

The Markets. Cotton, spot 20c Cotton Seed, per bu. 58 1/2c

Cloudy Thursday. Today's North Carolina Weather Report: Fair and slightly warmer in west and central portions tonight. Thursday partly cloudy.

VOL. XXXV, No. 40 THE CLEVELAND STAR

SHELBY, N. C. WEDNESDAY, APR. 3, 1929

Published Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Afternoons

By mail, per year (in advance) \$2.50 Carrier, per year (in advance) \$3.00

Local Militia Ordered To Gastonia Textile Strike

High Debaters Open Here On Friday Night

Shelby In Triangle With Lincolnton And Gastonia. All Girls Here.

Four Shelby girls will carry the colors of the local high school into action Friday night when they compete with debaters of Gastonia and Lincolnton in the first round of the state-wide triangular debate.

On Friday night at 7:30 the Shelby affirmative team, composed of Alice Sanders and May Ellen McBrayer, will meet the Gastonia negative team, composed of Mildred McKinney and Edith Reid Rameyer, will debate Lincolnton's affirmative at Lincolnton. Gastonia's affirmative will debate at home against Lincolnton's negative.

The query of the debate this year is, "Resolved, that the United States should join the World Court."

Two hundred and 12 North Carolina high schools, representing 85 of the 100 counties in the state, will take part in the debate.

It is the first time in many years that the local teams have been made up entirely of girls and considerable local interest is evidenced in the outcome of the contests Friday night.

Mystery Fire In Freedman Fourth Time In 2 Weeks

Suspicion Of Officers Further Aroused As Negro House Burns Tuesday Night.

The fourth fire of mysterious origin to visit Freedman, colored residential section of Shelby, in two weeks early last night burned down a vacant home owned by Priscilla Shuford.

The house, and an adjoining small store building, which also burned, was only a short distance from the residence owned by Rev. John Roberts, colored minister, which burned down Sunday night.

The homes and even their lives threatened by the series of mysterious fires the colored residents of the Freedman village, which adjoins the Cleveland Cloth mill village, are considerably alarmed over the situation, and at police headquarters the belief is further strengthened by recent evidence, not made public, that the fires are not of accidental origin.

Such is the consternation in Freedman that the colored citizens, most of whom are well thought of and own their own homes, are almost afraid to go to bed at night as they do not know where the firebug, which seems determined to drive them out, will break forth next.

As the belief grows that the fires may be of incendiary origin a resentment is springing up among the white citizens of uptown Shelby against such underhand and unlawful tactics against the negroes of the section.

The blazes which have burned the two homes are not the only ones which have attracted the curiosity of Police Chief Poston and Fire Chief Gordon and secret moves now being made by the two departments may within a short time, it is hoped, unravel a bit of the mystery about the colored homes which are flaring up almost nightly.

Such has been the headway gained by the several blazes before noticed that firemen have little chance of saving the buildings, many of which have been built for years, and the origin, have attracted half the population of the city to the scene, all four fires being in an area in the negro village very little, if any, larger than the court square.

Gus And Gussie Remain With Us

"Gus and Gussie" will linger awhile with Star readers unless, of course, Gussie decides to leave the tow-headed Gus and marry the rich young shiek who fell, and fell hard, for the brunette and her vaudeville act.

After running two comics for several issues—"Gus and Gussie" and "Just Kids"—Star readers have indicated that they prefer "Gus and Gussie," and Lait's comic strip will continue in The Star for the time being at least.

Teachers Give Part Of Salaries To Keep Schools Here Open

South Shelby Faculty Makes Sacrifice For Schools. Citizens To Meet.

The Morgan school in South Shelby will operate for the full nine months this year provided the citizens of that school ward meet halfway an unselfish move made yesterday by the 14 teachers in the school, whereby 13 teachers agreed to donate two weeks' salary of the principal of the school Miss Selma Webb, donated her full salary for the final month.

Following the move made by the teachers a mass meeting of South Shelby citizens is to be held at 7:30 tonight in the school auditorium for the purpose of devising some plan of defray the expenses for the remaining two weeks of the ninth month, the move of the teachers leaving approximately just two weeks expense to be taken care of by school patrons.

Teachers As Janitors. In addition to their offer to teach two weeks free of charge so that their students might move up a grade this year the South Shelby teachers also volunteered to do the janitor's work for every department of the school for the remaining two months of the year so that the janitor's salary saved might also be applied. This will be done by each teacher and her pupils sweeping, dusting, and in every way taking care of their respective rooms.

The decision of the teachers to make the sacrifice for the school came at a teachers meeting held at the school yesterday morning at which time Miss Webb, the principal, volunteered to give one month of her salary, on the nine-months pay basis, to the school if the remaining expenses to keep the school open could be raised. After making her proposition she left the room so that the other teachers might discuss the matter freely and it was then the remaining teachers volunteered to give two weeks of their salary. The teachers of the school are: Miss Selma Webb, principal; Miss Nancy Bagwell, Mr. S. M. Edleman, Miss Nina Holt White, Miss Winnie Blanton, Miss Edna Parker, Miss Kathleen Nolan, Mrs. H. S. Plaster, Miss Jo Ramsey, Miss Mary Hardy, Mrs. William Osborne, Mrs. Kimmie Falls, Miss Muriel Sutton and Miss Nora Cornell.

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What's This? Gaffney Couple Comes To Shelby To Be Married

It happened on April 1, but it isn't an April fool story; it's true. For many months, to the weariness and disgust of local marrying magistrates and parsons, Shelby and Cleveland county couples have been motoring to Gaffney to be married, presumably to be economical in the embarking upon matrimonial seas and to save the trouble of physical examination.

Such has been the rush heretofore to the Gaffney Gretna Green that Register Andy Newton almost decided several weeks since that he may as well stop selling marriage licenses—in fact, he had very near stopped due to the fact that only an occasional couple, perhaps never having heard of South Carolina, visited his office.

Then Monday—April 1—he just knew he was being tricked when a couple from Gaffney strolled in asked to purchase license and be married here. Finally the prospective groom and his bride convinced the register's office that they were not fooling and really wanted to get married here.

It later developed that one of the two contracting parties had been married before and could not by law be married again in South Carolina, where divorces are not recognized. From that point on the marriage moved smoothly along and with the assistance of a local minister Miss Nannie L. Noblett became Mrs. Marvin B. Rodeffer.

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Car Runs Over School Boy On Road Yesterday

Claudius McSwain, Alleged To Have Been Drinking, Is In Jail. Boy In Hospital.

Henry Harrill, six-year-old son of J. L. Harrill, who lives just west of Shelby, is in a serious condition at the Shelby hospital as the result of being knocked down and also run over, it is said, by an automobile driven, according to the indictment, by Claudius McSwain, of Lattimore, early yesterday morning on highway 20 just west of Shelby in the Beaver Dam section.

Got The Number. The Harrill youth, en route to school, was accompanied by another boy, and according to the other boy they were walking along the side of the highway when the bumper of a passing automobile swept the Harrill boy off his feet and down in front of the car to be struck or run over by one of the rear wheels. The driver of an auto just behind secured the number of the auto which struck the boy, while another passing motorist picked up the injured boy and his companion and rushed them to the hospital and in a few minutes Deputy Bob Kendrick left in search of the Ford sedan bearing the number taken down.

Drinking Then. A mile or two off the highway, on another road, Deputy Kendrick came upon McSwain standing by the car with the number of the officer had jotted down in his pocket. McSwain, described by the officer as "pretty well tanked up," was then arrested and asked the officer why he was being taken to jail.

"Well, one reason is that you are nearly drunk," Officer Kendrick says he told McSwain. "And then why did you run over that boy back there on the highway?" "I don't know," Kendrick says McSwain answered. "I was just drunk, I guess."

Later Officer Kendrick secured a search warrant and visited the McSwain home where he found, according to his statement, a small amount of whiskey.

Bond Is Sought. Relatives were in town this morning trying to arrange bond for McSwain, who is still in jail, until the preliminary hearing. This hearing cannot be held, it is understood, until there is some change in the condition of the injured lad. At the hospital today it was stated that the Harrill boy is suffering from head injuries of an extent not yet determined as it has not been possible to complete a thorough X-ray examination. It was also said that the boy was not altogether conscious and that it would likely be several days before an opinion could be made by surgeons as to the result of the injuries.

Revival Under Way In West Shelby. The revival meeting is now in progress at the Methodist Protestant church in West Shelby. During the month of October I conducted a meeting in Lawndale and had 235 conversions and organized an evangelistic club of 71 members. This club has been a great power in Lawndale and the surrounding country since that time so they will be with us in this meeting. Everybody is invited to help us win a great battle for God and His cause. The meeting will go on perhaps during the month of April.

Come with your singing, praying and personal work and help us put God's cause over the top. Will preach on "Unpardonable Sin" Sunday 7:30 p. m.

Two County Couples Married In Gaffney. Two Cleveland county couples were married in Gaffney, South Carolina, last week. They were David Peterson and Lomera Ellis, of Shelby; and Raymond Hardin and Lillie Doster, of Kings Mountain.

Masonic Meeting. Cleveland lodge 202 A. F. & A. M. will meet in called communication Friday night for work in the first degree. All Masons are urged to attend.

March Big Month For County Court

Recorder Collects Near \$3,000 For County During The Month.

For some unexplained reason it appears as if the month of March will supplant the months of December and January as the biggest county court months here.

During March Recorder Horace Kennedy states that he turned over to the county treasurer \$2,834.20 in fines and costs collected in his court. This total represents 175 cases disposed of by the recorder, who explains the big amount of money by stating that it came through the several big whiskey cases brought up by city and county officers during the month.

Half As Many Divorces Here As Marriages. There is one divorce in Cleveland county for every two marriages, if the figures for March and two days of April may be taken as a basis for the estimate.

During the month of March nine couples secured marriage license in Cleveland county, while five couples secured license during the first two days of April, making a total of 14. Meantime during the last week of March and the first two days of April the superior court grand, presided over by Judge James L. Webb, granted seven divorces.

Those Married. Couples to whom license were issued Monday and Tuesday of this week were: Athel Cabanis and Savannah Morrow, both of Cleveland county; Marvin B. Rodeffer and Nannie L. Noblett, both of Gaffney; James Allen Lewis and Callie Gantt, both of Cleveland; Clifford Crow, of Rutherford, and Essie Martin, of Cleveland.

Average User Of Lights Not Touched By Charge, Is Said. The new method of figuring city light bills in Shelby effects only the large consumer and has not effected in the least the average user of city power, according to a statement tendered The Star today by City Clerk Fred P. Culbreth.

His statement follows: "The following statement appeared in Friday's Star: 'The present schedule of figuring the city light rate has increased the cost to the consumer from 10 to 20 per cent.' This statement is not correct as it applies to the average patron the majority of Shelby light and power users.

Those Above \$11.70. "The average light patron in the city of Shelby was not and has not been effected by the change in method of figuring the light bills. Of the 2,000 light meters in Shelby only 200 were effected by the change, while 1,800 were not effected at all. In other words, the light bills of patrons whose bills were never higher than \$11.70 per month by the former method of figuring were not effected one copper by the change in figuring method. Only those monthly consumption of power ran higher than \$11.70 were effected. Which is to say that the average patron of the light department has not been paying one cent more per kilowatt than before the change was made. Various citizens after a very close check found the present method of figuring the bills to be the correct method, therefore the rates have not been touched as many contend.

"The rates of eleven cities and towns have been figured, and the average rate for the citizens of Shelby is 1-4 percent lower than the average of the eleven cities and towns."

Torches Of Freedom. New York.—The explanation of half a dozen young women who smoked cigarettes in the Fifth Avenue Easter parade is that their "torches of freedom" were lighting the way to equal rights for smokers of both sexes.

Dorsey Did Not Promise To Refund Light Money Secured From City Hospital, He Says

Less Water And Lights Being Used At Hospital Since City Has Required Pay For Service, He Declares, And Bills To Hospital Have Not Been Increasing.

In a statement made to The Star yesterday Mayor W. N. Dorsey says that Miss Ella MacNichols, superintendent of the Shelby hospital, was in error when she told the Shelby Kiwanis club that he had promised her to refund at the end of the year the money collected for city light and water bills from the hospital.

The mayor also produced the record of the city light and water bills for several years to show that the hospital light and water bills have decreased since the hospital has been paying for water and lights, instead of increasing month by month as was stated.

At the same time Mayor Dorsey produced the minutes of the city board meeting in August 1923 to show recorded there the notation that free water and lights would be given the hospital for one year, beginning June 1, 1923. According to this record, no later references being made on the minutes, the period of free service to the hospital ended at the first of July 1924, although the city did not start charging the hospital for water and lights until August 1927, or three years free service instead of one.

Not Antagonistic. "I am making this statement not because I am antagonistic to the hospital, but to set myself straight in the matter and to show that I have not gone back on my word whatsoever. As far as I am concerned the board may give back to the hospital every cent of the light and water bills. My reason for having those bills paid by the hospital is to keep the city record straight so that the income from the water and light plant may be properly recorded and then if it is the desire of the board the entry on the other side of the ledger may show the money refunded in full or in part to the institution. Again it is a saving to the taxpayers of the city as more economy is practiced," the mayor declared, "when a charge is made for light and water. This is clearly shown by the fact that the hospital light and water consumption has decreased since the city placed the institution on the pay list. In fact if every cent of the money collected from the hospital was returned at the end of the year the decrease in water and light consumption at the hospital would be a saving of near 50 percent at times to the city."

His Statement. Mayor Dorsey in his full statement to The Star said: "I note you quote Miss MacNichols as making a statement before the Kiwanians that for some reason I had required the hospital to pay for water and lights and that I promised that I would refund the amount paid at the end of each year. She stated also that the service is costing \$1,000 per year with the bills running higher and higher each month.

"Personally, I have a high regard for Miss MacNichols and all of the nurses and surgeons and feel that we are fortunate in having such a hospital. At the same time I feel that it is my official duty to protect the interests of our city and our citizens. I do many things that my oath of office causes me to do that I would do differently if I were looking merely after my personal interests.

"Miss MacNichols is in error when she says I promised to refund the water and light money at the end of each year. I couldn't do that if I wanted to, and would not if I could. It is my duty to see that all money due the city is collected, then the board of aldermen can order it paid out, or give it away, so far as I am concerned.

"Now as to the bills getting higher and higher each month: It was at a meeting of the board of aldermen in August 1927 that the hospital bill was 154.88 and the hospital then was not paying anything for the service. The board ordered me to have it collected each month, and they would use their judgment as to refunding any or all of it at the end of the year. The bill has never been that high since. It dropped to \$94.50 the following month, and has been going down and down instead of up and up. It has dropped as low as \$63, more than 50 percent reduction from the month when the service was not paid for. A good portion of the bill when nothing was paid for it was caused by a waste of water brought on by a bursted pipe on the hospital property, which they thought for a long time was a valuable spring.

"I believe Miss MacNichols will be glad to correct what she said about my not making my word good as to giving back all that was paid, and as to the bills getting higher and higher each month when it is a matter of record that the bills have been getting lower and lower each month."

Dixon Child Buried At Bethlehem Church

The death angel visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Dixon Friday night at 8 o'clock and claimed their baby, Violet Dixon. The little child was born Nov. 24, 1927 and died March 29th. Its little body was brought to Bethlehem church for interment. There the funeral was conducted by Rev. C. J. Black and Rev. J. J. Hicks. Mrs. Gaither Blanton and Mrs. Clyde Goforth bore the beautiful flowers that covered its new made mound. Beside the parents, the child leaves surviving four brothers and two sisters.

A large crowd was present to share the sorrow of the grief stricken parents.

B. Y. P. U. District At Beaver Dam Ch.

The B. Y. P. U. district meeting of group one will be held at Beaver Dam Baptist church Friday night, April 5. The program follows: Song service, devotional, Miss Essie Hunt, welcome address, Miss Libby McCurry, response, Miss Mary C. Brooks, reports from all unions present, address by Dr. Davis, special music, adjournment. Dorcas Walker, Group Capt.

Bank Crash Suits Not To Be Tried At This Term Of Court

The seven big damage suits, in which damages of several hundred thousand dollars are asked, resulting from the disastrous building crash here months back will not come up during the civil court grind of the superior term now in session here.

None of the suits were placed on the calendar for trial at this term as all such litigations must be filed on the calendar as entered, and it is not thought likely that the suits will be reached in the customary procedure for one or two more court terms, unless, of course, a special court term is called to dispose of the suits.

Open Skating Rink In Thompson Bldg.

Shelby is to have another form of amusement and recreation in the nature of a roller skating rink which opens Thursday in the Carl Thompson building, second floor, on West Warren street. F. E. Petway and H. E. Lathinghouse have come to Shelby from Hickory where they operated a rink for several years and secured a lease on the Thompson hall. On the opening day, children up to 16 years of age will be admitted free. Skates will be kept for rent to those who do not own a pair. The floor is said to be ideal for roller skating.

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Situation Is Serious At Plant

Loray Mill Executive Refuses Demand Of Striking Workers. Officers Pushed Away.

Capt. Peyton McSwain, commander of Company K local militia unit, received an order from Governor Grdner and Adjutant General Metts shortly after noon today ordering Company K to mobilize and move to Gastonia immediately to aid in preserving order at the Loray mill, which broke out afresh and with renewed vigor today.

Captain McSwain stated that it would likely be mid-afternoon before he could get his company of 60 or 70 men, assembled and to the scene of the strike.

Rush Deputies. Immediately after hearing that troops had been ordered to Gastonia The Star got into telephone communication with that city and learned that the Gastonia howitzer company had also been called out to help quell any disorderly conduct that might arise.

"The entire nature of the strike seems to have changed over night," declared Hugh A. Query, Gazette editor, talking to The Star.

"Yesterday and before those on strike at the Loray plant seemed to take it as a picnic affair, but today it's different. There is an ill temper evident among the strikers and only cool heads perhaps prevented bloodshed here during the morning.

Refuse Demands. "At 10:30 this morning officials of the Loray plant refused outright the demands, as published in the morning papers today, made by the strikers. Thereafter a change came over the groups of striking workers.

"During the morning Gaston deputy sheriffs and policemen went to the scene and attempted to stretch wire or cable lines about the several entrances to the mill so that workers still on the job would not be interfered with by the jibes and taunts, and perhaps more, of the strikers assembled about the entrances. When the officers attempted to stretch the lines to keep the crowds back they were pushed and jostled aside by the strikers and prevented from doing so. Supposition here is that bad trouble may have started had any of the officers flared up and tried to enforce orderly conduct against the strikers who outnumbered the officers. But there was no flare-up and the officers just as soon as they could get away returned to the main portion of the city and telephoned Governor Gardner as to the situation.

"The order for the calling out of the two military companies, one from Shelby and the other from Gastonia, followed immediately.

Machines Running. "The machinery in the big textile plant was still running today it was learned but very few workers were on the job and little production for the day or night was anticipated.

MATRIMONIAL AGENCY TRICK GETS \$12.50 PER APPLICANT. Berlin.—A young American couple in Berlin introduced a brand new scheme to make money without hard work. The husband ran a matrimonial agency and inserted this advertisement in the daily papers. "Young, pretty and rich woman wants a husband. Application fee for men \$12.50." The young, pretty and rich woman, who is the matrimonial agent's wife, is introduced to the applicant. They go to a restaurant. During the conversation she receives a message that she has lost all her money, and that now she is a poor girl. The prospective husband pays the bill, and he is minus the twelve dollars and a half registration fee. The couple repeated this scheme so many times that finally it was brought to the attention of the police.