

GARDNER LOYAL TO ENTIRE DEMOCRATIC TICKET

Civil Court Action Likely In Disaster

None Taken Yet. Coroner's Jury Blames Excavating For Death Of Six

Several suits are threatening as an aftermath of last Tuesday's disaster here in which six were killed and a dozen injured when the McKnight building and a portion of the Gardner building on West Warren street collapsed.

Lawyers Approached Several lawyers, it is understood, have already been approached about bringing damage suits for the recovery of property losses, and other information is to the effect that counsel have been employed by one or more of those interested in the matter. However, it was stated at the Superior court clerk's office late Saturday that as yet no damage actions have been filed in any form.

May Be Dropped

The official investigation which put underway the probe of the coroner's jury Friday has proceeded no further following the jury verdict that placed the blame of the collapse on the excavating going on under one of the buildings. Mayor Dorsey stated Saturday that having instigated the coroner's probe he had nothing more to do with it. Whether or not Solicitor Spurling, of this Superior court district, will continue the matter by taking it up with the grand jury is not known, but such a move is not likely, according to some. Since the coroner's jury made no specific allegations, or said nothing of criminal negligence in their verdict the matter is likely closed as far as immediate criminal court action is concerned, others say. However, many believe that the evidence heard by the coroner's jury Friday will form the basis for cases in damage suits. This evidence was recorded in short-hand by Daniel Allen Tedder and when typed will be turned over to Coroner T. C. Eskridge for whatever use it may be needed.

What The Jury Heard

A coroner's jury today without calling names placed the blame of the building collapse on the excavation work under one of the buildings.

Nothing else was specified. The jury, after inspecting the scene and hearing 10 witnesses queried by County Solicitor P. Cleveland Gardner, signed a statement reading: "We find that the excavating under the McKnight building was the cause of the collapse."

No Binding Code

Judging by the evidence heard, the investigation being public, first blame goes back to the fact that Shelby, like hundreds of other towns, for years did not have a building code.

On the witness stand Sherwood Brockwell, deputy state fire marshal, who inspected the ruins, declared that one or two of the walls in the corner building, a part of which was erected 35 years ago, had not been tied into the other walls.

Mr. Brockwell declared that "in my opinion necessary precaution was not exercised in the excavating and bracing." Asked to elucidate on this statement, he did so by drawing lines on a sketch of the building as outlined with chalk on the court room floor. "My opinion that proper precaution was not used is based upon my experience in examining buildings and the modern code for erection and excavation," he said. "Excavation is carried on as this was done but it does not comply with codes of larger cities."

The collapse of the two structures the fire marshal said, came from the collapse of the south wall of the McKnight building in the corner, an extension had been added

to this building and a wall separated the front part and the rear part. In making the excavation the contractors were to make a basement under the entire building. To do so they had to go under the partition wall and it was here, Brockwell said, the trouble came. He said he found in the ruins, that only two shoulders, or bracing needles, had been put under the end wall to hold it up. Modern building codes call for needles every three feet, he said, and in his opinion the eight feet of the end wall of the McKnight building where it joins the Gardner building gave away, not being braced for that distance, when the excavation work reached that point.

Those taking the stand were O. Max Gardner and John S. McKnight, owners of the buildings; W. C. Lutz, contractor; Everett Dellinger, Claud Weathers, Joe Wesson, Basil Goode, Sam Lattimore, E. A. Rudisill, city building inspector, and Mr. Brockwell.

Mr. McKnight explained that he made an oral contract with Mr. Lutz for the excavation and that he sent to Mr. Rudisill for the permit, no specifications being set out in the permit. Lutz told of the contract, the bracing of the end wall, and generally of the work being carried on there. Asked if he thought it safe Mr. Lutz answered, "I certainly did. If I had the slightest idea it was not I would not have been under there myself, or permitted my workmen to go." The contractor was buried in the ruins for an hour or more and several of his men for a longer period.

Mr. Rudisill told of issuing the permit and inspecting the work several times. Twelve hours before the collapse he was in the building and the workmen were then near the rear wall. Up to that point, his last inspection prior to the collapse, he said, the work was being carried on in a safe manner.

FIVE INJURED, IN HOSPITAL, BETTER

All Show Improvement, Surgeon Says. Two Negroes Considerably Better.

The five injured who remain in the Shelby hospital as a result of their injuries in the disastrous building collapse here last Tuesday were reported as improving today.

Hospital surgeons stated that both Miss Marguerite Callahan, bank clerk, and Clarence Mull, assistant cashier, the two worst injured, are improving but that due to the nature of their injuries the improvement is necessarily slow.

Clyde Mauney, who suffered a broken leg, is also better.

Lowery Jennings and J. C. Thomas, the two colored men injured, are both considerably better.

State Headquarters To Raleigh Today

State Chairman Odus M. Mull today officially opened North Carolina Democratic headquarters in Raleigh, moving his office from the pre-campaign headquarters here to the new offices in Raleigh.

Louis Stovall, head of the campaign clerical force, left for Raleigh yesterday, but Mr. Mull did not go until today. The new headquarters, from which an active campaign will be directed, are in three rooms on the tenth floor of the Sir Walter Raleigh hotel.

A branch office of the state committee with several of the workers will be continued here, it is said.

County Democrats Get Going Friday Night At Three Points

Speaking Will Be Held At South Shelby, Fallston, And Queens Precinct.

Cleveland county Democrats will open their campaign Friday night of this week with three public speaking in the county. It is announced by Chairman B. T. Falls.

At the South Shelby school house at 7:30 Friday night Congressman A. L. Bulwinkle, Capt. Peyton McSwain and Horace Kennedy, nominee for recorder, will speak. In addition to the speaking and general

rally music will be furnished by a band.

At the same hour at Fallston Judge John P. Mull, Solicitor P. Cleveland Gardner and Attorney W. S. Beam will speak. Attorney Pat McBrayer and Attorney Al Bennett will speak at the same hour at Queens precinct. Plans for the campaign speaking were made at a meeting of Democratic leaders held last week in Chairman Falls' office.

The three speaking this week will be followed by others in all sections of the county during the following weeks.

FERTILIZER TEST ON COUNTY FARMS DRAWS INTEREST

Varying Amounts Of Fertilizer Used In Cotton Shown By Bolls

Approximately 170 Cleveland county farmers were on the fertilization test tour made in their own county last week under the direction of County Agent Alvin Hardin and representatives of fertilizer bureaus.

At six farms visited by the tour cotton fields in which different amounts of fertilizer were used per acre were examined, tested and counted for production. The information secured is considered of great value to the cotton farmers of the county.

Count The Bolls

At each test, or on each farm the stalks, bolls and squares were counted on one row for 59 feet in each field where a different amount of fertilizer was used.

In the Will McCurry field on the Blanton farm there were 123 stalks, 568 bolls and 120 squares in the 50-foot row. In this tract, which was planted with Cleveland No. 5 seed, 1,025 pounds of fertilizer, of the 9-5-4 variety, was used per acre, 700 pounds before planting. Figuring 70 bolls to the pound with the rows three feet apart, and everything being equal to the cotton in the 50-foot row, the field should produce 2,394 pounds of seed cotton, or 862 pounds of lint per acre, which would make two bales of 431 pounds each.

Other Tests

In a field of O. Z. Morgan's, where Coker's 884 seed was used, there were on the 50-foot row 64 stalks, 471 bolls and 347 squares. This should average, by the estimate, 1,995 pounds of seed cotton per acre, or 718 pounds of lint. Six hundred and seventy-five pounds of 10-4-4 fertilizer was used with 260 pounds nitrate soda after chopping.

A row in the R. P. Weathers cotton, where Cleveland seed was used, had 48 stalks, 447 bolls and 260 squares in the 50 feet. This should make 1,919 pounds of seed cotton or 692 pounds of lint per acre. Mr. Weathers used 600 pounds of 9-5-4 before planting and 400 pounds after chopping. In a check plot, where only 650 pounds of 10-4-4 was used at planting he had 44 stalks in the 50 feet, 354 bolls and 60 squares. Estimated production on this is 1,470 pounds of seed cotton and 529 pounds of lint per acre, which indicates that the use of 400 pounds more fertilizer in the first plot meant 162 pounds more lint per acre.

W. S. Davis using 400 pounds of 8-3-3 and 200 pounds nitrate soda per acre had 62 stalks, 322 bolls, and 420 squares on a fifty foot row. Estimated production on this was 1,344 pounds seed cotton or 483 pounds of lint per acre. On a check plot, where only 400 pounds of the same fertilizer was used per acre, he had 54 stalks, 198 bolls, and 92 squares, which would figure only 820 pounds of seed cotton per acre, or 295 pounds of lint. This is a difference of 188 pounds of lint per acre with the added use of 200 pounds of nitrate of soda.

Two Other Tests

On a 50-foot measure, one row, Forrest Crowder had 54 stalks, 347 bolls and 214 squares, which is estimated to produce, under proper conditions, 1,470 pounds seed cotton, or 530 pounds of lint per acre, one thousand pounds of fertilizer being used per acre.

J. C. Campbell using 850 pounds of 9-5-4 per acre, two-thirds ammonia from sulphate and one third ammonia from nitrate, had 67 stalks and 705 bolls in fifty feet. Such a tract, it is estimated, will produce 2,940 pounds of seed cotton, or 1,058 pounds of lint per acre, which would be two 500-pound bales.

First Bale Sold 10 Years Ago Today

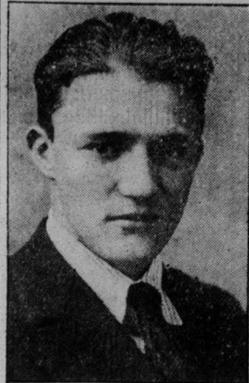
Ten years ago today, September 3, 1918, the first bale of cotton of the year was sold to the Southern Cotton Oil company by Joe P. Blanton, who lived on the W. H. Blanton farm.

And—listen!—it sold for 37 1-2 cents per pound. The bale weighed 516 pounds and brought \$197.87.

This news was taken from the "Five and Ten Years Ago" column in The Star today.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Y. Webb, Jr. of Atlanta, Ga., spent the week-end with Judge E. Y. Webb.

FOUR OF DISASTER VICTIMS



ALEX HOYLE



GUY GREENE



ZEB BLANTON



CARL BLANTON

The Star reproduces above photos of four of the six people who perished in the building collapse here last Tuesday. Left top is Alex Hoyle, bank teller; right top—Guy Greene, another bank clerk; left below Zeb Blanton, respected farmer; right below—Carl Blanton, son of Zeb Blanton. Heretofore The Star has reproduced a photo of Miss Ora Eskridge, one of the victims, but as yet has not been able to get a photo of Clyde Carpenter, the sixth victim. (Photos by Ellis)

Star Offers \$25 For Best Letter Backing Gardner--Write One

"Why Should Every Cleveland County Voter Vote For The County's First Native Son To Be A Candidate For Governor?" The Best Answer Wins.

In November the first native son of Cleveland county will be voted upon as a candidate for Governor of North Carolina. It is only natural that the home county of a governor should give him the best vote in the state. There are many reasons why. The reader of The Star who can assemble and explain the best reasons will win \$25 in a contest The Star inaugurates today.

Under the title of "Why Should Every Cleveland County Voter Vote For O. Max Gardner, the County's First Native Son to be a Candidate for Governor of North Carolina," The Star is offering prizes totalling \$50 for the best answers given in the form of letters addressed to the paper.

The first prize of \$25 will go to the best all-around letter written by any citizen of the county. Five dollars will go to the second best letter with no limit as to the age of the writer, and four \$5-prizes will go to the four best letters written by Cleveland county school children of any age.

Heads of every school now in session are urged to see that every child in their schools, who can do so, enters the contest. Children who attend schools that have not opened, or will not open before the contest ends, are entitled to enter, the only provision being that they are bona-fide school children.

Closing Date.

The contest will close on Saturday, September 22. Or, in other words, ever letter to be considered must be in The Star office by 4 o'clock on the afternoon of Saturday, September 22, which is three weeks from last Saturday.

All envelopes containing the letters should be addressed to "The Star, Gardner Contest Committee, Shelby, N. C." The upper right-hand corner of the first page should bear the name and address of the writer, and if from a school student,

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Shelby Man Sounds Call Of Loyalty In His Opening Speech

Did Not Prefer Smith Nomination But Since Majority Of Party Selected Him It Is Gardner Code To Follow The Party Of The People. Address Made At Boone Today.

(Special To The Star.)

Boone, September 3.—"I am a party man. I have never faltered in my allegiance to the Democratic party, and I shall not do so now," was the declaration of O. Max Gardner, Democratic gubernatorial nominee in the opening speech of his campaign at 1 o'clock here today.

The statement was made when Mr. Gardner explained that although he did not prefer the nomination of Gov. Smith for president that he owed his allegiance to Smith because the majority of the Democratic party did name him. Explaining that although he differed with Smith on some of the latter's personal views, Mr. Gardner declared "I could never give aid to the Republican party, which for seven years has made government a thing of purchase, and has turned its back on every ideal and aspiration of Woodrow Wilson."

ACORN STORES TO OPEN IN ROYSTER BUILDING IN OCT.

New Building Being Constructed On LaFayette Street Is For Chain Store

The cat is out of the bag at last. The name of the concern which will occupy the building now being constructed by Dr. S. S. Royster on South LaFayette street (the former Webb building) is the Acorn Stores, Inc., a corporation operating hundreds of department stores throughout the United States—a chain owned and controlled by no less a parent organization than that of Charles Broadway Rouse, of New York city, one of the oldest and best known wholesale establishments in the country.

Dr. Royster revealed the name of the newcomers to The Star Saturday morning, upon receipt of a letter from the Acorn Stores managers, releasing the data for publication.

Dr. Royster said the only reason he withheld the information until this date was, that such was requested by the incoming company.

The newcomers announce they will operate an out-and-out department store, handling a line of goods from light household hardware and automobile tires to furniture, floor coverings, in addition to a complete line of ladies' and children's and men's ready-to-wear.

Ready By October

There will be twenty-one separate departments. Dr. Royster announced he is erecting a thoroughly modern two-story building for the Acorn corporation, which has been leased for a long term of years, and which he expects will be ready for occupancy by the first of October. The new building will be 50 by 130 feet in dimensions.

Inclosed with the letter to Dr. Royster, releasing the information concerning the coming of the new store, is a booklet containing information about the Acorn Stores entitled "The Story of An Acorn" in which is embodied information that there are already eight of these stores in North Carolina, extending throughout the cities from Mt. Airy to Winston-Salem. Eighteen are listed in Texas, fourteen in Oklahoma, four in Ohio, two in Tennessee and Mississippi respectively, six in Alabama, eight in Georgia, and many others in states as remote as Florida and Maine.

This is the second lease of importance Dr. Royster has secured in the last few months, the coming of the Montgomery Ward company into one of his buildings, being a Royster achievement.

Traffic Signals Work Here Again

Shelby auto traffic again moves and halts by the electric "go" and "stop" signs on the four corners of the court square.

The electric signals have not been working for some time due to a grounding of the wires, but city electricians, who have been working on a replacement of the underground wires for several days, had them going again Saturday.

The statement regarding his stand on the Democratic nominee for president was made as an introductory to his campaign speech by Mr. Gardner.

What He Said

Excerpts taken from the Shelby man's opening address follow:

"I beg your indulgence in this, my first speech of the campaign, that I may offer a personal and preliminary statement touching my party record and also undertake to clearly define and set forth my position with respect to the national and state situation.

Not Driving Democrats

"I recently stated before the Democratic executive committee that in this campaign I would say nothing to injure the feelings or bruise the conscience of any North Carolina Democrat. I here renew this statement. I have never tried to drive a Democrat and I have never permitted a Democrat to drive me. When a Democrat becomes a dictator he ceases to be a Democrat.

It has always been my policy to enlist Democrats and not drive them, and I earnestly appeal for the loyal, triumphant and united support of every North Carolina Democrat. I have never given an honorable or a dishonorable discharge from party service to any Democrat in my life and never expect to. I am ready to fight to the limit for the right to have my individual political opinions and I freely grant this right to the humblest of my fellow citizens. This right touches the core of real freedom. Voltaire in his immortal words to Helvetius expressed my views when he said, "I wholly disapprove of what you say, but will defend to the death your right to say it."

Is Party's Leader

"The term may appear odious to some, but by inheritance, training, and conviction, I am a party man. Being an organization man, I am frequently called upon to subordinate my personal opinions to the expressed will of the majority of my party. I am now the leader of the Democratic party in this campaign and the integrity of party leadership carries with it the positive demand of party loyalty.

"The names of a number of religious and fraternal organizations are frequently mentioned as bearing on this campaign. In this connection may I say; there are at least three organizations to which I belong that the vicissitudes of this campaign will not disturb, and these are: the Baptist church, the Democratic party and the Junior Order. I was a Democrat years before I was born. I have been a member of the Baptist church since I was thirteen years of age, and a consistent member and loyal supporter of the Junior Order for 21 years. I refuse to allow anybody to turn me out of either of these organizations.

His Appreciation

"I am the nominee of the Democratic party in North Carolina for governor. Of course, I do not know what the future may have in store for me, but I declare to you that the generous action of my party, the party of my fathers, in nominating me without opposition for the high office of governor, after 20 years of public service and public scrutiny, is an honor that I shall always cherish as the outstanding compliment and distinction of my public life.

Sticks To Party

"I enter this campaign a free man. I have made no private promises. I have no secret alliances. I

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Mouzon In Pulpit, No Smith Talk

Big Congregation Hears Methodist Bishop In Powerful Sermon. No Politics.

There were no "walk-outs," nor was there any occasion for "walk-outs," at Central Methodist church yesterday when Bishop Edwin Mouzon, of the North Carolina conference of the Southern Methodist church, delivered a forceful and timely sermon at the morning hour.

Since Bishop Mouzon has repeatedly opposed the candidacy of Gov. Al Smith, Democratic nominee for president, many thought that perhaps he would touch upon the national situation today, and the church was packed with people, quite a number of those present having expressed the intention of walking out if politics was mentioned.

Very Strong Sermon.

The sermon was one of the most able heard here in many years and the vast congregation was visibly swayed by the moving force of the bishop's discourse. Lack of decency in clothing, literature and other things of modern day fast life was scored by Bishop Mouzon, and a plea was made for tolerance, based upon the New Testament scene of Christ and the fallen woman.

Taxi Driver And Ex-Senator Have Row Here Saturday

Gun Displayed After Senator Lattimore Says Driver Insulted His Wife.

Quite a commotion was created on the taxi station corner of the court square here Saturday when former State Senator Sam C. Lattimore came after Doyle Groom, taxi driver, who Lattimore contended talked too fresh to his wife earlier in the day.

Lattimore, it is said, after telling the taxi driver that it wasn't a woman he was talking to any longer, reached in the car and grabbed Groom by the shoulder. Somewhere in the scuffle a gun came into view. It is charged by Lattimore that Groom flashed the gun on him and one or two others standing by stated the same thing later at the police station, while others declared that Groom did not point the gun at any one. The altercation was halted by officers and friends of the two men who came up. Groom was taken to the police station and relieved of his gun.

The trouble, it is understood, started earlier in the day when a car driven by Mrs. Lattimore and the car driven by Groom bumped at a court square intersection. Mr. Lattimore was informed, he says, that Groom, following the collision, made some rather fresh remarks to Mrs. Lattimore about her driving and other things. When he heard it Mr. Lattimore says he set out to see if Groom could say the same things to him.

In recorder's court this morning Groom did not have all the witnesses he wanted and the case was shifted to the end of the docket to give him time to get up his other witnesses.

Later in the day today Lattimore and Groom were taxed with \$10 and the costs each by Judge Mull.

AUSTELL REAPPOINTED COUNTY GAME WARDEN

According to dispatches from Raleigh, Deputy Sheriff Mike H. Austell has been reappointed game warden for this county.

Mr. Austell may attend a conference of wardens scheduled to be held in Raleigh early this week.