



### Forest Fires Rage Over Large Area In North Carolina

#### Flames Threaten Roaring Gap Resort. Many Homes Destroyed And Valuable Timber Tracts Burned

A pall of smoke hangs over much of Alleghany county as grim evidence of the devastation wrought by the forest fires which have been burning in various sections of the county, as well as in Wilkes and Surry counties, for the past several days. Tuesday night and yesterday the fire was still burning in Arrabellow's mountain and in several other places. Already several families, which were thought to be in the path of the flames, have been moved. A call for men to help was received at Sparta Tuesday. Thirteen houses were said several days ago to have been destroyed and it was reported that two or three citizens were missing, although the belief has been expressed that no lives were lost in the fire. The fire was within one-half mile of Roaring Gap Saturday night but those who were in charge of the line of fighters battling the flames felt that the resort was safe unless the wind should shift. It is estimated that more than 300,000 acres of mountain timber have been destroyed.

The fire, which had reached to within two miles of Roaring Gap, covered a stretch of over a mile Saturday morning in a few minutes when a sudden gale swept the flames before it. Workers saw their lines of defense jumped by flying sparks and embers and were forced to withdraw hastily to spots nearer the resort in order to escape with their lives.

A new blaze or an extension of the Mitchell's River fire started Saturday morning near Fancy Gap, eight miles north of Mount Airy. Calls for help were sent Saturday afternoon to Elkin and other places near the vicinity of Roaring Gap when the flames appeared to be getting beyond control. Fire hose was made ready to dampen house roofs and protect homes from falling sparks. Equipment from the Elkin fire department was rushed to the scene.

The original Mitchell's River fire which devastated that country Thursday and Friday, covering an estimated 300,000 acres, was well under control Saturday night, according to reports from refugees from that section. J. A. Spaugh, of Surry county, who lost his own home and another dwelling house on his place, told relief officials at Dobson that he barely had time to rescue his three children, carried off their feet by the gale, and drive away from the path of the fire. He stated that he did not have a change of clothes for himself or his wife and children. Several neighbors were in similar predicaments.

Grover Southard, 40, whose wife gave birth to a baby girl in the rear seat of Dr. Paul Folger's car while being driven away from the fire, remained behind to fight the flames, and succeeded in saving his home when the fire split in two sections just as it reached the young farmer's house.

Inhabitants said that the fire which came from the western side of the Blue Ridge caused a draft reaching cyclonic proportions when it struck cold air layers on Mitchell's and Fisher's rivers, creating a small tornado which swept the flames before it across a four-mile strip of land between the two streams.

#### Few Tenants Lose Jobs In State As A Result Of AAA

Raleigh, May 8.—Only a very few tenants have been discharged from farms in North Carolina as a result of AAA crop reduction programs, according to Dr. G. W. Forster of State college. Dr. Forster said that the fundamental cause of the shifting tenant problem lies in the economic conditions which have prevailed for years.

"For some time," said Dr. Forster, "financial difficulties have led tenants to move from their farms frequently to seek 'greener pastures,' while landlords have likewise been forced to discharge tenants who were not profitable."

#### Arizona Kidnapping



Above is June Robles, 6, daughter of a wealthy Tucson, Arizona, family, who was kidnapped as she left school and held for \$15,000 ransom. It was in Tucson that John Dillinger and gang were captured last year and it is thought by some this was a Dillinger planned revenge on local police.

#### Cannon Will Have Charge Of Pacific Area For 4 Years

#### Bishop Kern Assigned To Group Of Conferences Which Includes Western North Carolina

Jackson, Miss., May 5.—After being retained as an active bishop over an attempt by certain conferences to retire him, Bishop James Cannon Jr., Richmond, was today assigned to the Fifth Episcopal district by the quadrennial general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which has been in session here since Thursday, April 26. The fifth district consists of the Arizona, Pacific, California Oriental Mission, Northwest and Western Mexican conferences.

Bishop Paul B. Kern was assigned to the group of conferences which includes the Western North Carolina conference. Bishop Kern will have charge, in addition, of the Upper South Carolina, South Carolina and North Carolina conferences.

Bishop Arthur J. Moore was assigned to the Orient, Europe and Africa. Bishop Cannon addressed a prohibition rally here Sunday in Municipal auditorium in which he urged a militant stand for reenactment of national prohibition and blamed its breakdown principally upon lack of federal enforcement. He charged the church with apathy in not backing up a memorial sent by the Methodist church demanding "sufficient money and men to enforce prohibition."

#### Congressman Takes Father On Visit To White House Tues.

Washington, May 8.—Frank W. Hancock, Sr., of Oxford, father of Representative Frank Hancock, was presented to President Roosevelt today. Representative Hancock went with his father to the White House and they chatted briefly with the President just after his conference with senators on silver.

The elder Hancock told the President he had had the pleasure of working for 14 Democratic candidates for President but aided none with a greater enthusiasm than the one who was nominated at Chicago in 1932 on the promise of a new deal to the American people. He told Mr. Roosevelt that his personal popularity as well as that of his administration is greater in North Carolina today than it ever was.

The President thanked Mr. Hancock for his kind expressions. The elder Hancock, who is here attending the American-Pharmaceutical Association, had another treat today which few American fathers have enjoyed. He saw his son preside over the House of Representatives.

The Elder Hancock has been secretary of the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy for 40 years, and is regarded as the dean of druggists in his state.

### Mrs. Rebecca Doughton Passes Away Thursday, May 3, At Laurel Springs

Funeral Services At Laurel Springs Baptist Church Friday Afternoon. Condolences Received From Far and Near

The passing of Mrs. Rebecca Jones Doughton, at her home at Laurel Springs, on Thursday morning, May 3, takes from Western North Carolina one of its best known and best loved women. She was born on June 17, 1838, almost 96 years ago. On March 11, 1856, she was married to Capt. J. Horton Doughton, who preceded her to the grave 28 years ago. Though she lived quietly and unobtrusively in the home built by her husband and herself seventy-five years ago, yet influences had their beginning there that helped build a community, a county, a state and a nation.

That home was always a center of religious, educational, economic and political thought. The men and women who went out from that home were destined to be leaders in thought and action in whatever sphere of life they might be thrown.

Mrs. Doughton's life was full to the end. All her thoughts were for the welfare of those about her. With her lived her youngest son, W. F., who was always very tender and considerate of her wants and needs. During the last week of her life, her other sons, Congressman R. L. and Ex-Lieutenant Governor R. A., and her daughters, Mrs. F. Miller, Mrs. T. J. Carson and Mrs. W. A. Fender, were also in constant attendance upon her. Besides the six children mentioned, she left 27 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. All the children, and all the grandchildren, except five, attended the funeral services.

Among the relatives in attendance at the funeral were the following: J. Kemp Doughton, Baltimore, Md.; James H. Doughton, Winston-Salem; Miss Mattie Doughton, Guilford college; Page Doughton and family, Greensboro; Joe Doughton and family, Greensboro; George E. Doughton, Guilford college; Mrs. B. O. Edwards, Asheville; Mr. and Mrs. J. Horton Doughton, Statesville; Mr. and Mrs. Claude T. Doughton, North Wilkesboro; Miss Reba Doughton, Washington, D. C.; Dr. and Mrs. R. C. Miller, Gastonia; Mr. and Mrs. Grady Miller, North Wilkesboro; Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Miller, Lenoir; Van Miller and family, Reece Miller and family and Mrs. T. C. Moxley and family, all of Laurel Springs; Mrs. L. C. Boyer and family, Charlotte; Thomas D. Carson, Washington, D. C.; George E. Carson, Elizabeth City; Miss Ivey Grace Doughton, Laurel Springs; Miss Bernice Doughton, Philadelphia, Pa., and Walter Fender, Washington, D. C.

The floral tributes were many and beautiful, and came from as far north as Boston, Mass., and as far south as Charlotte. Telegrams and letters of condolence were received from persons in all walks of life—from President Roosevelt to the humble citizen who was unable to attend the funeral. Delegations of friends from many of the towns in Piedmont and Western North Carolina and from nearby Virginia were in attendance.

The funeral was held Friday at 2 p. m. at Laurel Springs Baptist church, of which the deceased had long been a member, by Dr. G. A. Martin, the pastor, assisted by Rev. C. W. Russell, pastor of the Sparta Methodist church; Dr. C. W. Robinson, North Wilkesboro, and Rev. J. F. Fletcher, Mouth of Wilson, Va. The latter two had long been friends of the family.

A choir of chosen friends sang several of the beautiful old hymns with Mrs. Claude Doughton as accompanist. Grandsons of the deceased were pallbearers and granddaughters were flower bearers.

Interment was in the Doughton family cemetery.

As a fitting tribute to their mother, an appreciation of Mrs. Doughton's life, to be prepared by her children, will be published at an early date.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Republicans of Alleghany county: Resolved, that we, the Republicans of Alleghany county, in convention assembled, extend our heart-felt sympathy to Hon. R. L. Doughton and Hon. R. A. Doughton and the other members of the family in the recent death of their mother, Mrs. Rebecca Doughton.

#### New High Point In Auto Sales Reached In April For N. C.

Raleigh, May 8.—North Carolina reached in April the highest point in the purchase of new automobiles since September, 1929, and went to the highest point ever reached in one month in the number of new trucks purchased, figures announced by L. S. Harris, director of the Motor Vehicle Bureau, show.

In April 4,950 new automobiles and 1,164 new trucks were bought, as compared with 1,601 cars and 394 trucks in April, 1933, and with 2,980 cars and 582 trucks in the preceding months of March, 1934. This is three times as many motor vehicles in April as in the April before, and nearly twice as many as in March.

New passenger cars for the first four months of 1934 reached 11,532, and new trucks 3,287 which is more than twice as many new cars bought during the first four months of 1933, 5,109, and nearly three times as many trucks, 1,225.

#### NEW P. O. TO BE BUILT IN NORTH WILKESBORO

North Wilkesboro, May 8.—The lot recently purchased in this city by the Post Office Department is being cleared in preparation for the erection of a post office building. J. C. Reins, postmaster here, has been appointed custodian of the post office property and a few days ago received orders to have the lot cleared of all buildings and private property. Information received here from Washington is to the effect that plans for the building have been completed and that contract will be let by the Post Office Department for the erection of the building within the next few weeks. The building will have an 84-foot front on C street and will be 50 feet wide.

#### Pacific Pals



Carl Johnson, 19, (above), went swimming at Long Beach, Cal., a few weeks ago. "Flipper," 2-month old seal, exhausted on a raft, climbed aboard Carl's back when he came alongside. Carl took the baby seal home, fed it much milk, and now "Flipper" follows Carl about like a puppy.

#### Merchants Go On Record Against Sales Tax Tues.

#### Pledge Selves To Withhold Support From Legislative Candidates Not Committed To Its Removal

High Point, May 8.—North Carolina merchants, at the closing session of their annual meeting here today, pledged themselves to withhold support from any legislative candidate who is not committed to the removal of the general sales tax. Today's session was featured by a vigorous denunciation of the principle of sales taxation by John C. Watson, president of the New York retail merchants' council.

With only one dissenting vote, that being not against the sales tax but against the principle of having legislative candidates commit themselves not to represent or use judgment but to definite policy, the merchants adopted that resolution and another pledging support to the President's recovery program. They then launched into the open forum discussion which failed to develop all the fireworks that had been promised from it.

At the open forum J. Paul Leonard, of Statesville, executive secretary of the North Carolina Fair Tax Association, declared that the popular trend is definitely from the sales tax and that if the vote was taken now victory would be in the bag for the anti-sales taxers. He spoke in vehement denunciation of Governor Ehringhaus for suggesting to farmers and school teachers in recent addresses that they buy from those merchants who favor the sales tax rather than those who see its defeat. He said that there are efforts on foot to beloud issues with relation to the sales tax and he pleaded with the merchants "not to be led astray."

Arnold Schiffman, of Greensboro, also speaking at the open forum, criticized sharply the practice of sending "politicians rather than business men to the state legislature," and expressed the hope that a "better type of business mind" will compose the 1935 legislature. Willard Dowell, secretary of the state association, closed the

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#### DEATH ROW IN RALEIGH HOLDS 25 CONDEMNED MEN

Raleigh, May 7.—The largest number of doomed men ever housed in the state penitentiary here was in death row today—25. The latest arrival was Joe E. Dalton, Hendersonville, convicted on a charge of slaying his wife. He is scheduled to die in the electric chair on Friday, May 18, unless gubernatorial action intervenes. Last Wednesday the state supreme court refused a request to grant a new trial in the case.

#### FILIPINOS GET FREEDOM

Manila, P. I.—The Philippine legislature voted to accept the Tyding-McDuffie measure which provides for the independence of the islands, after a decade under the administration of a transition commonwealth government, headed by a Filipino Chief Executive.

### Judge McElroy Is Holding Court In Sparta This Week

#### Several Cases Already Disposed Of While Others Of Importance Are On Docket

Spring term of Superior court opened Monday morning, May 7, with Judge P. A. McElroy, Waynesville, presiding.

A record breaking crowd filled the town to overflowing and crowded the courthouse beyond capacity. Many cases of minor importance have been disposed of, and the court is now progressing more slowly since the more important cases are yet to be tried.

Judge McElroy has, so far, been lenient in his punishments. A number of more important cases have been disposed of, including the following:

State vs. Guy Osborne, assault with deadly weapon; State vs. Loney Pugh, forgery; State vs. M. L. Pruitt, assault; State vs. Ray McMeans, abandonment and non-support; State vs. Freel Perry and Fletcher, assault, with deadly weapon; State vs. Joe Linberry, driving car while under influence of liquor, and State vs. Johnnie Washington.

The jury came in late Tuesday night with a verdict of guilty of assault with a deadly weapon against Vas Lane and George Upchurch, who were charged with robbing John Mabe, an aged resident of the Stratford community. The case was hard fought and it is thought that the verdict was a compromise of the jury.

The trial of Ransom Brooks and Ves Douglas, charged with numerous crimes ranging from impersonating an officer to highway robbery, commenced Tuesday afternoon. The case of Folger Wagoner, charged with murder, is yet to be tried.

#### Teachers To Get Pay Checks For 8th Month Soon

Raleigh, May 8.—State pay checks will probably be issued to school teachers within the next two weeks for the eighth school month of the closing school year, LeRoy Martin, secretary of the state school commission, announced today. It was said that approximately two-thirds of the teachers will be paid from state funds, and that the remainder will be paid with federal appropriations.

The federal fund distribution will be supervised by Mrs. Thomas O'Berry, state relief administrator. The federal fund totals about \$500,000. Teachers paid by the government, Mrs. O'Berry pointed out, will be those who have no other incomes.

#### BAILEY BACK IN CAPITAL

Washington, May 8.—After several days of resting at his home in Raleigh, Senator Bailey returned to Washington today. The senior North Carolina senator is not in the best of health and he appeared quite sallow and drawn today when he came on the floor of the Senate.

#### ALMANAC



"Who spends before he thrives will beg before he dies."

- MAY 7—Submarine sinks the Lusitania, 1,195 die, 1915.
- 8—Mt. Pelee erupts and kills 30,000 people, 1902.
- 9—Admiral Byrd flies across the North Pole, 1926.
- 10—Gold Spike joins Central and Union Pacific Rys. 1869.
- 11—Irving Berlin, noted popular song writer, born. 1888.
- 12—U. S. Fleet bombards San Juan, Cuba, 1898.
- 13—Capt. John Smith settles Jamestown, Va., 1607.