

CHRISTMAS CHARITY FUND WILL TAKE HOLIDAY CHEER TO MANY SHELBY HOMES

Mrs. T. W. Hamrick Finds Her Long-Lost Father After Search Lasting 24 Years

Father, Who Left In Her Childhood, Found in Sunny Florida by Shelby Lady, Who Thought Him Dead

Florida, the land of sunshine and real estate rush, was the scene last week of a reunion that coupled a gap of a quarter of century in life's pathway and brought together a father and his daughter after a period of 24 years in which they had not seen each other and both considered the other dead or hopelessly missing.

A romantic story with a happy ending, as fiction writers would make it, but touched up by the hard spots in real life so as to make it bring an extra heart throb or so.

For many years Mrs. T. W. Hamrick prominent society woman of Shelby and wife of one of the town's leading business men, has thought her father dead, 24 years having passed since she had seen or heard of him—long years in which she kept up the search and without avail had almost given up hope and considered her father dead. Then one day a message came. It told of a man that might be her father, the father she had given up as dead. The message was traced to its source, other messages passed. And last week Mrs. Hamrick stepped from a train in Lake City, Florida, into the open arms of the happy father she had not seen since her childhood. Memories of the days, long, trying years were forgotten in the happiness of the occasion. Next month her aged father will visit her here and Mrs. Hamrick will have the pleasure of entertaining the father she has not known since about the time she was old enough to lip his name.

All stories with happy endings are not to be found in novels or movie plots. This is one in real life with all the color of the make-believe.

Started Down South.

The opening of the story of life as it came to a happier medium last week began in the Sunny Southland of Georgia and Florida many years back. There lived in Lake City, Florida, shortly after the Civil war when the old South was crumbling, a prominent Southern family of Turners. In the family there was a beautiful young daughter, Alice Genevieve. The family was well-to-do and prominent socially, the father was court clerk, a position of high rank then. About that time there came down from Kentucky an old-time Methodist minister, Rev. John Waters, sent to Florida and Georgia to do mission work. With him came a son, a dashing handsome young fellow, Bascom Waters, who was rather reckless and daring as young men go. Along about his 19th birthday young Waters met Alice Genevieve Turner, one of the belles of Lake City. With the rush of the Kentucky blood he wooed and won her, this girl of 16. The marriage, though, met not with the approval of the Turner family. Young Waters was only the son of a broken minister and somewhat wild himself, and their daughter—well, that was different, and the marriage never was blessed by her parents.

Then The Daughter.

After a period of two years a little daughter came to bless the life of the young couple—Mae Willie, known to Shelby as Mrs. T. W. Hamrick. Four more years passed and the fond mother still hoping for a reconciliation with her proud family took her baby with her and made a visit home hoping that the sight of the little granddaughter would bring her parents around.

Then the Lonely Years.

But such was not the course fate had outlined. The family was glad enough to have the daughter, and her daughter, back, but never would they consent to the husband and welcome him. Pleading, cajoling, they finally persuaded the daughter and little Mae Willie to stay at the family home.

Back at his home the husband and father waited patiently. No word came from his wife and little daughter. Then the news that she had been persuaded to remain at home and not return to him—a dark, grim message, one that darkened the succeeding years of his life.

Heart-Broken, Died.

They both loved, yet they were kept apart. More years passed and

Holiday Shoppers Continue Rush On Local Merchants

With only one more day in which to shop the rush on the local merchants continues. Late shoppers are now getting busy.

The weather Saturday evening and night held back what promised to be a record Christmas shopping crowd, but Monday the streets were thronged in regular Saturday style. Tuesday was better still, a near record for mid-week buying being established.

Tomorrow, Thursday will see the climax. Every gift to be placed in the kit of old Santa must be bought before dusk and stored away from prying childish eyes. Thursday evening the merchants themselves will begin carrying bundles home and sneaking them into the closet and other safe hiding places.

But those who believe the day of the late shopper is over should make a visit to the business section Thursday provided the weather is not too bad.

UNIQUE PREACHING SERVICE IN SHELBY

Retired Methodist Minister Looks In On A Deaf Servant Preaching To His Beloved Deaf Friends

(Rev. C. F. Sherrill in Charlotte Observer)

In my time I have been in many unique religious services. On a holy Sabbath morning I stood by the casket of a suicide and read the burial services of the dead. A young white man, standing on the scaffold, the black cap on his head, the sheriff ready to spring the trap, I preached a short sermon to the living.

I preached once in two counties. The county line ran down the aisle, midway through the pulpit, and I was sometimes in one county and some times in the other.

I preached a high sermon once—to the guests of Eagle Nest Hotel, on the top of Junaluska Mountain over Waynesville, 5,000 feet above the sea level. Sunday morning at breakfast the manager of Moore's Spring announced that I would preach to the guests at 11 o'clock in the dance hall. I preached a sermon once 30 miles long. Carrying a crowd of leaguers to a three days' convention at Los Angeles and a six days' convention at San Francisco. Sunday morning as the Southern Pacific was nearing Los Angeles at the rate of 40 miles an hour the leaguers asked me to hold divine service for them.

The most unique service, perhaps, that I was ever in was last Sunday morning in Shelby, when Mr. A. C. Miller Jr., a deaf mute, preached to the deaf. It was a service of reverence. Not a word was spoken. After all, in spiritual things, the soul cannot hear the ear.

Everything was by signs—hands, fingers eyes and head. They hear with their eyes as we hear with our ears. They kept their eyes on the preacher. When Mr. Miller lifted his eyes to heaven, put his hand on his ear, his lips and his heart, I thought he said: "O God, hear the words of our mouth and the meditations of our hearts."

Mr. Miller's text was Acts 22:16. The songs sung were, "More Love to Thee, O Christ" and "Hark Hark, my Soul."

They were not a sad looking people. Shut out from the rattle of the automobile and from the siren voice of the world, they have time to meditate on things divine. Who are more fortunate—we who hear so much, or they? Mr. Miller is doing a wonderful work. He went Sunday afternoon to preach at Hickory. He feels to the work. Lift up your hearts in prayer friends for these good people and their preacher.

Shelby man got a tire that smiles at miles and now is complaining because it burst out laughing.

"Do you know why they have quit putting horns on Fords?"

"No, why?"

"Because they look too much like the devil anyway."

The Holy Child



Gifts For Little Boy and Girl By Shelby Carpenters

The appeal for the needy of Shelby continues to be answered by Shelby people and along with the needy cases listed many are remembering the little boy and girl in the Shelby hospital who suffered bad leg breaks on Thanksgiving and the day after.

The carpenter's union of Shelby on Tuesday morning turned over \$10 to the Kiwanis Charity fund and \$5 for the little boy and girl, with the request that the \$5 be equally divided in presents between both little cripples. The unions of Shelby are among those answering the appeal quickest. A contribution from the brick Masons and Plasterers' union has already been recorded.

The carpenter with their contribution to the general charity fund decided that they wanted five dollars to go as they designated and little Betty Cook, the girl who broke her leg Thanksgiving day and has since been in the hospital, and J. T. Blanton, 7-year-old boy, who also suffered a bad leg break the day following Thanksgiving, will get the special

Two Buy Interest in Shelby Supply Co.

Bynum Crow and E. L. Overstreet have purchased stock in the Shelby Supply company which has been doing business for a year or more on N. Lafayette street under the management of Gerald Morgan. Mr. Crow formerly with the Shelby Hardware Co., will take a position with this company the first of the year. Mr. Overstreet who buys an interest, has been connected with the firm for some time. Mr. Morgan retains his interest and connection. It is planned to incorporate the business with a paid in capital of \$25,000 and travel one man on the road selling mill supplies and hardware which this well-known concern handles.

Klan To Spread Christmas Cheer

According to information given The Star the Shelby Klan of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan will on Thursday morning distribute gifts and cash contributions among needy homes of Shelby and the county. The gifts, it is understood, will be distributed by Klansmen robed and hooded.

Only recently, it is said, the klan visited a needy home in Eastside and left coal, food and clothing for the family.

LINCOLN NEWSPAPER WANTS NEW HIGHWAY

Talks of The Day When New Highway by Lincolnton Will Lead From Shelby to Salisbury

In connection with the survey just made on the highway between Shelby and Lincolnton County News is now boosting a continuous highway to open up a new direction an entire section of the state, running from Shelby to Salisbury by way of Lincolnton, Denver and Mooresville.

The plan as offered by the Lincolnton newspaper is a good one and would relieve traffic congestion on the two other main highway routes serving travellers operating in the general direction between Salisbury and Shelby. Furthermore it would offer a more direct route for travelers entering the state at Reidsville and heading for Southwestern North Carolina.

Lincolnton Idea

The Lincoln News says regarding the matter:

"Since the state is having the Lincolnton to Shelby highway surveyed perhaps the State has the idea of completing eventually a through highway from Shelby to Salisbury by way of Lincolnton, Denver, Mooresville to Salisbury. A state highway over the above named route would greatly relieve the heavy traffic on No. 29 State highways and also on No. 10, provided the state also build a highway from Lincolnton to Morganton direct. This might be one of the best ways to relieve traffic on both of the main state roads leading east and west, as Lincolnton is midway between Nos. 10 and 20."

College Inn Is Now Named Victor Hotel

A. V. Wray, owner of the College Inn, leased and operated by Mrs. Gladden, is undergoing extensive repairs both inside and out, new floors have been put down on the porch, the exterior has been re-painted, while the interior has been refurbished and renovated, making this place more up-date and modern in every way. Already it has steam heat, plumbing and hot and cold running water in every room.

The name has been changed from the College Inn by which it has been known for years by "Victor Hotel," namesake of its owner, Albert Victor Wray who now lives there with his family while contractors are building their hand some new brick veneered house at the corner of Lee and N. Lafayette streets.

Hospital Gets Two Roller Chairs Given By Farmers' Union

The Christmas giving spirit has recorded another entry. This time the gift goes to the Shelby Public hospital and comes from the local unit of the Farmer's Union.

The gift consists of two roller chairs for invalids at the hospital and the total cost was about \$95, according to Mr. A. P. Spake. The chairs will prove very beneficial about the wards and will add to the service of the institution.

Carpenter's Union To Have Oyster Supper

The carpenters union of Shelby with about 60 members will have an oyster supper in the hall over the pool room in the Hoey building on East Warren street Monday night, December 28th. All carpenters, whether union or non-union, as well as all contractors are cordially invited to attend as this is in the nature of an acquaintance meeting so that those engaged in this trade may know each other better. Members of the Hickory union have been invited as a whole and the president of that union will make a speech. Possibly other speeches will be delivered to make the occasion an enjoyable one.

No Christmas Day Mail Service Friday

For the first time in the history of this country there will be no Christmas day mail service, according to an order issued by Postmaster New of Washington. This is done in order to give the thousands of postal employees throughout the country a day to be spent with their families and friends. Postmaster Quinn says the general delivery window of the Shelby office will be open Thursday night until 10 o'clock, but on Christmas day there will be no delivery of mail either at the window, by the city or rural carriers. Special delivery will go out as usual, however.

The local office is buried with Christmas cards addressed to children whose names are not known to the office employees because they have never received mail before. It is impossible for the postal employees to know every child in the families of their patrons and if the mailers would only give the street address or mark such mail in care of the family head, it would avoid all of this confusion and delay. Shelby is no longer a little village. Its a city and the mail to be handled satisfactorily should be properly addressed.

Total Contributions Pass \$900 Mark--Other Gifts

No Paper To Be Issued by Star Christmas Day

Following a time honored custom and one that has been adhered to for years by this paper there will be no issue of The Star published Friday, Christmas Day. After this issue there will be no other until Monday when the paper will come out at its usual hour. With few vacations it has been the procedure of newspapers, those not publishing daily and some of those, to give a day's vacation for Christmas. As it happens this year one of the three days of publication of the tri-weekly Star falls on Christmas Day and only one issue will be missed.

Since the Star has been used as a publicity medium for the city-wide Charity Fund and the response has been so good, the paper takes this opportunity of thanking its many readers who will brighten Christmas in many of the poorer homes of Shelby and the county.

RALEIGH NEWS OF STATE IMPORTANCE

(By M. L. Shipman.)

Raleigh, December, 22.—The action of the Salary and Wage Commission in reducing state holidays, the verdict in the Wyatt trial, the record of electrocutions for the past year and the successful sale of more than twenty millions of state bonds were matters of interest in the Capital City last week. In addition Raleigh people heard with regret of the death of Judge Oliver H. Allen of Kingston who sat on the Superior Court bench for a quarter century. The action of the State Fair Committee of the Chamber of Commerce in recommending removal of the Fair to another section of the city also was of interest.

The Salary and Wage Commission decided that employees would only have one instead of two weeks holidays. This came after the Attorney General had ruled the Commission had no right to eliminate legal holidays from the schedule of holidays for the employees. The ruling was made public Saturday morning and not sufficient time has elapsed for the sentiment to be felt but a safe prediction is that the Salary and Wage Commission may find itself fighting for existence before the next legislature. The Commission had a hard job and has successfully succeeded in making it harder.

The tobacco co-operative association mailed out \$1,590,000 to members in Western North Carolina and Virginia during the week, this being in part payment for the 1924 crop. The removal of the State Fair to another site where it can be expanded will be recommended to the N. C. Agricultural Society by the special committee of the Chamber of Commerce which has been co-operating in solving the fair problem. Additional revenues are needed and it is felt more room would enable the Fair to expand its activities.

The Carolina Motor Club, a state organization having headquarters in Greensboro, with more than fifty local offices in as many cities and towns does not believe the State Automobile license Bureau will be able to handle the volume of business that is now being transacted on the cooperative basis between the State and the Motor Club. Officials of the latter having already made protest to Commissioner Doughton who has indicated that machinery is soon to take the place of "hand work" in the License Bureau. Representatives of the Motor Club here recently suggested that abolishment of branch offices from which license and titles are now procured would be strongly protested by the public on account of inconveniences and delays that must follow necessarily.

Pension checks for thousands of widows of Confederate veterans and surviving veterans themselves have gone out from the State Auditor's office during the week for distribution by superior court clerks of the 100 counties. The widows receive \$50 and the veterans \$77.50 each in June and December this rate applying to fourth class pensioners only. The last Legislature divided the pension appropriation

Santa Will Carry Many Necessities Into Needy Homes of City. Distribution Thursday Eve

"It was the night before Christmas; and all through the house, Not a creature was stirring; not even a mouse; The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas would soon be there."

—Just an ideal setting for Santa to slip down the chimney and into the picture. Santa with a load of shoes, food and necessities for the needy of Shelby. Minus some of the color and the mystery that usually accompanies his visits, Santa will be just as welcome for he will bring instead into the needy homes things that must be kept life in bodies to whom fate has proved fickle. The Kiwanis Charity fund will see to that.

The response to the appeal for the destitute of the city has been more whole-hearted than officials behind the movement had hoped and by Wednesday the total funds in hand had passed the \$950 mark. In addition to the money contributions received by The Star and charity committee much clothing and food has been turned over to the committee. Some brought in their money, others have sent checks, families as a whole have given old clothes still serviceable and one was brought in a quantity of fresh meat. Such gifts will prove valuable to the committee. The needy homes to be served first are in actual want meaning for bread, meat and clothing. Those who have given, or intend to give, should have no worry about how the money will be spent. There is enough of poverty about the town and county that every dollar may be spent for actual necessities and then have the fund run short before every home is visited. Toys and trinkets would be appreciated. They may be placed with poor children in some instances, but any of the children in the homes to be visited by the Santa of the Charity fund need shoes and clothing more than playthings. Comfort, something they're not accustomed with, will bring more joy into their lives than a top to play with while their feet are freezing and hunger gnaws inside their little bodies.

May Go Over \$1,000.

The fund will be closed Thursday and distribution will begin. Everyone having something to give in either money, clothes, or food should see that it is turned in at The Star office or to the Kiwanis committee before Thursday evening—Santa starts on his call then.

With the fund already over \$900 it is likely that the total may be swelled to \$1,000 by Thursday evening. It is not much to ask of all Shelby, that part of the city, that is through good fortune enabled to live and help others to live.

What it Will Do.

One thousand dollars given by Shelby now to relieve the suffering and hunger of the poorer homes would be greater than \$500,000 for public improvements.

Pictures of the needy homes as given in recent issues of The Star have not covered the situation by far. Out of the 29 most destitute cases there are a dozen or more widows that need help badly. Old couples, sickness in homes, children un cared for, all will be visited if possible. Christmas to them cannot mean all that it will convey to homes of plenty, but it can bring comfort of a kind—coal for the fire, bread and meat for the tables, clothing for the children, medical service for the invalids.

Will He "Jes P'tend"?

Somewhere in Shelby Thursday night there will be dozens of little boys and girls, in needy homes, expressing the thought of the youngster in the following lines:

An' when I go to bed at night I jes' p'tend 'at I am not So awful cold. I snuggle down An' make believe 'a't I'm too hot— Sometimes all night, I jes' p'tend!

An' when I hear the kids all talk 'Bout Santa Claus and his reindeer, An' all the things he's goin' to bring I jes' p'tend 'at h'll stop here!— I wish he knew how I p'tend!

If everyone contributed something there'll be a few youngsters in the town who will have to do on pretending alone.