

C. J. WOODSON EX-LAW MAKER BURIED SATURDAY

Saintly Citizen Who Represented Cleveland In House. Dies At The Age of 77 Years

Rev. C. J. Woodson is dead. This Godly, charitable, sympathetic friend has gone to join the patriarchs of old. He passed away quietly in the Shelby hospital Friday afternoon at 5 o'clock at the age of 77 years and eight months.

The funeral was conducted Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock from his residence on the Cleveland Springs Road, services being in charge of Rev. Zeno Wall, pastor of the First Baptist church of which he was a long and faithful member, assisted by Revs. H. K. Boyer and J. W. Suttle. Interment was in Sunset Cemetery with the following friends serving as pall bearers: Paul Webb, George Blanton, A. W. McMurry, J. J. Lattimore, J. H. Quinn, F. L. Roberts.

Born In Virginia Born in Goochland county, Virginia the son of aristocratic parents, he received most of his education under the tutelage of a governess in the Woodson ancestral home. In young manhood he came to Plymouth, this state, where he gradually took to the ministry. In 1888 he married Miss Maude Frontis who has been his life companion and one of the finest Christian women Shelby has known.

He had been ordered as a minister ten years prior to that time for a number of years supplied the pulpits of Gatesville and three country churches. In Eastern Carolina the health of the family was bad so they moved to Shelby. For the past 33 years he has been writing life and fire insurance for some of the strongest companies in America. Feeling that the end was near he recently sold his insurance business to Frank and George Hoyle and on Tuesday of this week, suffered an attack to which he has been subject, fell on the floor at his home and sustained a broken hip which necessitated his being in the hospital where he died.

Served In Legislature Mr. Woodson always stood high in the public and religious affairs of the county. He was an ardent reader, a close observer, a deep student of public problems, a fluent speaker and versatile writer. In 1911 he ably represented Cleveland county in the house of representatives and took an active part in state-wide legislation. Always free to express his opinion on public questions, he could be counted on to uphold the moral side of every issue.

Surviving are his faithful and devoted wife and three fine sons, Harry, Charles and Steve, one brother, Attorney Bryon Woodson of Kansas City, Missouri and one sister, Mrs. D. W. Bacon, of Mississippi. Out of town people here attending the funeral were Dr. and Mrs. Shelly Frontic and son, Borell, and Mr. W. M. Lentz, of Mooresville.

Grass And Fence At Water Station

New Pump Station is Being Beautified. Flowers Are Being Planted Out.

Mayor A. P. Weathers is realizing a dream, in that the grounds at the new pump station and water plant are being beautified. Grass seed has been sown on the bank that holds the millions of gallons of water in the huge reservoir and this week, workmen are erecting a strong fence around the body of water to keep out all foreign matter. The fence is of steel and high enough that no one can climb over it.

Flowers and shrubs are being purchased and under the direction of Mrs. Hugh Toms, whose husband is superintendent of the water plant these flowers and shrubs are being planted. In a few months the place will be beautified and made into a sort of park. Conditions there are most sanitary and visitors find it a most attractive and delightful place to visit.

Guests Wanted At County Jail—Cells Of Solitude Now

For First Time Since Erection New Jail Has Only One Prisoner In Cells.

As a boarding house proprietor Sheriff Hugh Logan is enjoying a business slump. The new county jail structure is nearer empty now than at any time since its erection Sheriff Logan announces. Only one prisoner is to be found in the long row of cells.

Last Thursday the jail reached its record low level when only one prisoner remained. That prisoner, a white man convicted on an affray charge, already had a road sentence and was expected to start "making little uns out o' big uns" and leave the entire building empty. However, he was still in jail over the week-end and was expected to go out and start doing time today. Meantime he was given some company when Doug Ray, colored, was brought here from Gastonia and placed in jail. And now Doug is the lone occupant of the fine structure erected a year or so ago by the county.

SHELBY COLORED BOY FIGURES IN CHARLOTTE PROBE

Clarence Murray in Jail Three Lawyer Hints of Third Degree Work by Officers.

Charlotte, April 11.—A warrant, based on charges of assault with a deadly weapon, will be taken out against a civilian, whose name was withheld, within the next few days in connection with the investigation into alleged brutality on the part of Charlotte police and other persons in dealing with three negroes now held in the county jail, C. C. Broughton, prominent Troy attorney and instigator of the probe said last night.

Mr. Broughton, counsel for Robert Harris, of this city, one of the negroes alleged to have been clubbed into confessing crimes which they say they did not commit, declared that warrants would also be taken out against any policemen who can be identified by the negroes as an assailant.

Robertson Visits Jail. Maj. W. R. Robertson, commissioner of public safety, declined to confirm or deny that officers beat the negroes, after he had made a personal visit to the prisoners in the county jail yesterday.

It was learned that Major Robertson was accompanied on his visit to the jail by two officers, whose names the commissioner declined to reveal. However, county jail authorities said Officers Bowlin and Joyner were with Major Robertson.

The other two negroes are William Roy, 15, of Knoxville, Tenn., and Clarence Murray, 18, of Shelby. It was learned that Roger and Murray were interviewed by Major Robertson separately from Harris, Mr. Broughton's client. Major Robertson refused to make a statement, and intimated that he had not completed his investigation into the charges.

"I will issue a statement when I think one is proper, he said. "I expect to go into the matter further tomorrow." Mr. Broughton told the Observer over long-distance telephone last night that he expected to come to Charlotte Wednesday and attempt to establish the identity of the officers involved.

Major Robertson denied that he had closed his investigation into the matter and declined to reveal next steps to be taken. He said he had not decided whether he will place the matter before the city commissioners.

The commissioner said the findings of his investigation would be made public in the statement. He would give no intimation as to when this would be issued.

Major Robertson said that many conflicting tales had been told by the negroes, citing Chief of Police Alex West's statement in regard to his investigation into the charges. He declined to disclose what the negroes told him yesterday, when he visited them with the accused men.

Accusations, made against the policemen, came to light Saturday night, following a visit of Mr. Broughton, who came here to continue his investigation. He began the inquiry Thursday, it was said, by appearing before Major Robertson and repeating the stories the negroes had told him. The commissioner ordered Chief West to go to the county jail and question the negroes.

First Meet Rotary Club Gets Charter

John Schenck, Jr., Heads New Luncheon Club, Rotary Governor Here.

At the initial meeting held at Central hotel Friday evening the Shelby Rotary club was presented with its charter by Zack Wright, of Newberry, S. C., district governor of Rotary. The meeting marked the opening function of Shelby's second luncheon club for business and professional men.

More than 30 visiting Rotarians from nearby towns and cities were present, including prominent Rotary official and club president, Regular installation and charter presentation exercises marked the program.

Club Officials John Schenck, jr., well known textile manufacturer, is the president of the new club, and C. B. (Pat) McBrayer is the secretary. These officers it is understood will direct the functions of the club until about May 1, the annual date for election of new officers. The list of charter members as given out by the club secretary follows: John Schenck jr., C. B. McBrayer, Durham Moore, E. E. Scott, John R. Dover sr., Roy Sisk, Henry Massey, Carl Thompson, Carey Boshamer, Dr. Ben Gold Everett Houser, Paul Webb, jr., Dr. Tom Gold, Dewitt Quinn, A. D. Brabble, Robert Hord, Renn Drum, and Jack Hardigan.

The club charter was presented to the new luncheon club by District Governor Wright, who was introduced by David Clark, trade editor and prominent Charlotte Rotarian. The charter was received by Pat McBrayer, club secretary.

The main address of the evening was by Julian Miller, Charlotte Rotarian and editor The Charlotte News. Mr. Miller spoke on the principles of Rotary and the new club members together with visiting Rotarians termed it a very inspirational speech.

In addition to those mentioned other prominent Rotarians here for the installation meeting included Sam Robinson, of Gastonia; Ham Jones of Charlotte; secretary of the Newberry club, and presidents of Belmont, Charlotte, Gastonia and other clubs.

The new luncheon club will hold its weekly meetings at the Central hotel, it is learned, and they will be staged at the noon hour, probably every Monday.

Mrs. Morehead Buried At Earl

Wife Of James L. Morehead Passes Away At Age 57—Three Daughters Survive

Mrs. James L. Morehead, ill only a week with kidney trouble, passed away Tuesday night at midnight at her home near Earl. Mrs. Morehead was 57 years of age. Before marriage she was Miss Selma Champion. She was a faithful mother and Christian neighbor whose passing is a source of great sorrow to her host of friends.

Surviving are husband, three daughters, Misses Lorena, Inez and Lucille Morehead, two brothers, J. A. Champion of Elberton, Ga., David Champion of Cleveland county, two sisters, Mrs. S. L. Harrill of Cleveland county and Mrs. Josie Gramlin of Gaffney, S. C.

Interment was at New Hope Baptist church, Earl on Thursday, the funeral services being conducted by Rev. Ruch Padgett, assisted by Rev. John W. Suttle. Her membership was at New Hope church where she was active and faithful in all matters for the upbuilding of the Kingdom.

Tennis Players To Chapel Hill

Shelby High school tennis players will leave Wednesday morning for Chapel Hill where they will enter the state tournament to be held Thursday and Friday. The local Bill Tildens will be accompanied by Coach Anderson.

Harris Ligon will be the Shelby representative in the singles, while the doubles team will be composed of Joe Singleton and Alex George. Ligon is one of the most adept little tennis players in town and is considered a fine successor to Kendall and other racket wielders who have represented Shelby. Big Singleton has been to Chapel Hill before and in the doubles he and young George have worked out a system that will take them far up in the doubles play they believe.

An Ex-Governor Still in Politics



Nellie Ross isn't governor of Wyoming now, but she still is a politician. Recently she spoke in New York City at a meeting of the League for Political Education, and told the easterners how they do things out west.

ESKRIDGE LEAVES SUM TO CHURCHES, ALSO TO SCHOOL

Late Confederate Veteran Bequeathed Nice Sum To Boiling Springs Churches.

Residents of Cleveland county and members of three Baptist associations will hear with interest that the late W. Harrison Eskridge, Cleveland county official and Confederate veteran, left by his will nice bequests to the Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist churches, and also a sum of about \$1,250 to the Boiling Springs preparatory maintained by the three Baptist groups.

The following communication from Postmaster J. H. Quinn, who heads the board of trustees of the school, tells of the bequests:

Mr. Editor: In the death of the late W. Harrison Eskridge, Cleveland county lost one of its best and most faithful citizens and the Baptist church one of its most loyal and beloved members. The Civil War left him with only one arm and but little property, but, with an indomitable will that would yield to no obstacle, he reared and educated a large family of sons and daughters who are an honor to this and other states, and left an estate at his death some days ago worth more than \$34,000.00.

For several years he was Register of Deeds for his county and was one of its most efficient officers. In business matters, it has often been said that he never broke a promise or failed to meet an obligation. What a noble record to leave behind!

Believing implicitly in the doctrine of "Stewardship," he believed that one-tenth of all he made belonged to God and should be used in the promotion of His Kingdom on earth, and so acted while living and provided in his will for carrying out the same principle in the distribution of his estate after his death.

Paragraph No. 2 of his will bequeaths as follows: "I will and bequeath to the causes of the Lord's Kingdom to be used in furtherance and promotion thereof one-tenth part of the net amount of my estate, to be divided among the following named objects with amounts of proportions specified." Here follows the names of the objects of his bequest with the percentages. He gave one-half of the sum to Baptist institutions and the other half to Presbyterian and Methodist institutions. It will be of special interest to the people of this section to know that Boiling Springs high school, of Boiling Springs, is to receive for the endowment fund of the school three-eighths of the sum which will be, approximately \$1,250.00. It is to be hoped that many other good people and friends of the school will follow this commendable example of one of God's noblemen, who continued to attend the services of his church long after he was too feeble to walk and had to be carried to and from his car by loving hands. May the Lord give us more such men.

J. H. QUINN. Shelby, N. C.

Expel Students

Berkley, Calif.—Twenty University of California students have been expelled because of an alleged fraternity house "liquor party" attended by twenty-seven students and about an equal number of girls.

MILLION AND HALF IS TO BE DIVIDED JUDGE WEBB RULES

Local Jurist Orders That Mammoth Sum Be Paid Out in Dividends by Mill.

A sum of money surpassing that of any other to be legally involved in this county was the feature of a court order here Saturday.

One of the biggest dividend melons ever allotted by a North Carolina court was ordered paid to stockholders of the big Wiscasset mills, of Albemarle, here today when Judge James L. Webb, of Superior court, divided the Wiscasset mills to order in dividends a surplus sum of money that totals near one and one-half-million dollars.

The decision is the aftermath of a mandamus suit brought against the mill by two brothers of the well known Cannon millionaire textile family asking that the sum be put up among stockholders according to a North Carolina statute.

Million And Half The mandamus order of Judge Webb read that the \$1,495,694.40 be divided among the stockholders "without unreasonable delay." The defendant directors of the mill include another of the Cannon brothers; Mrs. D. H. Blair, wife of the United States commissioner of Internal revenue, and president of the mills; E. T. Cansler, prominent Charlotte attorney, and other well known business men of the state.

The surplus fund ordered divided by the mandamus court order is now invested in United States government bonds and Federal securities.

New Legal Angle The original suit was brought some time ago in Albemarle. Later a hearing was held in Shelby and following this hearing voluminous briefs were filed by attorneys on both sides. These briefs have been given the careful consideration of Judge Webb for several weeks.

An interesting angle of the decision, particularly as notice of the appeal has been filed, is that the statute on which the suit was based has never been interpreted by Supreme court. It is section 1178 of Consolidated statutes of North Carolina, and has to do with a law requiring that all surplus above paid in capital and working capital be declared to stockholders in dividends.

The suit was brought by Joseph F. Cannon and Martin L. Cannon, against the Wiscasset mills and the following directors: C. A. Cannon, Mrs. D. H. Blair, W. J. Sink, J. A. Groves, E. T. Cansler and A. L. Brown.

From the many pages of incidents cited it is gleaned that Joseph F. Cannon controls, or did control 27 percent of the stock. For 20 years, it was alleged, he was officially connected with the mills under the direction of his father, the late textile millionaire J. W. Cannon. That in some way after the death of his father disagreement arose between the two Cannon plaintiffs and C. A. Cannon, and others secured stock control. At the July, 1926, meeting of the directors the court found that there was a sum, more than the size of the judgment granted, of surplus over and above the capital stock and the \$1,800,000 working capital reserved by the stockholders and approved by the directors. The plaintiffs then asked that this be distributed as dividends as by law. The motion was voted down by the directors, who in turn voted to declare two 5 percent dividends. This was fought by Cannon but followed this meeting the mandamus suit was brought by Cannon to force the payment of the remaining surplus in dividends.

The million and one-half dollar dividend ordered by the court was found to be a surplus over and above the paid-in capital of \$3,600,000 and the reserve working capital of \$1,800,000.

Voters Register For City Voting

Registration for Shelby's municipal election is underway.

Squire T. C. Eskridge, election registrar, says that only five new voters registered Saturday, but as the election draws nearer registration for new voters or those who have changed is expected to perk up.

The registration books opened Saturday and will remain open until Saturday, April 30.

Generally speaking, no extraordinary interest has been shown in the voting here ahead. However, several of the candidates are getting in active work—and it is a foregone conclusion among politicians that the calm period before a local election heralds considerable activity just as the event arrives.

Schoolmates Carry Body Of Pal In Mystery Death To Final Resting Place

Hundreds Attend Funeral Young Ramseur And Many Floral Designs Attest Popularity Of Dead Youth. Coroner's Jury Meets Again Tomorrow.

Boyhood friends in Shelby with schoolmates of Duke University yesterday afternoon bore the remains of Young Harrison Ramseur to his last resting place in Sunset cemetery, and there, perhaps, the secret of his tragic and mysterious death some time last Thursday night was buried with him.

It may be in the weeks, months, and years to come that the reason for the new, flower-covered mound in Sunset will come to light. And again, the secret may be locked in the tomb. Time only will tell.

The funeral rites of the popular youth, whose lifeless body was found on a lonely, isolated road last Friday morning with a bullet path through his head, were held at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon at the Ramseur home on West Warren street. Rev. H. N. McDiarmid, of the Presbyterian church and the boy's pastor, had charge of the service. The funeral reading consisted of the parable of the Good Samaritan and the visit of Jesus to the tomb of Lazarus with Mary and Martha.

"Have Thine Own Way, Lord" and "Nearer My God to Thee" were rendered by the following quartet from the Presbyterian church: L. P. Holland, I. C. Griffin, W. A. McCord and W. T. Sinclair, with Mrs. McCord as piano accompanist.

The pall bearers were former school mates at Duke university and the following boyhood friends of Shelby: Frank Hoyle, Whitelaw Kendall, George Wray and Carl Wray Webb.

Scores gathered about the home and followed the funeral cortege to the cemetery. Observers say that around 140 automobiles lined both sides of the street near the residence. Beautiful and touching were the 48 floral designs attesting the final regard of the youth's many pals to the friendship severed by an untimely death.

Sympathy Extended. Throughout the deepest sympathy for the broken-hearted mother and the family was evidenced. Naturally, the funeral cortege was marked by the presence of morbidly curious, but for the most part it was carried up with friends and sympathizers of the family.

Not so many years ago the mother left the graveside of her husband, braced her shoulders and faced life ahead for the sake of her children. An education and an equal chance in the world she gave them, while the world looked on and admired. Two have already married, another is favorably started along the pathway to success, but yesterday, as fate, sometimes cruel in its handiwork, decreed she rallied for the last time about the body of one of the two remaining children in which so much of her heart was bound up. It was the real tragic climax to a bitter tragedy.

Jury To Gather. Coroner T. C. Eskridge announced today that the coroner's jury, which is probing the youth's death, will meet again tomorrow, Tuesday afternoon. The meeting will likely be held about 6 o'clock, it is said. Although nothing of a public nature was given out today it was intimated by the coroner that no new evidence of a definite nature has come up in the three days that have passed since the finding of the body on the mysterious river road.

Meantime every group that gathers discusses and offers surmise on how the youth met death. Opinions vary greatly, and although many now cling to the murder theory they offer various back-grounds for the murder on the lonely road. Robbery, some say, was the motive, while still others have contrasting reasons. None have a definite background on which to offer supposition and therefore in a general way the death remains a baffling mystery—an incident that has rocked Shelby more perhaps than any other in near a score of years.

Those close to the family scoff at anything else than the murder theory. Harrison was not the type of boy to take his own life despite the closely-binding evidence of the gun he borrowed and the letter found. Many put very little background to the letter. It could have been written without any intention of death, they say, as it did not mention such. Likewise many friends of the youth and the young lady to whom the note was addressed can hardly bring themselves to believe that it offered a background for the end of an unhappy life. There was not enough between the two for that, they reason.

The other theories run in various channels, and some not worthy of repetition, and others with very little supporting fact.

Seemingly now the death of the popular youth may remain forever a mystery. Such is the conclusion of those closely connected with the probe—that is, unless definite clues are opened up at the coroner's jury session tomorrow. On the street it is thought likely that a coroner's report will be issued after the meeting.

BOYER REVIVAL MEETING SUCCESS

Already 35 Signed Applications For Membership. Continue Through This Week.

The spirit and response of the Boyer meeting at Central Methodist church is wonderful. The meeting which began the first of last week continues through this week with services each evening beginning at 7:30 o'clock. Already 35 signed applications for membership have been handed in and as the meeting progresses, the interest grows. Ward D. Milam, song evangelist of wide reputation is inspiring true congregations each night with gospel messages, while Dr. Boyer, the beloved pastor is delivering sermons of telling effect. He is proceeding without any fire works, but adapts his messages as the occasion demands. Sunday night the other churches gave way and joined in a union meeting which filled not only the large church auditorium but the Sunday school room as well to overflowing. A number of fine men went forward to make professions at the Sunday night service.

So far there has been only one service each day, this service being held in the evening at 7:30 o'clock. Toward the last of the week special meetings will be held in the afternoon in the interest of young people. Next Sunday morning has been set aside for the reception of members and a special Easter service. Sunday night the other churches of the city will probably join in the closing service.

Capture Convict Who Made Getaway

One of Two Trustees Who Escaped Nabbed at Gastonia. Serving For Liquor Affair.

Sam Lenhart, one of the two trustee convicts who escaped Friday evening from the No. 6 chain gang camp, has been captured in Gastonia it is announced by local officers. B. M. Mauney, the other trustee, who made his getaway has not been apprehended as yet.

It is said that the two men, both of Gaston county, made their escape after coming in from work Friday. They were serving time for conviction in connection with the capture of 30 gallons of liquor in the Three County corners section several months ago. It is understood that they had only a couple more weeks to serve.

At the recent term of Superior court the two convicts were used to build up state evidence against two young Lincoln county boys who were charged with having something to do with the big liquor run. At the time it came out that the families of the two convicts were having a mighty hard time trying to live in Gaston, and the escaped convict was captured at his home, it is said, being drawn there presumably by the suffering and hardships of his family.

ONLY 4,913 EARTHQUAKES

Tokio.—The year 1926 was a light year for earthquakes in Japan, according to records of the Tokio Central Meteorological Observatory. There were only 4,913 which was 384 fewer than in 1925. Seismologists are gratified because the records show that the number of earth quakes has been decreasing each year since the great disaster of 1923.