

February departs today and March and the bill collectors come in tomorrow.

Shelby's sensational hunt for a missing man and the details told by him upon his return following a terrible night in which he was kidnapped and kept in an automobile are a part of today's news.

How many automobiles are there in Cleveland county? Read today's Star thoroughly and you'll know.

A petition that has been forwarded to Raleigh is mentioned in the news items of this issue.

Saturday night in Kings Mountain a negro man killed himself and it is presumed that he shot the woman, another man's wife, before ending his own life. For the details see the news columns.

Arguments in the Wicassett mills case involving nearly two million dollars were heard here Saturday by Judge J. L. Webb. A news item today says that a decision will not likely be rendered for several days.

Shelby defeated the deaf team in basketball here Friday night, and other sport items say that Lattimore was eliminated in the Asheville tournament after making a good start.

Cotton dresses and cotton hose have not staged a come-back in this state according to a Charlotte dispatch.

"Too Many Benefits"—perhaps you would be interested in an editorial under that head in this issue. Are you reading the new features of The Star?

SCHOOL INSTALLS STAGE SCENERY

South Shelby School Installs Complete Outfit of Fine Stage Scenery at Cost of \$350.

(Special to The Star.)

South Shelby, Feb. 28.—Mr. M. S. Young, who is manager of the Southern division of the National Scenic and Equipment company...

FIRE HEAD GIVES DATA ON BLAZES

Herman Eskridge, head of the Shelby Fire Department, vitally interested in fire prevention...

Cutting 'Em Down

Raleigh.—(INS)—The State of North Carolina or the State Legislature would not be permitted to employ more than one member of one family, under a bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Grier of Fredell.

Marble Championship

Hendersonville, Feb. 28. (INS.)—The marble shooting championship of Western North Carolina may be decided soon.

THIS COUNTY HAS 5,401 CARS SAYS REVENUE REPORT

Seven Counties Have More Than 10,000. Guilford Leads. Mecklenburg Second.

There are 5,401 automobiles in Cleveland county. Twenty-two counties in the state have more automobiles than Cleveland county.

Seven counties in the state have more than 10,000 automobiles each, and first of these is Guilford with 23,367, according to figures compiled by Sprague Silver, director of the automobile license bureau of the revenue department.

The leading counties in number of cars are: Guilford, 23,367; Mecklenburg, 23,291; Buncombe, 16,620; Forsyth, 16,257; Gaston, 10,604 and Rowan, 9,454.

NATIVE OF HOLLIS DIES IN HOSPITAL

Daughter of the Late Mr. and Mrs. J. P. D. Withrow Passes at the Age of 35 Years.

One of the largest crowds that has ever attended a funeral at Big Springs Baptist church was present Sunday afternoon when Mrs. R. L. Thompson, nee Mattie Withrow, daughter of the late "merchant prince" of Hollis, J. P. D. Withrow and his wife, funeral services were conducted by Rev. D. G. Washburn and a number of other ministers.

Mrs. Thompson was only 35 years of age. She was a very popular and beloved young woman with many of the fine traits of her sainted parents. After her marriage she and Mr. Thompson lived at Tate Springs, Tenn., where he was clerk in one of the large hotels. He had expected to go to Florida last fall, but owing to the illness of her father, Mr. Withrow, she remained at Hollis to do what she could for him.

Gault To Manage Telephone Here

Former Gaffney Manager Takes Charge Here. Has Good Service Record

Sam M. Gault, manager of the Gaffney telephone exchange for 12 years and several years district manager of the Piedmont Telephone and Telegraph company, has been transferred to Shelby as manager of the local exchange division.

Training School At First Baptist

The training school for teachers officers and other Sunday school workers of the Kings Mountain Baptist association opened last night at the First Baptist church with the largest enrollment on record.

Keep In Style And Informed With The Star's Feature News

Observant readers of The Star within recent weeks will have noticed that the paper has added two informing features appearing in each issue—Paris Style Hints and the Daily News Letter.

With the hope that these two features, to be carried regularly hereafter by the paper, will be of real worth to the thousands of Star readers a little information concerning them might be timely. Paris Style Hints will when possible be found on the social page of each issue of the paper.

Cotton Dresses And Stocking Fad Fails To Take Good In This State

Charlotte.—The epidemic of cotton dresses, that has been sweeping cities in the south, has failed to "take" among the women of Charlotte.

A "cotton" party was given last spring by the woman's club at which nothing but cotton was worn in an effort to popularize the cotton garments.

North Carolina Produces The Smokes In Quantity—Just Read Over This

North Carolina tobacco factories in 1926 put out 52,545,889,000 cigarettes, according to estimates made on the basis of the tax payments on the product.

1. The state produced enough cigarettes in 1926 to provide one smoker using a pack a day enough cigarettes to last him 7,118,066 years.

2. North Carolina cigarettes laid out in the well-known end to end fashion, would circle the equator 91 times and would be equal to the distance between the earth and the moon.

3. The state produced enough cigarettes during the year to provide a cigarette a day for every man and every child in the United States and have 10,750,889,000 left over.

Wilson's Brother Dies At Baltimore

Daughter of War-Time Chief's Brother Married Kings Mountain Boy. Lives in Tenn.

Joseph R. Wilson, only brother of the late President Woodrow Wilson, died early Saturday at Baltimore of Bright's disease. He was 59 years of age and is survived by his widow and one daughter, Mrs. Alice Wilson McElroy.

B. And L. Elects Former Officers

The Shelby and Cleveland County Building and Loan association held its annual meeting on Wednesday, February 23, 1927.

Highs Win From Deaf Cage Team

Playing here Friday night in the Tin Can the Shelby High quint defeated the Morganton School for the Deaf, 21 to 10 in a game of considerable interest.

JUDGE CONSIDERS DECISION ABOUT \$1,700,000 CASE

Prominent Attorneys Here Saturday in Big Litigation Involving Huge Sum.

Following a hearing here Saturday Judge James L. Webb has taken under advisement the mandamus suit against the Wicassett mills of Albemarle involving one million seven hundred thousand dollars.

Some of the most prominent attorneys in the state appeared here in the trial, one of them terming the suit the most important bit of corporation litigation to come up in the state in 10 years.

Way Church Case Gets 'Airing' In Another Hearing

Judge to Make Another Decision In Shelby Church Matter During Lexington Court.

Lexington, Feb. 28.—The celebrated Way salary case in which Rev. C. B. Way, of this city, former pastor of the Methodist Protestant church at Shelby, in Cleveland county, brought suit in the courts to recover \$328.06 back salary alleged due him for services as pastor, was in Davidson county superior court here last week.

300 Petition For Annual County Audit

Three Petitions Bearing 300 Signatures Are Sent To Raleigh

Three petitions were forwarded Saturday to Representative B. T. Falls, Raleigh, asking that he and Senator Tom Fulton enact a law calling for an annual audit of the books of the county by certified accountants and that the result of such audit be published in some newspaper in the county for the information of the tax payer.

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Claude Weathers Returns To Town While Searching Party Drags River For His Body Believing Him Murdered--Was Kidnapped

Negro Kills Woman Then Shoots Self At Kings Mountain

Coroner Eskridge Proclaims Last Death Suicide. First Colored Suicide In County

Eliza Boyd, married negro woman, and James "Son" Adams, also colored, are dead at Kings Mountain in what is believed to be a killing and suicide of Saturday night.

The suicide of the man is believed to be one of the first instances on record where a colored man has killed himself in this section of the country.

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Shelby Stages Most Sensational Mystery Hunt For Hours. Missing Man Says He Was Doped And Kidnaped.

Claude Weathers, prominent local bridge contractor, for whose body hundreds of Shelby and Cleveland county people searched late Friday night and a half day Saturday believing him to have been murdered, is back at his home here attending to his usual duties today and has been back since before noon Saturday.

Shelby's most sensational mystery hunt, which began at midnight Friday and held sway up and down the thickets of a river bank until Saturday at 11 o'clock, came to an abrupt halt when the missing man, believed to have been murdered, telephoned a message that he was living.

In the history of the town excitement perhaps has never run higher than during the early morning hours Saturday and over the weekend the population gathered in groups and discussed the early alarm together with the perplexing kidnapping that brought it about, according to the story related by Weathers.

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The Mystery Search

The Star ascertaining the facts as far as possible finds the opening of the excitement something like this: Friday, Weathers, a son of Z. B. Weathers, and connected with the Weathers building and concrete making enterprises, journeyed to Hudson, S. C., to sell his Hudson coach. Late in the afternoon he returned and after supper mentioned to his family that he should go out to a small construction shack on the Second Broad river about two miles from town and secure a tape line that had been left out. At this juncture it should be stated that Mr. Weathers was supervising the erection of the new Weathers bridge over the river at that point, the location of the bridge being in a secluded vale surrounded by hills covered with thickets and heavy undergrowth.

The Hunt Continues

Throns continued to arrive during the early forenoon and when the search ended one of the most excited crowds in the history of the county was on hand, some assisting, while others stood by.

Word Arrives

The search was broken up just before noon when Policeman Poston drove to the scene and stated that a telephone message had been received from Weathers stating that he would be home from Gastonia soon and that he would explain what had been an awful night to him. The crowds, who surged back to their cars, committed to the bus station and city hall where the streets and sidewalk were blocked for an hour or more until it was learned that Weather had arrived shortly before at his home.

Weather's Own Story

At his home a short time later the man who had been missing for about 18 hours related to officers, newspaper men and others the experiences he had undergone. Even after hearing the complete story the affair is still tinged with mystery and will perchance remain perplexing until the man to whom Weathers originally sold the car is apprehended.

Weather's Story Follows

"Thursday I was in Gaffney, S. C., on business and while there met a man giving his name as J. P. Wern and during a conversation with him I interested him in my car and contracted to sell it to him for \$550, with the understanding that I was to deliver the car there Friday. Shortly after noon Friday, I left Shelby for Gaffney, prior to that time consulting a lawyer about transferring the title. Arriving in Gaffney, I inquired at Smith's garage for Wern and they told me they did not know him. Later I ran upon Wern on the street and we traded. He gave me \$550 in cash and saw me place it in my purse, the one that was found in the shack empty. At the time I remember he asked me if I was going back to Shelby, but did not inquire how I returned home by bus by way of Kings Mountain and reached Shelby about 4 or 5 o'clock.

Saw Somebody

"After supper I decided to go back to the shack and put up the tools as we were not going to work Saturday and I did not want them out over the week end. I drove my father's roadster. Before reaching the scene I thought that perhaps I had better hide part of the money so that if anything did turn up in the out-of-the-way place no one could get all of it. The bank was closed when I came home and it was impossible for me to deposit.

Lattimore Played In Western Meet

The Lattimore high school basketball quint returned late last week from Mars Hill where they participated in the western Carolina basketball tournament. Coach Falls boys won one game before being eliminated.