

TODAY'S THOUGHT "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another..."

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MERCHANT MARINE For many years the subject of a adequate merchant marine has been discussed and debated in the United States.

OPEN SUBSIDIES BEGIN A little over two years ago, President Roosevelt asked Congress for a law to provide subsidies.

DOBSON BANK IS ROBBED MON. BY PINNACLE YOUTH Dobson, Mar. 23.—Douglas Christian, 18-year old Pinnacle boy, started a career of crime Monday afternoon.

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Parkway Work Is To Be Resumed By Next Thursday Completion Of Work On Scenic Road In Ashe, Alleghany And Wilkes Is Expected Real Soon

Methodist W. M. S. Holds Meeting At Church March 19 Explosion At New London (Tex.) H. S. Kills 455

Dobson Bank Is Robbed Mon. By Pinnacle Youth

Miss Eva Hancock, Bank Treasurer, Is Held Up At Point Of Gun. \$423 Is Estimated Sum Taken

CASHIER IN WASH ROOM Youth Is Securely Lodged In Surry County Jail At Dobson. Said To Have Been Intoxicated

Dobson, Mar. 23.—Douglas Christian, 18-year old Pinnacle boy, started a career of crime Monday afternoon at one o'clock by holding up the woman treasurer of the Dobson branch of the Sunry County Loan and Trust company.

The pleasant-looking youth seized an estimated \$423, which was surrendered to him by Miss Eva Hancock, the woman bank treasurer, and roared away at a high rate of speed in an automobile up and down the highways in a futile effort to shake off pursuers.

The criminal career of Douglas Christian was stopped by the sharp eyes of a 17-year-old boy who accompanied officers in the pursuit car. Ellis Cassell, brother of L. C. Cassell, the jailer, sighted Christian as he sat in his car in a filling station near East Bend.

Some ways, amusing, day Dobson has had in a long time started when the young boy, unmasked, entered the branch bank at 1 o'clock. According to Miss Hancock, treasurer, she was waiting on Mrs. W. B. Norman.

The bandit, who was unmasked, then turned to the treasurer, who was by this time quite unnerved, and leveled a .38-calibre pistol at her head and said: "Hand me that money quick."

Christian stepped quickly out the door, jammed his pistol in his jacket and entered a waiting car. Meantime, Mrs. Norman had found the street outside deserted.

TO HOLD ZONE MISSIONARY MEETING AT GRASSY CREEK On Tuesday, March 30, a zone meeting of the Methodist Missionary Societies in the Statesville district will be held at Grassy Creek Methodist church.

NEW HOPE S. S. TO BE REORGANIZED SUNDAY Rev. Howard J. Ford, pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church, announces that on Sunday, March 28, Sunday school will be reorganized at that place.

When Blast Killed Hundreds Of Children



General view of the New London consolidated school, New London, Texas, after the explosion that wrecked the school and snuffed out the lives of hundreds of school children in the worst school tragedy in all history.

Parkway Work Is To Be Resumed By Next Thursday

Contractors who suspended operations on the six projects of the Blue Ridge parkway in Alleghany, Ashe, Wilkes and Watauga counties during the winter months plan to resume work in the next few weeks and begin a big push to complete the grading and surfacing this spring and summer.

James M. Anderson, head of the district employment service office which serves the counties through which the parkway is being constructed, said recently that he had received a requisition from one county for 90 laborers and skilled workmen to begin work soon and that every contractor is planning to push operations when resumed.

In the meantime the office is in receipt of calls for various types of labor for private industry, ranging all the way from laborers at prevailing wages to skilled men who command lucrative salaries.

Baptist W. M. U. Meets March 18 At Glade Valley

The Women's Missionary union of the Sparta Baptist church met on Thursday afternoon, March 18, at the home of Mrs. Ed Lundy, of Glade Valley, with Mrs. Walter Taylor associate hostess.

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Methodist W. M. S. Holds Meeting At Church March 19

The Women's Missionary society of the Methodist church met at the church on Friday, March 19.

Officially, the legislature quit at high noon, when the old-fashioned clocks in the House and Senate chambers were stopped.

N. C. Assembly Adjourns Session In Raleigh Tues.

Raleigh, Mar. 23.—North Carolina's 1937 General Assembly, which balanced the largest budget in the history of the state, legalized liquor, complied with all phases of the social security program and authorized free textbooks for children in elementary schools, adjourned sine die at 5:38 o'clock this afternoon.

Governor Hoey On Rostrum With Lieut.-Governor When Gavels Fall For Sine Die Adjournment

Both officers raised their gavels. Governor Hoey was on the rostrum with Horton. Persons in the crowded galleries craned their necks as the law-makers lined up in double file in the aisles.

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Explosion At New London (Tex.) H. S. Kills 455

New London, Tex., Mar. 23.—What has been described as the worst disaster of its kind America has ever known occurred here Thursday when a gigantic explosion completely wrecked the \$1,000,000 New London high school building, killing 455 students and teachers.

It happened in the heart of the East Texas oil fields. The high school building, center of the London consolidated school, was torn apart in an appalling tragedy.

Red Cross nurses, doctors by the score rushed against time to allay the confusion here—1,000 oil field workers tore at the debris, frenzied parents strove to find their children and hundreds of curious blocked the highways.

Superintendent W. C. Shaw, who lost a son in the explosion, theorized that it was caused by an accumulation of gas.

Witnesses said there was an ear-hammering explosion after the grumbling roar that preceded it.

Lonnie Wright, Native Of Alleghany, Commits Suicide In Winston-Salem Prison

Hughes Expresses Opposition To Court Reform Plan Believes That To Increase Membership Of High Tribunal Would "Impair" Its Efficiency

Washington, Mar. 23.—Foes of the Roosevelt court proposal were made jubilant yesterday when Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, of the United States Supreme court, bluntly declared that to increase the membership of the high court was likely to "impair" its efficiency.

This statement, to which Associate Justices Van Devanter and Brandeis agreed, was thrown dramatically into the tense hearings of the Senate judiciary committee by Senator Wheeler (D.) Mont., the first witness to appear in opposition to the bill.

Wheeler, asserting that he had been "shocked and surprised" by the President's proposal and by charges that the court's work was hindered by the age of its members, told the committee that he had gone "for the facts to the one source that could be expected to know them better than any one else."

"An increase in the number of justices, apart from any question of policy, which I do not discuss, would not promote the efficiency of the court," the Hughes letter said. "It is believed that it would impair that efficiency so long as the court acts as a unit."

Sidney B. Gambill Now With Treasury Dept. In Washington

(The article published below is reprinted from a recent issue of The State Magazine, and since it has to do with a prominent former Alleghany resident, it is believed it will be of wide interest to readers of THE TIMES.—Editor).

A native of Ashe county, Gambill was graduated from Duke university in 1925. After several years in Ashe county, he returned to school and finished his legal education at Chapel Hill in 1932.

Had Escaped From Forsyth County Prison Farm. Was Questioned In Regard To Brannock Girl's Murder

Forsyth county officials notified Sheriff Walter M. Irwin of Wright's capture, thinking he might wish to question the man in connection with the murder case. Sheriff Irwin, accompanied by R. D. Gentry, went to Winston-Salem on Monday, and questioned Wright, who became more and more nervous during the interview. He claimed that he was in Florida at the time of the girl's death.

On Tuesday morning when Irwin returned to the jail to question Wright further, he was informed that the man was found dead in his cell that morning, having hanged himself by fastening his underwear around his neck and to the top of the cell, over the door. His knees were almost touching the floor.

Wright was a cousin of Connie Wright, who was held for a short time as a suspect in the Brannock murder case.

Wright's body, still warm, was discovered by an attaché of the jail who was making an inspection round at 2:50 o'clock.

Cleared of complicity in the Elva Brannock slaying only a few hours before, Wright was last seen alive at 1 o'clock by officers who noticed nothing unusual.

ALMANAC March 28—Texas gave women the right to vote at primary elections, 1917. 27—The Creek Indians were defeated at the battle of Horseshoe Bend, 1814. 28—The United States froze Essex surrendered, 1814. 28—Providence, R.I. attacked by King Philip and nearly destroyed, 1676. 29—The United States purchased Alaska from Russia, 1867. 31—The Treasury Bldg. and a large number of records were destroyed by fire in Washington, D. C., 1833. APRIL 1—Construction of the first railroad in Massachusetts begun, 1825.