

It's now only 309 shopping days until Christmas.

Christmas drinking is on the decrease, county officers tell The Star.

One of the biggest business changes of 1926 took place yesterday when B. O. Stephenson purchased Riviere's drug store.

An idea as to the Christmas mail handled at the Shelby postoffice is contained in an article in today's Star.

Farmers should take note of the big farm meeting to be held here next week, details of which are given in this issue.

Several Shelby merchants say that business was better in 1926 than in 1925. A good disinfectant for the hard times topic.

Where is the Hickory peddler who disappeared from the Shelby section November 30.

Within a short time after a man of the Fallston section died his home was destroyed by fire, says a news item in The Star today.

What are the outstanding needs of Shelby and Cleveland county? If you know you make some money by reading today's paper.

George Estelle, who died recently, was one of the quaintest characters in this country. Rambling sketches of his colorful life are related in this issue.

Personal mention of Christmas visitors, Christmas parties, dance and other Shelby Yuletide events may be found in this paper.

And the "newest news" again Friday.

FARM CAMPAIGN HERE TO START TUESDAY, JAN. 4

Millsaps and Gardner to Speak Here in Court House Jan. 4, on Balanced Farm System.

The campaign to bring about a better balanced system of farming in the cotton growing counties of North Carolina will begin on January 4th when the first county-wide cotton meeting will be held.

The county meetings, blanks which call for a better balancing of the farm operations will be distributed. On the back of the blanks will be a suggest farm organization which has been found to pay by some of the best farmers in Eastern Carolina.

In explanation of the blanks there will be distributed also a bulletin which shows the world cotton situation and which gives the best and latest recommendations about balancing cotton with livestock and poultry.

O. C. Lewis Grocery Makes Assignment

The O. C. Lewis grocery store in West Shelby made a voluntary assignment yesterday and it is understood that Mike Austell has been named as assignee.

HOUSE DESTROYED BY FLAMES AFTER DEATH IN FAMILY

Double Tragedy Strikes Family in Fallston Section. Home Burned After Death

Within forty-eight hours of the time Johnnie Walker was buried, his home was destroyed by fire near Fallston early Tuesday morning.

Mr. Walker, a man about 50, who lived on Mrs. Hunt's farm two miles northeast of Fallston, was taken suddenly ill Christmas day with convulsions.

Early Tuesday morning his home was destroyed by fire. Just how the fire originated, no one knows.

Mr. Walker was a quiet, peaceable, and highly respected citizen.

Three Auto Firms Moving This Week

Three local auto dealers swap locations with each other this week. On Friday December 31st the change will be made when the Charles E. Lambeth Motor company which handles Dodge automobiles and Graham Brothers trucks moves into the S. A. Washburn building on N. Morgan street where now is located the Chrysler agency.

Christmas Affray Involves Champion

C. O. Champion, of Mooresboro, the man who attained the limelight some months back by mysteriously shooting a Scotland county man at the Charlotte speedway races, is in the Shelby hospital for treatment as the result of an affray in the Shelby cafe here Christmas night.

Supply Company Enlarges Space

The Shelby Supply company, operated by Gerald Morgan on N. LaFayette street has rented the store room recently vacated by Miss Georgia Lutz millinery store and now the supply company occupies two adjoining store rooms.

Keeps Promise—Dies.

Boston, Mass.—When a boy, Joseph D. Donovan said he would have made his million by the time he was forty-five and then he would retire. He kept his promise retiring from business last year at forty-five.

What Does Shelby And County Need Most In New Year

Is farm diversification the biggest need of Cleveland county in 1927? Maybe.

But what is the biggest need of the town of Shelby for the New Year?

The Star is offering two prizes, one of \$3 and one of \$2 to the two best lists containing the five greatest needs of the county for 1927. The lists will be judged by three representative citizens and their lists will be announced in The Star of Friday, January 7.

This contest is sponsored by The Star with the ultimate aim of bettering town and county conditions in the New Year.

Are you interested in your town and county? If so get busy and send in your list.

DRUNKS DECREASE DURING YULETIDE OFFICERS STATE

Smaller Number of Boozers "Canned" Here During Christmas Than Ever Before.

Despite the fact that some "spirits" were in evidence during the Christmas holidays Sheriff Hugh Logan says that in his opinion there were fewer "drunks" during the Christmas just past than ever before.

Sheriff Logan should know too, for it's down at the building supervised by him that the drunks are taken until they "get out from under."

Asked by a Star reporter as to the quantity of folks placed in jail during the holidays the sheriff stated that a smaller number was locked up than over some of the week ends not in the holiday season.

Although troubled to an extent somewhat customary by Yuletide imbibing, city officers are also of the opinion that holiday drinking is decreasing rapidly.

Elliott Boys Preach At Old Home Church

During the holidays, the people of the Pleasant Grove community at Beams Mill had the pleasure of hearing two promising young ministers who have gone out from that church.

Three People Get Cut Up In Wreck

Mrs. D. L. Thrift, of Shelby R-1, and two sons, Hilliard and Ben, received treatment for lacerations yesterday at the Shelby hospital as the result of an auto crash on the slippery street just in front of the home of Mr. A. B. C. DePriest on the Cleveland Springs road.

HICKORY PEDDLER DISAPPEARED IN SHELBY SECTION

John Hall, 55, Bought Ticket Here November 30, And Hasn't Been Seen Since

Do you know a tall, slender man of 55 years, wearing a sandy mustache, and walking with a cane owing to a slightly deformed left foot?

If so perhaps you can help authorities locate John Hall, Hickory peddler, who disappeared somewhere in this section about the last of November and hasn't been heard from since.

A mystery surrounds the disappearance of the man, who it is said sold perfumes, and officials of Catawba county after consulting with his wife are making an investigation into the matter.

Hall, it is said, wrote his wife from Shelby about November 30, saying that he would be home within a few days.

Sheriff Logan states that he received a message from Hickory about the man but that he and his deputies so far have been unable to locate anyone here acquainted with him.

Likewise none of the business men or others about town seem to remember the crippled peddler definitely enough to recall when he was last seen here.

CHRISTMAS MAIL FOURTH HEAVIER

Early Posting of Mail Aids in Dispatch. Postmaster Quinn Thanks Patrons.

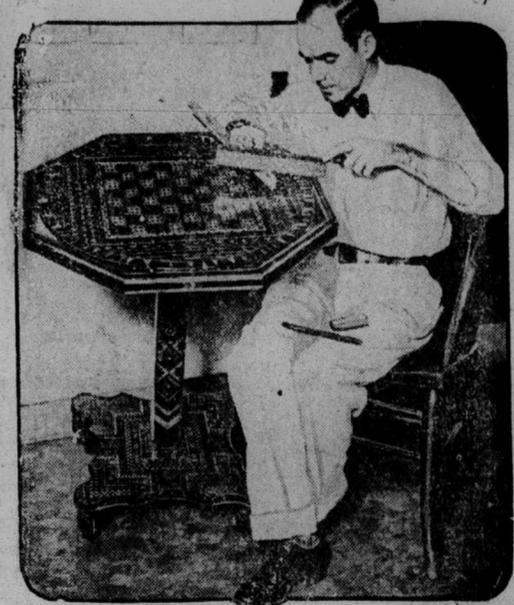
Mail going through the local postoffice was fully a fourth heavier this year than last, according to clerks in the office. And the annual slogan "mail early" had some effect on the patrons.

WHAT ARE FIVE GREATEST NEEDS OF SHELBY AND CLEVELAND COUNTY?

Two prizes, one of \$3 and one of \$2, are offered by THE CLEVELAND STAR for the two best lists of the five greatest needs of the Town of Shelby and the County of Cleveland during the year 1927.

Three representative citizens will act as judges. The winners and their lists will be announced in THE STAR of Friday, January 7. Get busy and win a prize!

Spends Three Years Making Table



Infinite patience, and 50,619 pieces of wood, were used by George L. Hathaway, inmate of the San Diego war veterans' hospital, in making this table. He began it three years ago, and his only tools were a pocket knife and a saw. He's shown finishing it.

Odd Character Of County Was Man Of Unique Birth—Buried Last Week

George Estelle Often Wanted To Know His Legal Nationality. Sunstroke Gave Him Permanent Shave

When George Morgan Estelle died last week on the farm of Clerk A. M. Hamrick, north of Shelby, one of the most unique characters in Cleveland county passed away.

Estelle, a man of 84 years and a derelict of the wanderlust, often wondered as to his exact nationality—that is, as expressed by immigration laws.

That question was one of the few keys to Estelle's mysterious past—a lurking past that covered wide areas from sea to sea, misfortunes, endless travels, odd happenings, and, occasionally, good luck.

Withered, hairless about the face, of odd stature and demeanor Geo. Estelle was long pointed out as a character on Shelby streets. Years ago—just how many no one knows definitely—George wandered in to Shelby and secured employment with the English Monazite company in the days when Cleveland was one of the leading monazite mining counties.

One of his most colorful experiences was a shipwreck of which he related more than of the others. For weeks he drifted about before being rescued and he survived because of a sailor's knot with which

Beginning Friday December 31st, the Wray-Hudson company will inaugurate a big cut price sale to run for a period of nine days. The store will be closed all day Thursday while the force is engaged in marking down prices to lower levels.

City Bonds Sell To Chicago Firm At Good Premium

Chicago Firm Buys \$50,000 Water Works Bonds at a Premium of \$51,082. Eight Bidders

The city's credit continues good. A \$50,000 issue of five per cent water works bonds was sold Tuesday for \$51,082, making a new high record at which Shelby bonds have ever sold, according to city officials.

The bond issue was authorized in November by the city fathers to finish paying for the city's new water plant which was recently completed.

Mr. Stephenson, who several months ago married Miss Margaret Morgan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Morgan, has been in the drug business for a number of years.

GAFFNEY BOY IN LIQUOR KILLING ESCAPES PRISON

One of Boys Connected With Killing of Frank Butler, North of Cleveland, Escapes.

Charles Kendrick, Gaffney man serving a seven-year sentence in the State prison for his connection with the death about one year ago of Frank Butler, alleged liquor dealer in Burke county just across the Cleveland line, escaped from prison last Friday.

The other two men who left the prison were Frank Coffey and R. C. Odum, both of whom were serving three to five years terms, the former for store breaking and the latter for larceny.

Kendrick was one of four Gaffney youths convicted of manslaughter at Morganton in connection with the death of Frank Butler, alleged Burke county liquor dealer, who was shot and fatally injured at his home by a party of alleged rum runners.

A Raleigh dispatch says of the escape: Three white convicts escaped from the North Carolina state prison Friday. They left in a prison truck to deliver laundry to the Old Soldier's home and failed to return. One surrendered later to the Fayetteville chief of police.

Wray-Hudson Stage Big Reduction Sale

Banking and business leaders of the nation look for a good year, 1927. Two representative forecasts are given below by two of America's leading business men: Elbert H. Gary, chairman, United Steel corporation:

STEPHENSON BUYS RIVIERE'S STORE IN HOLIDAY DEAL

One of Shelby's Leading Business Firms Changes Hands. Stephenson Experienced Man.

One of Shelby's best known business establishments changed hands yesterday when Mr. B. Ogburn Stephenson, formerly of Charlottesville, Va., purchased Riviere's drug store from Messrs. Zollie Riviere and Garnett M. Cox.

Mr. Stephenson took charge of the store this morning and it will be operated under the firm name of the Stephenson Drug company, the new owner announces.

Mr. Stephenson, who several months ago married Miss Margaret Morgan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Morgan, has been in the drug business for a number of years.

BUSINESS BETTER HERE THIS YEAR THAN LAST YEAR

"My business this year shows an increase of from 15 to 20 percent, over that of last year," is the statement of one Shelby business man when asked whether or not business conditions really justify the so-called "hard times" being talked.

Another business man, head of a well-known Shelby concern, states that the holiday trade at his store surpassed that of last year by 20 percent.

The above information was secured by a Star reporter questioning four representative business men of the town. What's more the four were hopeful of still improved business during 1927, and one gave the credit for his business increase to advertising.

All likewise agreed that 1926, especially the latter part, was no boom period, but that the public generally was just now getting on a sound basis and that instead of "splurge prosperity" the time is marked by careful buying and a better opinion on the value of the dollar—all of which assures sounder and steadier business for the business man, they say.

Banking and business leaders of the nation look for a good year, 1927. Two representative forecasts are given below by two of America's leading business men: Elbert H. Gary, chairman, United Steel corporation: