

### HEIRS SEEKING ASTOR'S WEALTH

Group Of 1100 Base Claim On Alleged Partnership Of Century Ago.

St. Louis.—In a little law office, littered with affidavits, letters, questionnaires and photographs sits a man who may lead 1,100 persons to wealth—wealth from the coffers of the Astor family.

Calvin I. Hoy, a St. Louis attorney, is the man who is representing this group in the fight for an estate which has been conservatively estimated at approximately \$50,000,000.

Although they have encountered several legal rebuffs these eleven hundred—all descendants of one John Nicholas Emerick who, they claim, started John Jacob Astor in business over a hundred years ago—continue with grim determination the attempt to get what they claim is theirs.

Having already lost their first legal fight in the United States district court in New York, the Mississippi Valley Association of Emerick heirs are preparing to appeal their case. If they lose the appeal they are planning to take the claim to the United States supreme court.

When the appeal is heard the court will review incidents of more than a century ago which the Emerick heirs say took place—and which the Astors say didn't.

**Old Agreement Found.**  
The story which the Emericks relate in court was, until recently, a family tradition, but in 1926 the discovery of a will and trust agreement was made. The Emericks say that they are the missing documents which prevented prior settlement of the case.

The story, handed down from generation to generation, says that Emerick, after giving Astor his start in life as a business man made him his partner-manager in his \$1,500,000 fur business.

Emerick died in 1816, the story goes, but prior to that time, Emerick had entered into an agreement with Astor stating that his share of the business—\$1,000,000—was to continue under the management of Astor but stipulating that the end of 90 years the heirs of the Emerick family was to receive his entire estate. The Emericks claim that the estate has grown to fifty times its original value.

**Documents In Trunk.**  
The 90 years expired in 1907 or thereabouts, but the Emericks did not collect, although they claim the Astors offered to settle at that time providing the will and trust agreement could be produced—but they were missing.

In 1926, however, Mrs. Edna Carman, an Emerick heiress, discovered what the Emericks claim to be the missing documents, in the lining of an old trunk which belonged to her wealthy ancestor.

Then came the organization of the Mississippi Association of Emerick Heirs with 11000 members and the selection of Hoy as their leader. The primary reason for their organization was to cut the expense of conducting the legal fight.

Months of hard and 99% work followed, then came the hearing—but the Emericks lost because the court held that the suit should have been instituted long ago. But the Emericks say that they had only a tradition "long ago" and without evidence they could not be successful in a court fight.

Now, during the present term of the United States appellate court, the "Legion of the Eleven Hundred" stand ready to attempt to overcome another great obstacle in their fight for fortune.

### DAVIS BOY DIES IN SHELBY HOSPITAL HERE

Geo. Davis, age six years, died at midnight at the Shelby Hospital. When the youngster was a child he fell from a porch and received an injury which caused his trouble. He is the son of E. S. Davis at 320 Gardner street. The burial takes place this afternoon at 3 o'clock at Zoar church.

### LAWTON GLOVER IS BURIED AT ZOAR CHURCH

Lawton Glover who was born and reared near the county home died in the state hospital at Morganton Christmas night where he had been a patient for ten years. He was buried at Zoar church cemetery yesterday. Mr. Glover was 45 years of age.

Major Avery J. Holmes of Washington, D. C., is spending this week end with his sister, Mrs. Al Bennett.

Mrs. Erna Shick of Chicago filed suit for divorce from her husband charging "he lost money in the stock market and then robbed the baby's bank to pay his margins."

Roy Brown, 3, of Elgin, Ill., shot himself in the stomach with a revolver his father kept under his pillow.

Farmers of Allegheny county are buying shorthorn cattle to stimulate the beef cattle industry of the county.

### Crazed Farmer Kills His Family

(Continued from page one.)

degeneration in some of Lawson's brain cells. This discovery, Dr. Halsebeck stated, served to discredit an earlier theory that a blow on the head about a year ago caused the farmer to become insane.

**Brother Found Bodies.**  
Elijah Lawson, a brother of the "crazed" man, was first to discover that something was wrong at the Lawson home. He found the bodies of his sister-in-law and four of the children—Marie, James, Raymond, and Mary Lou—in the Lawson home. He hastily summoned neighbors and a search revealed the bodies of Carrie and Maribelle, the other two girls, in a tobacco barn about a quarter of a mile away. Big splashes of blood in snow which lay on the ground led to the finding of the bodies in the out-house.

Shortly afterwards, the body of Lawson himself was discovered.

Sheriff J. J. Jackson, of Stokes county, and Coroner Halsebeck, who conducted an investigation, said they believed Lawson shot his wife as she held their five-months-old baby in her arms. Blood which apparently was that of the mother was found on the baby's clothing.

It appears that the crazed man then shot down Marie the oldest daughter and after slaying her, beat the three youngest children to death with the disjuncted barrel of a double-barrelled shotgun. The gun barrel, twisted and bloodstained, was found in the room. The three children were slain with a blunt instrument.

Two of the girls, Carrie and Maribelle, the sheriff and coroner believed, fled from the house terror-stricken. The father, bereft of his reason, pursued them and shot them in the back as they ran to the tobacco barn. Only shot-gun wounds were found on the body of Maribelle, the youngest, but Carrie had been wounded with a shotgun and shot through the head with a 25-20 calibre rifle. Both guns were found, the shot-gun near Lawson's body.

**Used Sacks For Pillow.**  
Lawson carefully placed the bodies of these two daughters in the tobacco barn. He folded their hands over their breasts and closed their eyes. Having no pillows to put under their heads, as he did the others, he used pieces of tow sacks to soften their resting place.

The sheriff and coroner, in reconstructing details of the tragic afternoon, said Lawson then probably returned to the dwelling house and prepared the bodies of the five members of the family he had killed. He closed their eyes and folded their hands as he had done with the bodies in the tobacco barn and put pillows under the heads of everyone of them.

The coroner said it was possible that with this act of tenderness a semblance of reason returned to the insane farmer, overwhelming him and causing him to rush from the house and slay himself.

Lawson shot himself through the heart.

### PERSONALS

Dinner guests of Mrs. Sarah Witherspoon Christmas day were, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Sigmon of Newton.

Mrs. Bright Carrick and two daughters, Helen and Carolyn are spending the Christmas holidays at High Point with Mr. Carrick.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Ramseur of Winston-Salem spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Hershel Blanton.

Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Bennett of Whiteville will arrive today to visit their son, Mr. Al Bennett and Mrs. Bennett.

### USED CAR SPECIALS THIS WEEK

Chevrolet Roadster, 1928 Model.  
Chevrolet Coupe, 1928 Model.  
Chevrolet 4-door Sedan, 1928 Model.  
Chevrolet Touring, 1927 Model. Top, paint and upholstery first class. Curtains like new, only been driven seven thousand miles.  
Ford Coach, 1927 Model. Four new tires, new Duco finish, seat covers, and the motor is A-1.  
Ford Coupe, late 1927 Model. Equipped with bumpers and spare tire. New Duco finish and in first class mechanical condition.  
1925 Ford Coupes and Tourings — Going Cheap.  
Essex Coach, 1929 Model. Four brand new tires, first class mechanical condition, well cared for by former owner.

Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Bennett of Whiteville will arrive today to visit their son, Mr. Al Bennett and Mrs. Bennett.

### Announcement

Mrs. T. H. Abernethy is now the sole proprietor of the

### WAYSIDE RESTAURANT

having bought out the half interest of Mrs. Boland, and assumed full management Christmas Eve.

Mrs. Abernethy invites those to the WAYSIDE who seek comfort and satisfaction in dining, those two words embracing good, wholesome food, well prepared, and service that is efficient and pleasing.

### THE WAYSIDE RESTAURANT

Centrally Located on East Warren Street.

### Crawford Chevrolet Company

PHONE 265

### Accidents In Rutherford Area

Christmas Freeze Causes Many Auto Smashes, Child Falls Into Fire, Burned.

Rutherfordton.—The heavy snow and ice of this week brought a number of minor accidents to this county.

John Allen, well known citizen of near Cliffside is in the Rutherfordton hospital in a critical condition, due to injuries received when his car ran off the end of Buck Shoal bridge across Broad River Tuesday.

While returning from Mars Hill, Mrs. A. E. Edwards was painfully though not seriously injured Sunday afternoon at Chimney Rock when the sedan in which she was riding collided with another car driven by Dearwood Keeter, of Chimney Rock. In the car with Mrs. Edwards were her husband, two grandsons and Rev. B. B. Smart, of Henrietta, the latter driving. The slick condition of the highway caused the wreck. She is improving at the Rutherford hospital.

Monday night Miss Fannie Dickerson, daughter of clerk of court and Mrs. M. O. Dickerson, was injured about the face and nose when the car in which she and Mrs. Mal Wilson were riding was struck by another car.

A number of cars have turned over or slid into ditches, posts and the like but no serious injury was done to the occupants.

Dollie the three-year old daughter of James Crane, of this place, fell into an open fire Monday afternoon and was painfully and probably fatally burned. Hospital physicians hold out little hope for her recovery.

D. M. Hawkins, employee of the Henrietta Mills at Caroleen had his thumb and forefinger cut off his left hand in a picker in the mill recently. He is improving at the Rutherford hospital.

### Snow Lingers Long.

The heavy snowfall of last Sunday morning has remained on the ground longer, local weather observers say, than any snow since the winter of 1917-18 when the ground was blanketed for weeks. On Shelby streets much frozen snow is still in evidence despite several days of sunshine, while throughout the county, particularly on roads without pavement or gravel travel is still greatly handicapped.

### Try Star Wants Ads.

Announcement  
Mrs. T. H. Abernethy is now the sole proprietor of the

### WAYSIDE RESTAURANT

having bought out the half interest of Mrs. Boland, and assumed full management Christmas Eve.

Mrs. Abernethy invites those to the WAYSIDE who seek comfort and satisfaction in dining, those two words embracing good, wholesome food, well prepared, and service that is efficient and pleasing.

### THE WAYSIDE RESTAURANT

Centrally Located on East Warren Street.

## Leaders in the Sporting World Make and Sustain New Records in 1929



As the year 1929 nears a close, it has brought to the fore various athletes who excel in their chosen field and bring new honors of championship to the athletic world. Above picture shows some of the leading champions who have made new records in 1929 (left to right): Bobby Jones, one of the outstanding figures on the Golf Links;

Henri Cochet, of France who succeeded to U. S. Singles Crown worn by Rene La Coste. In golf the honors go to Joyce Wethered, British woman's champ. At the extreme right is Helen Wills, champion tennis player, who is about to forsake the links through her marriage a few days ago.

(International Newsreel)

### Use Sweet Potatoes Around Their Necks

Eight Ellenboro sweet potato growers with small potatoes tied around their necks with Christmas twine to make lavalieres heard an inspiring address in the agricultural

room of the Ellenboro school from Dr. T. E. Browne, director for vocational education from Raleigh, and talks from other prominent speakers, last Thursday evening, when the growers banqueted themselves and their special guests at a cost of twenty-five cents per grower on sweet potatoes, chicken and

other products fresh from the farms of the growers. The feast which gave sweet potatoes from the Ellenboro curing houses in each course of the banquet was held as a celebration to the rapid progress made in sweet potato growing within the Ellenboro community within the past three years during which per-

iod of time three curing houses with a total capacity of 15,000 bushels have been built.

J. B. Hatley of Albemarle, a former teacher in the Shelby High school, visited friends here during Christmas.

From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch.  
Col. John H. Carroll's salary as a Washington lobbyist—\$75,000.  
The president's salary—\$75,000.  
Chief Justice Taft—\$20,500.  
Supreme court justice—\$20,000.  
Cabinet salaries—\$15,000.  
Senators and representatives—\$10,000.  
Young man, be a lobbyist.

# AUCTION SALE OF 20 USED CARS 20

10 CASH PRIZES 10

Saturday January 4th Promptly 2 P. M.

5 Model T Fords.	1-28 Chev. Sedan
1-27 Dodge Touring	1-27 Chev. Touring
1-28 Dodge Sedan	1-27 Chev. Coach
1-70 Chrysler Roadster	1-70 - Chrysler Touring
1-1929 Essex Sedan	1-1926 Buick Coach

Other Makes and Types to Select From

Our Loss Is Your Gain — As You Will Set The Price

IT WILL PAY YOU TO WAIT FOR THIS SALE

If You Have Something to Trade-Tell-Us we have a plan to suit

## ENFIELD - NORFLEET Inc.

DODGE CARS — SHELBY, N. C.

ALL CARS ON Display Prior To Sale BETTER COME

### At The Theatres

"Paris" has its final showing at the Webb today, terminating a three day bill. This is the sort of show that, like the well known cigarette, it satisfies. It has all the life and pep that Irene Bordoni can put into it, and that is saying a mouthful. Irene has caught the country with her vivacious and pleasing personality, and "Paris" is her best vehicle to date. "Oh Yeah" is on tomorrow. This is a light comedy, very amusing and very well done indeed.

The attraction now playing the Princess theatre Friday, Saturday of this week is "The Invaders" with the kind of all western stars, Bob Steele. The management announces for Monday and Tuesday the most entertaining picture ever brought to the screen. "4 Devils" is said to be far above the average picture having played to New York audiences at \$2.00 admission for months. Janet Gaynor, the star of Seventh Heaven, is supported by an all star cast. To miss this production is to miss the best.

### Peany Column

WE WILL HAVE another supply of fireworks for New Years at Little Mexico on Kings Mtn. Road. Look for sign. 2t 30c

Young Man.