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# The Dispatch-News

8 PAGES TODAY

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NUMBER 33.

## BIG SUIT AGAINST STANDARD OIL CO

What is thought to be the largest damage suit ever brought in Lexington county was last week filed with officers of this county for \$250,000 against the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey by Samuel R. Derrick of Woodman, administrator of the estate of Miss Ida Derrick, deceased.

The suit grows out of the death of Mrs. Derrick last February, due, it is claimed, by the explosion of a lamp filled with oil of improper mixture. The complaint alleges that the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, through carelessness, recklessness and willfulness, transported from the town of Batesburg to the town of Woodman a tank containing a mixture of gasoline and kerosene, a part of which was later sold to Mr. Derrick, and caused the lamp in which it was being burned to explode, resulting in the death of Mrs. Derrick and severe injuries to several other members of the family, Mr. Derrick himself being maimed for life.

Only one suit has been filed so far, but it is understood that eight others will follow, the combined total aggregating \$1,600,000.

Mr. Derrick is represented by E. J. Best and Graydon of Columbia, and the suit promises to be one of the biggest and hardest fought legal battles ever brought in this county and the outcome will be watched with more than usual interest in and out of South Carolina.

## THREE-LEGGED ROOSTER SHOWN BY DR. HARMON

Dr. Rice B. Harmon, manager of the Harmon Drug Company, the Rexall store, who is ever on the alert to find things unusual and interesting for his many customers, had the luck one day last week to run across a three-legged rooster, which he immediately bought and has placed on display for the delectation and edification of the passersby. His royal highness, the rooster, who boasts the proud possession of three legs where only two ought to grow, is now occupying a coop just outside the store of the Harmon Drug Company, under the stairway leading to the second story of the Harmon building, and is apparently as proud of his unusual accomplishment, or rather gift of nature, as a monkey with a new red cap. Evidently Monsieur Chanteclair does not regard his tertiary extremity as either an incumbrance or a deformity, but is as proud and self-satisfied as any other cock of like breed, and carries himself with as haughty an air as ever graced the boss of any barnyard walk, and seems entirely uncorred of the comment caused by his peculiar formation. Drop by and see the freak.

## TAXPAYERS PAY PENALTY NEARLY FOUR TIMES AS LARGE

The people of Lexington county will, when all settlements for taxes have been effected, have paid in penalties on deferred taxes the sum of \$5,142.24 for the year 1920. The books have been closed and executions are being placed in the hands of the sheriff for a considerable amount, but the greater part of this penalty has already been paid. As will be seen from the table below, the figures for which were furnished by Mr. W. D. Dent, the efficient auditor of Lexington county, the amount of penalty chargeable against the county's taxpayers for 1920 taxes was nearly four times as much as was listed for 1919 taxes when the total chargeable penalties amounted to \$1,692.80.

Mr. Dent has been extremely busy lately entering up the returns on which 1921 taxes will be paid, and preparing for the settlement with the treasurer.

The figures given below show the amount of penalty written against the taxpayers for the years 1920 and 1921 respectively:

1919—	January, 1 per cent.....	\$613.65
	February, 1 per cent.....	375.34
	March, 5 per cent.....	703.81
	Total.....	\$1,692.80
1920—	January, 1 per cent.....	\$1,795.97
	February, 1 per cent.....	1,415.78
	March, 1 per cent.....	1,113.26
	May, 4 per cent.....	907.43
	Total.....	\$5,142.24

## SWYGERT CASE IN RICHLAND COURT

The State. Solicitor Spigner started a big legal fight yesterday in the criminal court when he asked Judge Townsend to issue a bench warrant for the arrest and delivery in Richland county of Job C. Swygert of Lexington county who is under an indictment charging him with killing Dr. John C. Nicholson at Leesville last April. Attorneys representing the accused made a strong effort to prevent the move. Judge Townsend agreed to the request of the solicitor and he directed Clerk Hinant to turn over the bench warrant to Sheriff Heise for execution. It was announced during the hearing that four attorneys will assist the solicitor and that the defendant will be represented by three lawyers.

Attorneys arguing resistance to the motion to order a bench warrant urged the court to give their client "constitutional rights." They declared that the alleged crime was committed in Lexington county and that the trial should properly be conducted at the county seat. Court decisions were cited and the decrees in the case of the state against McCoomer and that of the state against Messervy brought about considerable argument. The defendant's attorneys directed attention to the action of the Lexington county grand jury in taking exception to the movement to handle the case in Richland county and referred to the special presentment of the Richland county jury in which it took the position that the case should be disposed of at Lexington. The records in the case were introduced. The coroner's jury of Lexington county held Job C. Swygert for the killing of Dr. Nicholson April 4 and Associate Justice Watts allowed bail in the sum of \$6,000 April 12.

Commonwealth attorneys argued for the issuance of the bench warrant on the ground that an alleged crime was committed in Richland county. They contended that the trial should be conducted in Richland county by reason of the fact that a mortal wound was inflicted in Lexington county, and that the injured man died in Richland county.

In deciding the issue, Judge Townsend said he would be guided by supreme court decisions. He said an alleged offense had been committed in both counties and that the case was triable in either. The judge ordered the clerk of court to turn over the bench warrant to the sheriff for execution.

It was announced yesterday that the following attorneys would assist Solicitor Spigner in the prosecution: C. L. Blease, C. M. Eiford, B. W. Crouch and C. J. Ramage; for the defense, Timmerman and Graham and E. L. Asbill.

## ST. STEPHEN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Arthur B. Obenschain, pastor.  
Mr. B. Heber Barre, Supt. of Sunday school.

Divine services at 11:00 a. m. and 8:15 p. m. Sunday school at 10:00 a. m.

On Sunday, June the 12th, the morning theme will be: "The Recovery of A Lost Soul." The evening theme will be: "Looking to God For Care and Protection, But Doing Our Part." To these services the public is cordially invited.

ARTHUR B. OBENSCHAIN, Pastor.

LEXINGTON CIRCUIT.

Services Sunday June 12th, 1921:  
Lexington—Sunday school at 10 o'clock, W. D. Dent, Superintendent.  
Preaching at 11 o'clock. A special sermon to parents.  
Preaching at 4 o'clock to men only.  
Preaching at 8 o'clock. All these services by Rev. A. E. Driggers.  
Horeb—Sunday school at 3 o'clock, D. L. Harmon, superintendent.  
Preaching at 4 p. m. Subject: "Do Not Sin Against the Child."  
Red Bank—Sunday school at 10 a. m., J. F. Sharpe, superintendent.  
Preaching at 8 p. m., followed by the reception of members.  
You are cordially invited to all these services.  
H. A. WHITTEN, Pastor.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MUST AUTHORIZE AND INSPECT ROAD WORK BEFORE CLAIMS ARE PAID

The board of county commissioners, at the regular monthly meeting Monday, took a decided step towards holding the county funds back for absolutely necessary road work, when they decided that hereafter they would absolutely refuse to pay for any road work which had not first been authorized and inspected by a member of the board. The system heretofore obtaining was for different persons to perform the work they believed to be necessary on the roads in their immediate neighborhoods and present a bill, which was generally paid without inspection of the work done. The new board, however, has decided to sit flatly down on this practice. It proposes that whenever work is necessary it shall first be authorized by a member of the board and later inspected by such member in his respective district.

With all the talk about good roads it may seem unusual that the board has found it necessary to warn the people of the county to refrain from working the roads, but, as will be seen by referring to the advertising columns of this week's paper, they are giving due notice to all concerned

## LEXINGTON SHRINERS HAVE LARGE TIME.

A party of Lexington Shriners went to Charleston last week to attend the spring festivities customary to this fun seeking order. All who were fortunate enough to be present are loud in their praises of the reception tendered them by city officials and others in the City by the Sea. The party left here Wednesday and returned Friday evening. The old Shriners report an excellent time, the city being made an "open house" for them, and the Isle of Palms being turned entirely over to the visitors. The "fresh meat" delegation from here also say that there was a good time had, but fail to state whether they participated in this as fully as the old members did or not.

Those composing the party were: M. P. Bodie, Dr. W. E. Sawyer, Dr. Norman Geiger and J. E. Kammer, Dr. J. H. Mathias and John T. Sox were given the Shrine degree at this meeting.

## COTTON CROP BEING DESTROYED BY SOME

Due to the presence of a great number of boll weevils farmers in several sections of the county are plowing up their cotton and planting the land to other crops. It has been reported that the weevil has been found by the hundreds in some localities, and rather than take the chance of having the staple completely destroyed by the pests the farmers have decided to beat the insects by substituting other crops.

## ROAD NEEDS REPAIRS.

Depot street is in need of repairs, being very rough in places. This is one of the most traveled roads in or around Lexington and it would be well if the town and county authorities could get together on some plan by which this road would be kept up.

An evidence of the value of good roads is the fact that most of the Columbia wholesale houses are now delivering their goods in Lexington by truck in preference to shipping them by freight, and some of the Lexington firms have adopted the same system, the Lexington Cotton & Fertilizer Company having delivered cotton at the mill door in Columbia the past week by truck.

## METHODIST REVIVAL SERVICES.

More than the usual interest was manifested in the revival services which began in the Methodist church Sunday evening. The church was well filled at the first service. The music led by Mr. W. J. Smith of Gilbert was of a high order and proved both interesting and inspiring. The interest continues to grow as evidenced by the attendance. The pastor preached three strong sermons, beginning tonight Rev. A. E. Driggers of Clemson College will do the preaching.

## NEW LAW FIRM FOR BATESBURG TOWN

It will be of interest to the public to learn that T. C. Callison, solicitor of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of South Carolina, and Hon. McKendree Barr of Leesville and a member of the house of representatives from Lexington county, have formed a partnership for the practice of law, and will open offices at Batesburg next Monday, and will engage in general practice in all of the courts, both state and federal.

Mr. Callison was for a number of years associated with the firm of Timmerman, Graham & Callison in Lexington, withdrawing from that firm and opening an office to himself since assuming the duties of solicitor the first of the year.

Mr. Barr is a recent graduate of the University of South Carolina law school and is a member of the house of representatives from Lexington county.

In an interview Solicitor Callison states that at the present he will continue to live in Lexington, but will spend a portion of his time in the Batesburg office. He is loath to leave Lexington, although he believes that there is a fine opening for the practice of his profession at Batesburg since the death of Barrett Jones, who was the only lawyer in that thriving town. When he was first approached by a number of the citizens of Batesburg to establish an office in that city he declined to consider the matter at all, but people of Batesburg have been so insistent and have offered him so many inducements to go to Batesburg he has been convinced that it will be to his advantage in some respects to make the change. Mr. Callison does not want the people of Lexington to feel that he is deserting Lexington, but that he expects to remain a citizen of the county and has only decided to move his office to Batesburg after careful consideration, and after convincing himself that such a move will not in any manner affect his work as a public official. If he should find that he can not properly perform the duties of the office of solicitor from his Batesburg office he will return to Lexington, as he expects to allow nothing to interfere with the proper discharge of his duties to the public. He feels that as Batesburg is the geographical center of three of the counties in his Judicial circuit, it will be the logical and a convenient location for Lexington, Saluda and Edgefield counties, and this is one of the causes which has prompted him to make the move. With the present day conveniences, such as telephones, automobiles and good roads he can reach either of the three County court houses within one hour if any emergency should arise to require his presence at either place.

For the present Mr. Callison does not expect to spend the entire time in the Batesburg office, but that office will be kept open every day after June 13 by Mr. Barr and Mr. Callison can be seen at Batesburg several days in the week.

## TREND OF THE TIMES PROVEN BY THE HEN

For months past people have heard of the hard times, talked of the hard times, and lived the hard times, but few ever dreamed that conditions would or could ever descend to the present level. The last notch in "tightness" was reached in Lexington county this morning when a hen belonging to Weather Prophet Jake Snelgrove laid an egg with a string tied to it, it being the evident purpose of the hen to hold her product for higher prices. For those doubting Thomases who have to see before they will believe we will state that the string has been broken and the egg removed to The Dispatch-News office and is on display here.

## DEATH OF MRS. CUPSTID.

In remembrance of Mrs. S. F. Cupstid, Pelion, born April 3, 1853, died June 1, 1921.

We have surely lost a dear one, for she was loved by all who knew her, always wore a pleasant smile, was kind-hearted, faithful and true. She was a faithful church member and Christian, always ready to serve Jesus in any way.

Though, we miss her all the while, we recognize the right of "Him who doeth all things well." It being a distinct loss to us, there is another angel in Heaven, and we hope to meet her there. She leaves to mourn her loss, one brother, Mr. D. L. Jefcoat; four sisters, Mrs. Sophrona Jefcoat; Mrs. Eliza Johnson, Mrs. Henrietta Reeder, Mrs. Annie Yon. All living in and near Swansea.

Three daughters, Mrs. Mary Laird, Swansea; Mrs. Alice Cooper, Columbia; Mrs. Annie Laird, Pelion. Five sons, Mr. J. H. and J. B. Cupstid of Savannah, Ga.; Mr. J. F., H. G. and D. C. Cupstid of Pelion, S. C. Also thirty-one grand children and six great grand children, besides a host of other relatives and friends.

## NEWT KELLEY OUT ON \$2,500 BOND

Clerk of court C. E. Hinant has approved the bond of J. W. Kelley, known as "Newt" Kelley, charged with the killing of David Shull, of Columbia last December, and the accused has been released from the Lexington county jail, his bond being \$2,500; Kelley's sureties were J. J. E. Turner and W. D. Drew.

The killing occurred in Lexington county, Kelley's attorneys, C. L. Blease and B. J. Wingard, appeared before Associate Justice Watts last week and petitioned for bail for their client. Judge Watts granted bail in the sum mentioned and his order instructed the clerk of court of Richland county to approve the bond. Kelley will be tried in the court of general sessions for Lexington county. —The Record.

## ENTERTAINMENT AT WHITE KNOLL SCHOOL

There will be a minstrel and comic songs also refreshments will be served at White Knoll school house on Saturday night, June 11 at 8:30. A small admission fee will be charged for the benefit of the school. The public is cordially invited to attend.

## DEATH OF MISS ORRIE EVER SLICE

Miss Orrie Ever Slice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. I. Slice, was born December 18, 1902, and died May 2, 1921. She leaves an aged father, one brother and two sisters.

Miss Orrie was 18 years, 4 months and 14 days old on February 26.

## ELECTION TO FILL OFFICE OF MAYOR

The town council has ordered an election to be held June 21st, for Mayor of the town said position having been made vacant by the death of Mr. Barrett Jones which occurred May 4th. Thus far no candidates have been announced for the position. Books of registration for the election are now open at the town hall in charge of the clerk, Mr. Ira C. Carson.

A revival service which has been going on at the Middleburg Baptist church for the past two weeks will continue through this week. The meeting is being conducted by Rev. Mr. Haggard, pastor of the Brookland Baptist church.

Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Kernaghan, Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Whitehead are spending the summer at Hendersonville, N. C.

Mrs. L. H. Wright and son, Leon C. Wright, spent Friday with relatives in Columbia.

Mrs. L. M. Mitchell returned Saturday from a visit to Bamberg, where she had been the guest of Mrs. W. J. Snyder for several days.

Mrs. N. A. Bates has returned from an extended visit to her daughter, Mrs. W. H. Nicholson, of Greenwood.

Miss Jessie Malpass, daughter of Hon. J. M. Malpass, is attending the commencement exercises this week of Greenville Female college. Her sister, Miss Julia Malpass, is a member of the Junior class of the college.

Mrs. J. B. Holman and Miss Edna Bates were the guests of friends in Columbia several days last week.

Mrs. J. B. Ballentine is the guest this week of relatives at Ninety-Six her former home.

Mrs. J. S. Fair is visiting relatives at Williamston.

John C. Crouch of Atlanta is spending a few days with relatives in town.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Garber and Mr. Milwee Cook spent several days last week in Charleston.

Miss Virginia Cullum is visiting relatives in Atlanta.

Miss Ellen Perry is at home for vacation from Columbia College.

W. H. Cook visited relatives in Ninety-Six Sunday.

Dr. P. E. Monroe, president of Summerland college, attended commencement exercises at Newberry College Sunday.

Misses Pliny Timmerman and Vera Merchant visited friends in Newberry last week.

Mrs. Ida Cook, Mrs. L. C. Hartley and Mrs. McKennie Hartley entertained the Woman's club last Thursday at the home of Mrs. Cook. A very interesting program was arranged. This was the last meeting Mrs. E. P. Jones would attend before leaving town. The Club presented her with a beautiful friendship book and a for-get-me-not pin as a token of their appreciation of her valuable services and interest in the welfare of our town. Each member gave her a little basket containing a card on which was written expressions of best wishes and regrets that she was leaving.

## AGED FOLK LADY DIED LAST SATURDAY MORNING

Mrs. Rosa Meetze, wife of Michael Meetze, died Saturday morning at 5 o'clock at her home near Ballentine, and was buried Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock at St. Michael's Lutheran church. Mrs. Meetze was 88 years of age, and a member of the Methodist church, her pastor, Rev. Mr. Kleckley, conducting the funeral services. Mrs. Meetze is survived by her husband and three children as follows: Mrs. I. F. Stack and Mr. James Meetze of Columbia and Miss Frances Meetze of Ballentine.

## WE HAVE THE ONIONS. NOW FOR THE PEAS

The Dispatch-News is indebted to Mr. O. C. Price of near Gilbert for a bunch of fine onions grown on his farm where he raises a great variety of truck for local and Columbia markets. The onions are of the "Prize Takers" variety, and they are all that the name implies, one of them weighing 1 3/4 pounds, another 2 pounds 6 ounces.

## FINE OATS.

Mr. T. W. Reeder of Edmund brought to The Dispatch-News office this week a bundle of oats measuring six and one-half feet in length, grown on his farm near Edmund. Mr. Reeder did not state what variety the oats were, but judging from the height they are evidently close related to cane.