

# The Cleveland Star

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Entered as second class matter January 1, 1905 at the postoffice at Shelby, North Carolina, under the Act of Congress March 3, 1879. We wish to call your attention to the fact that it is and has been our custom to charge five cents per line for resolutions or respect cards of thanks and obituary notices, after one death notice has been published. This will be strictly adhered to.

FRIDAY, JAN. 25, 1929.

### TWINKLES

Sooner or later, no doubt, some person will refer to Senator Person as the Borah of the North Carolina legislature.

Well, one consolation about it: If the drive against extracts and bay rum in Shelby actually cuts off the supply from the thirtys, the city water is reported to be purer now than at any time in the history of the town.

There is a lot of talk recently of "A Fair Election Law" fairly enforced in North Carolina. Inclined, always, to be optimistic we hope to live to see such, but when we do it is our idea that we will supplant Methuselah in the record books.

Tom Edison has always been one of our idols, but if he doesn't hurry up and invent that rubber substitute the airplanes will have supplanted the automobiles, and from our observation of aviation accidents few airplanes will ever wear out more than two sets of tires on the landing wheels.

Another good method, as we see it, to determine the difference between a politician and a statesman is to glance over the list of those opposing better election machinery for North Carolina and also a list of those supporting. Place your own title over the two lists of public leaders.

### CUSSING MILDLY

THE GREENSBORO NEWS is wondering what a certain elderly man who never used profanity in his life said when the plow handles caught him amidship while working a "newground" or when a root broken by the plowshare slapped him on the shin. Until the aged man, who never "cussed," says for himself we will not speak for him. But, perhaps, he eased his anger down much in the manner of B. O. Hamrick, former Shelby police chief, or Pat McBrayer, Shelby attorney. When something forces Chief Hamrick to give vent to his wrath it usually comes out with a "Dad Hang It!" while Attorney McBrayer applies the expression "Dial that thing!"

### A BUILDING FOR THE WOMEN

THE WOMAN'S club of Shelby wants a club building and the officers and members of the club are on the watch for a suitable site upon which to erect such a building when the proper finances are raised. It is suggested that there may be some site in Shelby which might be tendered the women, not as a gift altogether but at a reasonable figure.

This suggestion should not insinuate that the Woman's club is holding out a charity cup. It is not. But the Woman's club has meant much to Shelby, always supporting worthwhile, beneficial civic movements, lending a hand here and there in building a better Shelby, materially and otherwise. Property adjoining a nice club house of the Woman's club would be enhanced by such a building. Moreover the women have contributed their part to the building of the town. Their organization is no commercial affair, but a patriotic, important factor in the life and development of the city.

Somewhere about Shelby is a suitable site for the location of such a building and somewhere about Shelby we believe there are interests which will see that the ladies of the town get started on their building plans by getting a lot at a reasonable figure.

### DID THEIR DUTY

THIS PAPER commends the action of Recorder Horace Kennedy and Solicitor P. C. Gardner this week in asking citizens who know of prohibition law violations to come in and cooperate with the court and the law in uprooting such. Whether or not the movement on their part will have beneficial results we cannot say, but, at least, give the officials of the court credit.

In a newspaper it is easy to understand the worries of court officials. Often we have some citizen come in and state that this and that carrying-on in Shelby or the county should be criticised and stopped. The criticism usually includes some dangerous remarks. "All right," we say, "let us state in the paper that you say certain things are being carried on illegally at this place and that."

"Oh, no! I don't want names mentioned in the matter. I just thought you could do something about it."

Not willing to shoulder the burden himself, but desirous of having us do so.

The same applies to court officials and officers of the law. Often they are criticised for not curbing certain violations, but few of their critics will take the witness stand in the court room and help them curb it. Occasionally a citizen will ease up to the recorder, solicitor, or officer of the law and offer certain information about a violation of the law observed by him.

"All right, come along and let's swear out a warrant, and since you know what's going on we'll put you down as a witness," says the officer.

"Oh, no! I couldn't afford to do that. I don't want to take the stand."

And there you are. The officer is more or less helpless. It is desired that he put a crimp in crime but the desirous ones, fearing criticism or something of the sort, are not will-

ing to stand to his back.

Knowing conditions to be such the officials of recorder's court set a day upon which they asked citizens to come in and volunteer information about law violations so that some action might be taken. If there are citizens who did not have the nerve to go into the court room and cooperate with the court, they certainly should not have the audacity to sit about and talk of something they know going on which the officers will not do anything about.

We congratulate the court upon its invitation to citizens to come in and "loosen up." The law and the officers with whom its enforcement is left cannot do it by themselves.

### THE SOLICITOR'S SALARY

SOME OF the opponents to placing the recorder's court solicitor of Cleveland county on a salary basis instead of paying him by fees—such a bill having been introduced in this legislature—want to know why.

The change to the salary basis is and has been supported by this paper and we believe is supported by the majority of the taxpayers. Some years back all county officers in this county were placed upon a salary basis, the office of the solicitor being created a short time later. The fact that all the other officers were placed on a salary basis because taxpayers demanded it is a good indication that the average citizen will favor the change proposed now.

Moreover, The Star today publishes certain figures from the county records, which, in our opinion, is the best reason why the office should go on a salary basis. In the county court last year the solicitor's fees totalled \$5,183.50. In other words that was the 1928 salary of the solicitor. By law the recorder is paid a fixed salary of \$2,000. The two officers devote approximately the same time to the court procedure, we say approximately because it would be unfair to say the same. However, there being no clerk of the county court the recorder here keeps the records and naturally it takes some time for the solicitor to prepare his prosecution. For every case heard in court there is a recorder's fee of \$1.60, which goes into the county treasury. The total recorder's fees for 1928 was \$2,802.95. Which is to say that the fees collected by the recorder paid his salary of \$2,000 with \$802.95 going into the general county treasury. Meantime the solicitor gets \$3.50 for each conviction in the court, these fees totalling over \$5,000 last year. Could not this office be filled on a salary basis and expenses be cut somewhat? Will the taxpayers of this county readily believe that no attorney could be secured to prosecute the cases in county court for less than \$5,000 per year?

The Star frankly believes that there would be numerous candidates for the solicitorship were the salary set at \$3,000 per year, which would mean that \$2,000 would go into the county funds thus lessening county expense. On the other hand it might mean that some poor "one gallus" fellow hauled into court on a minor charge would not have to take two weeks of his wages to pay his court bill when taxed only with the costs. However, it is the business of the county commissioners, provided the bill passes the legislature, to set the salary of the solicitor. Howbeit it is our belief that court expenses may be slashed with the solicitor receiving an adequate salary instead of fees.

Which should not be taken to mean that our support of the change to a salary basis is in criticism of the county court, its procedure, or the present officials. The present system is not the fault of the men who hold the offices for the system was there before they took office, and this paper has a high regard of the conscientious method in which both the present judge and solicitor are going about their work. In fact, the bill if passed will have no effect upon the present officials as it will not take effect until the end of this term.

We merely believe that in fairness to the taxpayers the office of solicitor should be placed on a salary basis as are other county offices, and we believe, furthermore, that when the taxpayers read the figures published today they will demand the passage of the bill introduced in legislature by Representative Mull after being forwarded to him by the county commissioners, upon whose shoulders falls the burden of operating the county government at the lowest possible expense to taxpayers.

## Something To Think About

### Horse-Racing Mystery

By Bruno Lessing

There is something bewildering to a sane mind in speculating upon the mystery of horse-racing. Other mysteries in life are merely baffling. As, for instance, why do so many thousands of people pay so many thousands of dollars to witness professional baseball games which may, or may not, be honest, when they could derive so much more pleasure and profit from playing the game themselves?

But horse-racing has so few defenders, that the mind becomes bewildered in wondering why it is permitted. To be sure, in olden days it was dubbed "the sport of kings." Those were the days when kings had no bathtubs. Also, in olden days, it was claimed that horse-racing developed and improved the breed of horses. Those were the days when there were no automobiles or railroads or farm-tractors.

A few "die-hard" enthusiasts still maintain that the horse is necessary in times of war. Maybe he is and maybe he isn't. But no battle was ever decided by race horses. The "addicts" of horse-racing follow the races, day after day, in all parts of the United States. They do not travel to witness the races. They follow them in newspapers and bet on them through professional gamblers. In the long run the professional gamblers win. Go to any race track, day after day, and study the types of humanity you see. Ride in any public vehicle and study the faces of those who devour the "racing form" in newspapers. You cannot help feeling that they are not our best citizens.

As a matter of simple fact, horse-racing is nothing more or less than an excuse for or a vehicle of common gambling. In many states in this country, and in several foreign

The records of every police department and of every criminal court in the land will prove that there is a subtle connection between the denizens of race-tracks and crime. In fact, it would be child's play to make out a stronger argument against horse-racing than the most rabid Prohibitionist ever made out against the liquor traffic. And everybody knows it. Yet why is this pastime permitted to continue? That is the great mystery. Are there "higher-ups?" Is there bribery? Or are we merely living in a dumb world?

### Bethlehem Items Community Events

(Special to The Star.)  
Miss Pecola Blalock spent the week-end in Charlotte with her sister Mrs. Alvin Ford.  
Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Dixon and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Bell of the Oak Grove community.  
Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Watterson and son, Monroe, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Lee Yarbro.  
Miss Annie Mae Latham of Grover spent the week-end with Miss Gladys Blalock.  
Mr. Andrew Watterson and sister Miss Ruby spent Sunday with Mr. Dotha and Miss Leona McDaniel.  
Mr. Otis Barber of Charlotte spent the week-end with his parents Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Barber.  
Mr. Dotha McDaniel spent the week-end with Mr. Andrew Watterson.  
Mr. and Mrs. J. P. McDaniel spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Percy Humphries.  
Mr. and Mrs. J. D. McDaniel spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Homer Harmon.  
Mr. and Mrs. Leon Thakerston spent Sunday with Mrs. Julius Lail.  
Mr. and Mrs. George Herndon spent Sunday with Mr. Tom and Miss Lizzie Blalock.  
Mr. Graham Dixon spent Sunday with Mr. Holland Dixon.  
Mr. Hall Morris spent Saturday night with Mr. Otis Barber.

### DIVORCE SUIT STARTED AGAINST FAMOUS PITCHER

Lincoln, Neb.—Grover Cleveland Alexander, veteran major league pitching star, was named in a divorce complaint filed by his wife, Almee Marie Alexander, in court here.  
Mrs. Alexander, who charged cruelty, asked for attorneys' fees and "suitable alimony," but did not name the amount sought. Likewise Alexander's income was not listed.  
The Alexanders were married May 13, 1918. Their home is in St. Paul, Neb., near here.

### 'Flu' On Decline At Double Shoal

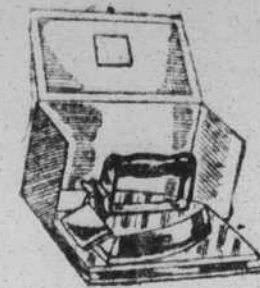
(Special to The Star.)  
The "flu" epidemic in this community seems to have passed on there being no cases now.  
An infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Flo Tessenier died last Saturday at the home of Geo. Mellon on the farm of Carl Spangler, where they were visiting. The little body was laid to rest in the Pleasant Grove cemetery.

Regular monthly services will be held at the Baptist church on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 26th and 27th. Sunday school at one forty-five and preaching at three o'clock. Everybody invited.  
The workers of the Centennial drive that was made last year will attend a meeting at Bolling Springs junior college next Tuesday night.  
Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Spangler and children spent Sunday p. m. with Mr. and Mrs. Everett Spangler of Shelby.  
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Cornwell and Miss Euna Spangler spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Glascoe.  
Miss Beatrice Hendrick spent Sunday with Miss Euna Spangler.  
Mr. and Mrs. Yates Spelling were visitors in the community Sunday.  
Mr. Leland Royster spent Saturday night and Sunday at home.  
Mr. A. L. Spangler has built back a tenant house in the same place where he lost one by fire.

### Gardner And The Gasoline Tax.

(From The Greensboro Record.)  
He advocates increase of the gasoline tax with the provision that the extra revenue shall be used for maintaining additional roads. But he does not advocate any plan by which the state would turn over this money in the counties. His idea is that the state will take over certain county roads and the fund will be apportioned among the counties for maintenance of these roads to be administered, however, by the state. Furthermore, only those counties which reduce their road levies in the amount allowed them from this fund by the state will be entitled to share in the proceeds of the added gasoline tax.  
There is a great and vital difference between this plan and the plan mentioned in the resolutions to which we have referred. One, the Governor's plan, holds out the promise of relief from some of the burden of county taxation. The other is assurance only that counties will have more money to spend—or waste—and nothing is said about reducing levies already in effect.

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