their section Friday night by robed knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

The Klansmen, 15 or 20 in number, according to reports, called upon a negress of that section whose conduct of recent months has been a source of irritation to the people of the community. Three negro men were at the house, it is said, when the silent party made its visit, but they soon departed and those in the section say that a solemn warning was issued the negro woman about her conduct.

A Patterson Springs man says that the woman had been giving a considerable bit of trouble and that recently upon being spoken to by a white woman talked outrageously to the white woman and "cussed" the Klan when warned about what they might do. It is said the white woman thereupon addressed a communication to Klans at Shelby and Gaffney and it is thought that the visit resulted therefrom.

The lark is said to be an early riser among birds, which doesn't mean that rising early is a lark. There are times when the noise on the radio sounds like it might be from another world—it's so unnatural.

Got Title Habit.

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Score. Clayton AB.R.H.O.A. 3 1 0 3 3. Roberson, 2b 3 1 0 3 3. Lassiter, lf 3 0 1 2 0. Parrish, ss 4 0 0 1 3. Williams, p 4 0 2 1 4. Clarks, cf 4 0 1 1 1. J. Barner, 3b 4 0 0 3 1. Allen, 1b 3 0 0 7 0. D. Barnes, c 3 0 0 5 0. Wilder, rf 3 0 0 1 1.

Totals 31 1 4 24 13

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Score. Shelby AB.R.H.O.A. 3 1 0 1 0. Wilson, lf 3 1 0 1 0. Seif, 3b 3 1 0 2 2. Magness, cf 4 0 2 2 0. Beam, c 4 1 2 8 0. Dedmond, rf 3 0 0 3 0. Harris, rf 1 0 0 0 0. Dixon, 2b 4 1 0 1 0. Grice, 1b 4 1 3 8 0. Connor, ss 3 0 0 1 2. Hoyle, p 4 0 0 1 2.

Totals 33 5 7 27 6

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Score. Clayton 000 001 000-5. Shelby 000 005 00x-5.

Summary: Errors, Robinson (2), Lassiter, J. Barnes. Two-base hits, Beam, Grice, Lassiter, Magness. Sacrifice hit, Connor, Stolen base, Dixon, Wilson. Base on balls, of Hoyle 2; off Williams, 1. Struck out, by Hoyle 8; by Williams 3. Hit by pitcher, Wilson by Williams. Left on base, Shelby 5; Clayton, 4. Umpires, LeGrande and Lawson.