

More Showers. Today's North Carolina Weather Report: Partly cloudy with local thundershowers this afternoon or tonight in west and north. Somewhat warmer tonight in west. Generally fair Tuesday.

More For Booze. Washington, May 25.—An estimate that people in the United States are spending \$2,848,000,000 annually for intoxicating beverages was completed Sunday by the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment. The research department of the association concluded "the illicit liquor business has become one of America's major industries," surpassing the \$2,793,166,412 wholesale figure for passenger automobiles in 1929 and approaching the gasoline expenditure for that year.

P. C. Lavender, Earl Man, Dies

Prominent Farmer of Earl Section Passes At Age 78. Buried Sunday At New Hope.

At New Hope church, Earl P. Columbus Lavender, prominent and well-to-do farmer of the Earl section was buried Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Mr. Lavender died at his home within a stone's throw of the church at 10:30 o'clock Friday night after a decline in health extending over several months. He had been sick since March but had improved some and was able to walk to Sunday school a week ago. Mr. Lavender was born and reared near Gaffney, and moved to Cleveland county about forty years ago. He joined the church in early life and was a member of New Hope for nearly forty years. He was married to Miss Ruthie Hopper who survives with the following children: Anthony, Roy, Obe and Lee Lavender and one daughter, Mrs. John Borders. Deceased was the last member of his family, all brothers and sisters having preceded him to the grave. A sister-in-law and a brother-in-law survive. Mr. Lavender was a thrifty, energetic farmer, highly esteemed by his host of friends. He was a kind neighbor, loyal to his community and known for his honesty and integrity of character. The funeral was largely attended and a beautiful floral offering accompanied the casket in which he was held. Rev. John W. Suttie, his pastor for many years, assisted by Revs. J. L. Jenkins and Rush Padgett conducted the funeral services.

Under \$5,000 Bond For Killing Gamble

McCall Bound To Superior Court For Shooting Shelby Man At Charlotte.

An investigation made in Charlotte over the week-end by Shelby relatives of Stacey Gamble revealed that the slain man did not have a knife clutched in his hand when officers arrived as was first reported. A knife, it is said, was lying on the floor. Gamble, relatives were informed, was more than the distance of one room away from McCall when the latter shot him, claiming that Gamble was advancing upon him with a knife.

Charlotte, May 25.—At a hearing Saturday morning before Judge Fred C. Hunter in county recorder's court Luke McCall was bound over to superior court on a charge of having killed his friend, W. Stacey Gamble, of Shelby, Thursday night. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Taking the stand in his own defense McCall described the events which led to the shooting. He said Gamble had threatened to cut him and had attacked him with a knife. He shot, he said, in self defense. The two rural police officers, Moseley and Howell, who had been summoned to the East Thirty-Fifth street home by McCall's wife before the shooting occurred, testified that they were met at the door by McCall who said, "Boys, you came just a little too late. I had to shoot him." McCall testified Gamble had been drinking and was in a very bad temper. He said he had tried to quiet him and when his efforts had proved unavailing he sent his wife to call police. Mrs. McCall entered the house just as the shot was fired.

Belle Of Barcelona Pleases Large Crowd

"The Belle of Barcelona," a comedy operetta was presented Friday night at the high school auditorium to a large audience under the direction of O. E. Lewis, head of the music department of the school. It was adjudged one of the best presentations of the school year with the lead voices singing their parts like opera stars. The lighting effect and costumes were colorful, rivaling in extravagance a first class road show.

Hail, Wind Storms Do Heavy Damage In County

County School Tax Cut To Third Of Rate Now

School Tax Levy By New Revenue Bill Will Be Reduced To \$57,750 From \$171,325. New Rate Only Third Of Present Rate By Reduction Of \$113,575.

(Special to The Cleveland Star.) Raleigh, May 25.—The revenue bill to be adopted this week by the North Carolina general assembly will save the taxpayers of Cleveland county \$113,575 in school taxes per year. A 15-cent land tax will supplant the present levy of 44.5 cents on the \$100.

Tax reduction of nearly \$10,000,000, or to be exact \$9,667,186, will result to the property owners of North Carolina for each of the next two years under the revenue bill, according to a table of figures prepared by the state tax commission.

This table shows that on the assessed valuation of \$2,978,710,236 for the year 1930 in the whole state, the 100 counties had a total tax levy of \$14,135,244 for current expenses of the six months school term. On the same assessed valuation at the proposed 15-cent tax rate the total levy will be \$4,469,058, by which it is seen that the levy for the next two years will be \$9,667,186 less than in 1930.

Cleveland county, the report shows, had an assessed valuation in 1930 of \$38,500,014, on which the tax rate was 44.5 cents for current expenses of the six months school term, which makes the total school tax levy for this county \$171,325. The proposed 15-cent levy on the same valuation basis will mean \$57,750 in taxes in 1931 and 1932, or a reduction in the county of \$113,575.

Will Be Felt. This amount, it is pointed out, will be felt appreciably in the tax bill of the individual taxpayer in every county in the state.

Lineberger New Masonic Leader

Succeeds Capt. J. Frank Roberts As Master of Lodge Here. Other Officers.

Mr. J. D. Lineberger was on Friday night elected worshipful master of Cleveland lodge 302 A. F. and A. M. He succeeds Capt. J. Frank Roberts who has served as master of the local Masonic lodge for a number of terms.

Mr. Lineberger has been active in Masonic work for years and has served as deputy grand master in the state lodge.

Other officers elected were George D. Washburn senior warden, B. A. Laffer, junior warden, George P. Webb, treasurer, and Russell G. Laughridge, secretary. The remaining officers will be appointed by the master and wardens.

Lattimore Clan In Annual Gathering

The annual reunion of the Lattimore clan, one of the largest and most prominent families in this section of North Carolina, was held Sunday afternoon at the old John Lattimore burial ground in upper Cleveland. Several hundred members of the family were in attendance, coming from all sections of Cleveland and adjoining counties.

Whites Outnumber Negroes In County Over 3 To 1, Shelby Rate 4 To 1

12,067 Negroes In County, 2,125 In Shelby, Census Figures Reveal.

There are 3.3 white people in Cleveland county for each negro, and four white people in Shelby for each negro, according to statistics just issued by the census bureau giving facts as to color and nativity.

In Cleveland county there are 39,812 white people and 12,067 negroes. Twenty-nine North Carolina counties have a larger negro population but only nine counties have a larger white population. In Shelby there are 8,635 white people and 2,125 negroes, a ratio of four to one. Gaston is the only neighboring

Uses Ice Pick To Kill Hubby; In Jail Here

Kings Mountain Negress Drives Pick In His Heart As He Chokes Her.

(Special to The Star.)

Kings Mountain, May 25.—June Bratcher, 28-year-old negro, who lived two miles south of Kings Mountain on the battleground road, was almost instantly killed by his wife, Ruth Cassells Bratcher, at their home about 7:30 Sunday night.

In a family fight, while she was being choked by her husband, the negress seized an ice-pick, made one stab and the sharp-pointed pick found its way to his heart.

She was arrested soon thereafter and placed in the county jail at Shelby.

Bratcher, who was said to be drinking, and his wife had a row earlier in the evening but neighbors intervened. Around 7:30 George Crosby, colored, who lived a 100 yards away, heard the woman screaming. He rushed to the house, looked in the window and saw Bratcher choking his wife. "The doors were locked and Crosby threw his weight against one door to break it down. Just as he entered Bratcher on a bed but lived only a few minutes after being stabbed.

The dead man had been employed in the picker room of the Park yarn mill. Bratcher, who was said to be drinking, and his wife had a row earlier in the evening but neighbors intervened. Around 7:30 George Crosby, colored, who lived a 100 yards away, heard the woman screaming. He rushed to the house, looked in the window and saw Bratcher choking his wife. "The doors were locked and Crosby threw his weight against one door to break it down. Just as he entered Bratcher on a bed but lived only a few minutes after being stabbed.

1500 Hear Baccalaureate Sermon Sunday Opening School Finals

Services Held At First Baptist With Sermon By Dr. Wall. Brummitt To Speak.

A crowd estimated at 1,500 on Sunday heard the baccalaureate sermon preached for the Shelby High school commencement by Dr. Zeno Wall at the First Baptist church. Congregations of the Central Methodist and Presbyterian church joined in the service.

The members of the senior class, numbering 78, marched in single file and occupied reserved seats. They were dressed in regulation cap and gown and presented an impressive scene with proud parents and friends looking on. Little Beth Swoford, the class mascot, was unable to attend. The mascot is the attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Swoford.

Occupying the rostrum were Supt. B. L. Smith, superintendent of the city schools, who had charge of the program; Rev. L. B. Hayes, Central Methodist church pastor who offered prayer, and Rev. H. N. McDiarmid, Presbyterian church pastor, who read the scripture. Dr. Wall preached a strong sermon on "The Risen Life," giving examples of graduates who had mounted the rungs of life's ladder to a higher life and holding them up as an example for members of the senior class to emulate.

A choir of combined voices from the three up-town church furnished beautiful music with Mrs. Dale Kallinger, Mrs. Grady Loyelace, Misses Minnie Eddins Roberts and Mary Adelaide Roberts and Mrs. B. M. (Continued on page eight)

Widow Of Dr. Trent Buried At New Hope

Mrs. Jane Trent, widow of Dr. D. J. Trent, who practiced medicine for many years at Earl, was buried Sunday afternoon at New Hope Baptist church, Earl. She died Saturday at the home of her stepdaughter at Cliffside with whom she had been living. Mrs. Trent was 39 years old and the second wife of the late Dr. Trent. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Mr. Honeycutt.

New Members Join Shelby Rotary Club

Three new members were taken in the Shelby Rotary club at the regular luncheon meeting last week. They were Messrs. Joe Nash, Robert D. Crowder and J. Draper Wood. The latter was formerly a member of the Rotary club at High Point.

Shelby Man On Farm Board



CHAS. S. YOUNG (Special to The Star.)

Raleigh, May 25.—Governor Gardner announces the appointment of the five members of the board of agriculture, as provided in the act of the present general assembly, by farming divisions, as follows: D. Reeves Noland, Haywood county, general farmer; J. C. Stator, Martin county, tobacco; Charles S. Young, Cleveland county, cotton; George Watts Hill, Durham, livestock; D. H. Bridges, Duplin, truck grower. They take the place of the 10 members of the old board, named by congressional districts.

Driver Of Shelby Truck In Narrow Escape In Wreck

(Special to The Star.) Jonesville, May 25.—A cotton truck with trailer carrying twenty-five bales of cotton overturned on Paolet River hill near this place Saturday afternoon and the driver of the truck, Cecil Baber, of Shelby, miraculously escaped death. It is said a road scrape was coming up the hill and a Ford car was attempting to pass on a sharp curve, the truck driver in his attempt to avoid striking the Ford, drove too near the edge of the narrow road and turned over. Cotton was strewn over the hillside and the truck badly damaged. Mr. Baber crawled from under the overturned truck without a scratch, but those who saw the accident say that his escape from death was miraculous. The truck was the property of Shelby Transportation company and the cotton was being delivered to Whitmire.

Motor Left Going, Car Runs All Night

Friday evening just as a rain storm broke over Shelby Mr. Bill Blanton, of the Blanton electric firm, ran his Buick automobile in the garage of his home in west Shelby. In a hurry to get in the house ahead of the storm Mr. Blanton forgot and left his motor running. And now comes the feature portion of the story for many men have often let their motor run on: On Saturday morning Mr. Blanton returned to the garage and found his motor still running.

Hold Two Negroes Over Store Theft

Ralph Toms and "Fish" Carpenter, both colored, were arrested by local officers and placed in jail late last week on suspicion in connection with the robbery last Thursday night of the A. Blanton wholesale grocery house.

A fingerprint expert was brought here from Charlotte to check on the fingerprints found on the broken window at the store. It was unofficially reported today that the fingerprints compare with those of one of the negroes being held. They are to be given a hearing in county court this afternoon.

Mrs. Everett McDaniel suffered a stroke of paralysis Friday night at her home on West Warren street and continues in a critical condition.

Blanton, Wall Ask That Helping Hand Be Given Stricken

Cleveland farmers hard hit by the storms of Thursday and Friday can get back on their feet and come again with a re-planted crop if they are extended aid by those not damaged by the storms.

The following appeals for all to aid were issued today by Dr. Zeno Wall, First Baptist pastor, and Mr. Chas. C. Blanton, prominent Shelby banker: "The courage of our Cleveland county farmers will not allow them to become disappointed over the recent heavy rains and hail which damaged crops severely in several sections of the county. It always looks the worst just after the damage. Let every farmer determine to make the best of a bad situation and things will come out all right.

"It would be a fine thing for all of the farmers who were unhurt by the hail and heavy rains, to lend their aid to the unfortunate ones. Such neighborly help as the lending of plows, stock, seed and labor to replant just as quickly as possible would show a fine spirit in time of distress and re-establish our fine citizenship.

"C. C. BLANTON." "Cleveland county has become known far and wide because our people have been thrifty and have co-operated. We have stood together, worked together, advanced together! Our strength—our success—therefore, has been in our oneness, our solidarity, our unity.

"The destructive rains and hail storms of the past week offer a fine opportunity to those of us who are on the outside of the affected areas to show our sympathy and unity by offering our services, our teams, our seed and our money, thus we can help 'bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.' "Let's all do something and do it this week.

Joe Runyans, Age 68 Died Here Sunday

Father of Boy Who Was Killed In France. Five Son, Three Daughters Survive.

Joe Runyans, well and favorably known Shelby resident living at 545 S. LaFayette street, died Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock in the Shelby hospital where he had been a patient for two days suffering with heart and kidney troubles. Mr. Runyans had been in declining health for some time. He was 68 years of age.

Mr. Runyans had one son, Joe Runyans, Jr., who was killed in action in France in the World war and his name is inscribed on the bronze marker at the court house. Surviving are the following children: B. H. Runyans of Simonsville, S. C., O. L. Runyans of Indianapolis, F. F. Runyans of Patterson, N. J., Craig and Lawrence Runyans of Shelby, three daughters, Mrs. J. R. Johnson, Mrs. Sam Smith and Mrs. Dath Pearson of Shelby.

Funeral arrangements had not been made today pending the arrival of his children from distant points. He was a member of LaFayette's Street Methodist church, but will be buried at Beaver Dam beside his wife.

Finals Marshal. J. M. (Milky) Gold, former Shelby High student and star athlete, is a member of the graduating class and also one of the commencement marshals at Oak Ridge military school this year.

County Board Of Health Reorganized; Dentist Added, Moore Physician

Group Names Officers. Hope To Have Clinic In County This Year.

At a meeting held Saturday at the court house here the Cleveland County Board of Health was organized for this year.

Automatically, by law, the chairman of the county commissioners, the mayor of the county's largest town, and the county superintendent of schools become members of the board with the commission chairman, A. E. Cline, as head of the board. The other members who take office by law are Mayor S. A. McMurry, of Shelby, and Supt. J. Horace Grigg. These men at their meeting elected two physicians and a dentist to complete the board of

Two Sections Hit By Storms; Plan Relief

Thousands Of Dollars Damage Done By Worst Storms In Years. Field And Garden Crops Riddled, Land Washed Away In Lower And Upper Cleveland. Neighbors To Aid Stricken Farmers In Re-Planting.

Swift on the heels of the storm which Thursday evening visited the lower section of the county, cutting a swath a mile or more wide from Boiling Springs to Earl and Grover, came another downpour of rain and hail with heavy wind on Friday evening which practically duplicated the damage in the upper part of the county from the Sunshine section of Rutherford through New House, Polkville, Lawndale, Fallston, Beams Mill and the St. Paul community in No. 5

Neighbors Help Storm-Stricken County Farmers

"Help Your Neighbor Week." To Lend Labor, Stock And Seed To Stricken Sections.

This week has been set aside in Cleveland county as "Help Your Neighbor Week"—your farm neighbor who suffered crop losses Thursday and Friday nights in two large areas of the county as a result of sudden and severe wind, hail and rain storms which wrought havoc and ruin.

Help Wanted To Replant. A survey made by The Star reveals one of the most destructive storms this county has experienced, a storm which caused untold damage, but a damage which can be repaired to a great extent if those who live in the territory not visited by the storms, will lend labor, stock, and seed to those in the stricken areas in an effort to pitch another crop before the season advances too far. It has been suggested in pulp and press that if those who were spared from the devastating effects of the storm will render their time and services this week, practically all of the field crops necessary to be replanted in two wide sections of the county, will have their crops replanted by next Sunday—or certainly within ten days.

Announcement of this "Help Your Neighbor Week" was made in a score or more pulpits of the county yesterday at the suggestion of the Star and of ministers and business men, and today hundreds of kind-hearted friends will go to the relief of their distressed neighbors.

Neighbors Already Helping. Thirty-five or forty men are expected to be in the fields of Dove Moore and L. E. Dixon, two miles east of Boiling Springs, where the damage Thursday night was centered, to help replant the crops. This is just a sample of what will no doubt be going on in the two storm stricken sections of the territory from Boiling Springs through Sharon, Patterson Springs and Earl visited by wind, hail and rain on Thursday night as noted in Friday's Star and another section across the county north from Hollis, New House, Polkville, Lawndale, Fallston, Beams Mill and the St. Paul community in No. 5 township. Both storms cut a wide path across the southern and northern sections of the county, the extent of which cannot be fully realized without a per-

Compelled To Replant. The worst damage, however, seems to have been done in the Delight-Oak Grove communities where most of the crops will have to be replanted. Hundreds of farmers, large and small, were damaged more or less in the path of the storm as it bore down in fury across the county. No individual cases are cited in the upper Cleveland region for the reason it is difficult to determine just who suffered most. Names are given for the purpose of marking the course of the storm. However, the upper Cleveland area seems to have been hit hardest in the Palmer-Eaker territory between Delight and Polkville, while the Thursday night storm in the lower section broke with most fury at the Ora Bowen farm owned by John Hamrick and tended by T. E. Dixon and on the adjoining farm of Dove Moore, Marshal Moore, Joe Anthony, Otho Hamrick and others.

Neighbors Helping Today. In the Dixon-Moore neighborhood scores of trees are seen uprooted and some fields are literally washed in gulleys. The front porch of the Moore home was blown off and the main part of the dwelling partly unroofed. To the rear of the Dixon home a negro tenant house was completely blown over, but the occupants, John Harvill, his wife and two children were unhurt. Neighbors quickly repaired the Moore home and planned to report this morning to help Messrs. Moore and Dixon replant their crops. Mr. Dixon had \$500 worth of fertilizer under his crops, but now you can hardly tell where the rows were. Window glass were broken and the boarded sides of the houses show the marks of the peppering hail storm.

On across the farms of John Hamrick and sons, through the Sharon section and eastward through the farms of J. R. DeLoach, Byron Davis and others, the Thursday night storm cut its way, lessening in intensity however as it proceeded to South Carolina.

In the upper Cleveland section hail is reported to have fallen to a depth of 12 inches in one section. Vegetable gardens coming into fruition were beaten to the ground, grain such as wheat and oats was whipped, lashed and cut in shreds, fields of cotton and corn were smoothed down so that the rows of the plants just coming up were not to be seen, terraces were broken and gulleys formed, orchards were stripped of their fruit and foliage, bottom lands became the beds of new made lakes, and on hillsides the soft plant beds were washed away, leaving the clay exposed.

Fields Swept Clean. Some trees were uprooted, more particularly in the Sharon section on Thursday evening and in both areas, auto tops were punctured and window glass shattered by the heavy hail stones.

At Polkville, L. C. Palmer found hail stones in his yard 48 hours after the storm. In many level fields no trace of the rows was left, neither can one tell just what kind of a crop was planted.

Two Damaged Paths. Visiting the upper Cleveland section Sunday afternoon, a representative of The Star found the storm entered Cleveland from Rutherford about the home of Dob Lattimore. It seems to have increased in intensity near Delight on the farms of L. C. Palmer, Marvin Eaker, Collin Gentry, Wes Covington and others, proceeding through the Oak Grove church section and on to Lawndale where hundreds of window glass were broken in the cotton factory building and dwellings. Its fury seems to have gradually spent itself as it moved on eastward, bearing a little to the south but wide enough to include Fallston, Beams Mill and the St. Paul section in No. 4 township.

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