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HOW JOHN SPARKS MET HIS DEATH.

Trainer in Wests' Shows Lion's Claws are Non-Poisonous if Kept Clean.

"No, the lion's claw is not poisonous if kept clean," remarked Capt. Turf, trainer in Wests' shows at the Fair grounds last week, to a Herald representative. As he talked the trainor put his hand through the bars and gently stroked the paw of a huge king of the jungle that slept in its steel-banded cage as innocently as a kitten. "The average person has an idea," continued Capt. Turf "that a lion's claws carry a certain deadly poison and that a small scratch is as fatal as the bite of a rattlesnake. This is a mistake. The lion's claw itself is not poisonous. It contains no more poison than a man's finger nail, but it is the filth their claws pick up that causes infection and results in blood-poisoning. There are numerous cases on record where men have died in a few hours after receiving a scratch from a lion's claw. If cages were disinfected every day there would be no danger of contracting blood-poisoning from a lion's scratch, but there is a lot of work connected with a big circus that moves every day and these details cannot be attended to. I was with the elder John Sparks, whose show was here last week, when he was clawed on the hand by a big lion and died in three days. No better man ever lived than John Sparks. His men loved him like a father because he was a father to every man in the circus, from the stake boy up to the highest salaried man in the outfit. He did not sit back in his private car and read reports. He was everywhere, looking after the smallest details, and you never knew when to expect him. The day he was wounded I had charge of a bunch of lions. It was one of those off days with the lions when they appeared to be particularly vicious. They have those days just like human beings. It was feeding time and the lions were hungry. A door catch on the cage was loose and Mr. Sparks reached up to examine it, and as he raised his hand the lion reached out his paw and struck his hand, tearing the flesh for several inches. I don't think the lion meant to hurt him. I have always had an idea that he meant to play with the boss. We always keep a bottle of iodine handy and Mr. Sparks got the bottle and soaked the wound. He bandaged his hand and went on about his business. The next day he was taken ill. We sent for a physician and the physician pronounced it a case of blood-poisoning. We put him on a special train and rushed him over to Cincinnati, but despite the efforts of skilled physicians he died on the third day. It just happened that at this particular time the lion's claws were infested with filth he had picked up in his cage and the poison got into the blood before it could be counteracted with the iodine treatment. The claw of any caged animal is poisonous, the same as the finger nail. The best way to disinfect their claws is to let them walk in sand. It is not a disease peculiar to the lion family. I have been bitten and clawed by lions, but as luck would have it there was not filth enough on their claws at the time to set up blood-poisoning. A few weeks ago," continued Capt. Turf, exhibiting a bad looking scar on the outside of his hand, "a monkey had been giving trouble bit me through the hand. I used the iodine treatment and the hand got well, but believe me, I was uneasy for several days. A monkey's bite is poisonous and they are dangerous animals with their teeth." "Where is the monkey that did the biting?" enquired The Herald man. A broad smile overspread Capt. Turf's face. "He is gone where all bad monkeys go. I killed him on the spot."

AUTOMOBILES COLLIDE

With a crash that could be heard for a mile two Fords came together at a point near Zack Butler's on the Dillon-Lake View road Friday night and were badly damaged. In one of the cars was LaRoque Carmichael who was returning to his home from the Fair and in the other was Sank Moody and a young man by the name of Bass, both of the Bermuda section. A young lady whose name could not be learned was in the party. It is said that the car driven by young Moody was coming toward Dillon at a lively gait without lights. Mr. Carmichael said that he saw the car coming and stopped his car. If both cars had been running at full tilt there would have been loss of life. Both cars are complete wrecks. Mr. Carmichael received a cut on the chin. The young folks in other car, it is said, did not tarry long at the scene of the wreck, but caught a passing buggy and came on toward Dillon, leaving their car in the road. It is not known whether or not they were injured in any way.

Robbers entered S. G. Rogers' tailoring establishment Friday night and stole clothing valued at several hundred dollars. Some of the clothing was found in a lot in the rear of store, the presumption being that the robbers had taken more than they could carry. Several Dillon residents who had clothes in the store were among the losers.

A LAND OF MILK AND HONEY.

"The word 'starvation' has no place in the south's vocabulary," remarked Col. R. L. Carmichael, chief of the War Finance Department, to a Herald man the other day. Col. Carmichael has been on a visit to his mother Mrs. Annie Carmichael at Fork and came up to Dillon to spend the day at the county fair. "The people of this section don't know how fortunate they are," continued Col. Carmichael. "The lands around here will produce in abundance and any man can make with little effort much more than he can consume. We know, of course, that the American is a much superior man to the Chinaman—so much superior that there is no room for comparison—and I draw a parallel between the two races merely for the purpose of illustrating the point I have in mind. I spent several years in China and had an opportunity to study at close range the Chinaman and his methods of living. There are four hundred million people in China and the country is densely populated. There are no trees and the most of the land is rocky and barren. A thousand or more Chinamen live or rather exist on a tract of land not much larger than a good size Dillon county plantation. A man who has as much as an acre of this land to cultivate is considered lucky. They have a few sheep or goats and grow a little rice. How do they manage to exist, you ask? Why they do not eat much—not one-fourth as much as the average Dillon county family. And then too they are a long-lived people and there is not very much disease among them. They are hard-workers and seem to have plenty of energy. We could live and be healthy on one-fourth of what we consume. We have food in abundance and of course we eat too much. Their clothes are not costly. The poorer classes, known as the coolies, wear only one garment—a thick, heavily padded jacket sewn together in sections like a quilt. The upper classes wear silk, but silk is cheap over there. Their houses are built out of bamboo. The head or tassel of the bamboo is a tough fibrous stuff which they use for roofing and fencing. Necessity being the mother of invention, they are naturally a very ingenious people and utilize every thing the earth produces."

Asked how their moral and religious standards compared with America's, Col. Carmichael said: "They have a double moral standard, but they are intensely religious. Human life is cheap. A fellow officer at the post—an army surgeon—had a Chinese servant. The boy asked to be released for a few days. The officer saw there was something wrong with him. Questioning brought out that the boy was having trouble with a wife who lived in a distant city. In a few days the boy returned. The officer asked him if he had straightened out his family affairs. 'Yes,' replied the boy in a matter-of-fact way, 'I was fined \$40 for killing the man, but the government paid me \$80 for killing the woman and so I am \$40 ahead!'" "It can be said to China's credit that she deals out swift and summary justice. One day I was a passenger on a railroad train and saw a small body of men in the edge of a swamp engaged in what impressed me on first sight as being rather a strange proceeding. I asked what the trouble was and was told that officers had just captured a gang of bandits and were executing them on the spot. No, the people of this country, and particularly the people of this section, have no occasion to worry. They do not know how well off they are in this world's goods. We are living like lords as compared to many of the other nations of the world."

Minturn. Mrs. L. F. Smoot and baby of Darlington are visiting Mrs. W. W. Evans.

Mrs. H. C. Hamer of near Clon spent the week end here with her father who has been sick for the past week.

Tommy McSwain a student of Davidson College spent a few days last week at his home.

Miss Minnie Usher who has been ill for several weeks is now under treatment at one of the Fayetteville Hospitals.

Mrs. W. W. Evans and Miss Kate Evans spent Monday at Red Springs.

SWEET POTATO CONTEST.

The Herald offers a year's subscription free to the person bringing in the largest sweet potato between now and November 1st and six month's subscription to the person bringing in the second largest potato. There is no other obligation on the part of the contestants. The potatoes will be weighed by a disinterested party the day they are brought in, and in the issue following November 1st the names of the winners will be announced. Dillon county makes some big potatoes and the idea of the contest is to bring them out of hiding so that others may know what our county is doing.

A thief went up to Pat and said, "Your money, or your life." Pat replied, "Take me life; I'm saving me money for me old age."

EXTENSION SERVICE.

Council of Farm Women to Undertake Community Market.

On October 8th in the ladies' rest room at the court house the Council of Farm Women had its fall meeting. One purpose of this meeting was to decide whether or not the council would undertake a community market in Dillon. At the Spring meeting of said council a marketing committee was appointed. After a report from this committee and a talk on "marketing" by Mrs. Frances Y. Kline, State Agent in marketing, a discussion followed. It was finally decided that the council would undertake a market provided a building could be secured.

The Marketing Committee now reports that the people of Dillon have contributed funds sufficient to erect a suitable building for the market. The Council of Farm Women appreciate very much this act of the Dillon people. The council is planning to put on a campaign for production throughout the county before opening the market on the 1st Saturday in March. Some of the products expected to sell best are fresh vegetables and fruits, poultry, eggs, butter and pork. There is no reason to believe such products will not find a ready sale provided they come up to standard, and we must stress standardization.

What are some things we can be doing now to be ready for the market when it opens? Begin now with your fall garden. There is no month in the year when something shouldn't be growing in the garden. You can secure a garden calendar from the County Home Demonstration Agent. This calendar will tell you the vegetables to be planted each month of the year. Culling the flock means greater egg production. See that you get some chickens hatched this fall so as to have early fryers for sale.

In running such a market there will be some expense as paper bags a secretary etc. So to meet these expenses a small percent of the sales—5 percent—will be deducted. There being no rent or freight bills, people can afford to sell their produce a little below the prices at a store.

The Farm Women's Council asks the hearty cooperation of every community in Dillon County.

Pretty Home Wedding.

A wedding of unusual interest took place on Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Marietta Georgia Bethea when her daughter, Sarah, became the bride of Mr. E. Roy Edwards.

The reception rooms were thrown together for the occasion and were simply but beautifully decorated. An immense bank of ferns, with soft yellow tapers intermingled, furnished a lovely background for the room where the ceremony was performed. Promptly at half-past three, Mrs. Jack Watson took her place at the piano and played the accompaniment for Misses Eula and Beulah Braddy to sing "I Live and Love Thee" and "At Dawning" after which the notes of the wedding march were sounded. First to enter were the bride's sisters, Misses Mary and Hettie Bethea, who were the maids of honor and only attendants, save little Mary Muller, niece of the bride, who followed them carrying the ring in the heart of a rose on a silver tray. The bride and groom entered together and the ceremony which made them man and wife was performed by Rev. Watson B. Duncan, D. D., pastor of the bride, in the presence of a limited number of relatives and intimate friends. Immediately following the ceremony, the happy couple received the congratulations and good wishes of those present, and while the guests were partaking of a delightful salad course with coffee, they slipped away and started on their honeymoon.

The bride was beautifully attired in a dress of brown crepe and honey-dew trimmings, with accessories to match. Her bouquet was a shower of bride's roses and lilies of the valley. Miss Mary Bethea was lovely in a dress of brown crepe with honeydew trimmings and Miss Hettie Bethea was equally so in one of nenna with bronze trimmings. Each of the maids carried an arm full of handsome orchid chrysanthemums. Little Mary Muller was fairy-like in a costume of pure white.

The bride is a young lady of charming personality and many accomplishments, being a graduate of Wesleyan College. She has a large number of friends who are glad that her marriage will not take her away from their midst. The groom, who is a rising young business man of this place, has lived here just a few years but during this time has made a large number of friends who are rejoicing with him in his good fortune of having won so charming a young woman for his companion.

Orphanage Work Day.

Saturday 29th will be Orphanage work day for Connie Maxwell Orphanage among our Baptist people over the State, and the Sunday school of the Dillon First Baptist church will observe the day, and bring offering Sunday morning to Sunday school. All our Baptist people are asked to have a part in this worthy cause.

DILLON CLOSSES SECOND FAIR.

Everybody Has Words of Praise for the Many Fine Exhibits.

The second annual Dillon County Fair closed in a blaze of glory last Friday evening. The Fair was a success from every point of view and many were the words of praise heard on every hand for the scores of pretty exhibits that were so attractively arranged by willing and artistic hands. The ladies of the county contributed in no little measure to the success of the Fair, and not only the management, but everybody who saw the exhibits are deeply appreciative of the assistance they rendered.

The community exhibits were fine, and while it does not look well to give special praise to any individual exhibit, because they all were good, yet the farm products exhibits of Mr. Jno. A. McRae of Minturn and Mr. W. E. Allen of Latta were particularly fine. They showed what could be done in Dillon county, and visitors to the Fair who have been contemplating the advent of the boll weevil with some feelings of apprehension were considerably cheered and encouraged by what they saw in these two booths. A feature of the Fair that attracted no small amount of attention was the cattle and hog department, while the display in the chicken department was conceded to be one of the best ever seen at a county fair. Out of county visitors were profuse in their praises of the showing made in both departments.

The Carnival folk (and they know good fairs when they see them because they have had an opportunity to see fairs all over the country) said it was one of the best fairs they had ever seen. The word got out among the Carnival folk, so one member of the Carnival company told a Herald man, that it was a corking good fair, and every member of the Carnival went out to see it—something out of the ordinary, remarked the Herald's informant, because fairs are every-week occasions with the company. There were horses here from both Carolinas and Virginia and the races were exceptionally fine. The largest crowd turned out on Friday, school day, when the Fair grounds were packed until late in the afternoon.

The Fair has outgrown its present quarters and the directors are of the opinion that more buildings will have to be erected before the next Fair is held.

The following premiums were awarded:

- Community Booths. Latta 1st; Minturn 2nd; Hamer-Kentree 3rd; Little Rock 4th.
- Live Stock and Hogs. C. P. Hayes—1st on Poland China boar; A. H. Webster—2nd on Poland China boar; P. K. Crosby—1st on Poland China sow; 1st on pigs under 6 months; 1st on pigs under 12 months.
- J. F. Bethea—1st on Duroc boar; T. W. Bethea—2nd on Duroc sow and pigs; T. B. Thompson—1st on Duroc sow and 2nd on Duroc sow and pigs; C. K. Culbreth—1st on junior sow; J. B. Carter—1st on yearling Duroc sow; C. McLaurin—1st on open pen of barrows; L. C. Braddy—1st on single barrow, 1st on Berkshire sow and 2nd on pen of barrows.
- C. McLaurin—1st on Hampshire junior sow pig, 1st on age Hampshire sow and 2nd on age Hampshire sow.
- P. L. Bethea—1st on Hampshire boar; W. H. Webster—1st on junior Hampshire boar; T. B. Thompson—2nd on age Duroc sow.
- Farm Display. Best individual farm display—W. E. Allen 1st, J. A. McRae 2nd.
- Best 10 ears corn, white—C. McLaurin 1st, B. P. Hayes 2nd.
- Best 10 ears corn, yellow—Walter Brigman 1st, G. L. Carmichael 2nd.
- Best prolific corn—G. L. Carmichael.
- Best sheaf of oats—S. W. Epps 1st, S. W. Epps 2nd.
- Best 1-2 bushel oats—Howard Bethea 1st, S. W. Epps 2nd.
- Best 1-2 bushel rye—J. E. Norton 2nd, S. W. Epps 1st.
- Best peck peas—J. E. Norton 1st, J. E. Norton 2nd.
- Best collection of peas—W. Gaddy.
- Best collection, peck velvet beans—W. H. Stanton 1st, A. V. Bethea 2nd.
- Best peck Pimento Pepper—Walker Floyd.
- Best 1-2 bushel sweet potatoes—J. F. Tindal 1st, Levi Jackson 2nd.
- Best pumpkin—M. H. Hyatt 1st.
- Best head collard—Mrs. L. C. Braddy 1st.
- Best 1-2 bushel Irish potatoes—Mrs. C. L. Wheeler 1st, Walker Floyd 2nd.
- Best pk peanuts—Mrs. C. L. Wheeler 1st.
- Best pk onions—Mrs. L. C. Braddy 1st.
- Best 1 pk tomatoes—Mrs. C. L. Wheeler.
- Best individual display grapes—W. Gaddy 1st.
- Best quart pecans—A. V. Bethea 1st, Mrs. D. A. McCallum 2nd.
- Best 12 stalks Sorghum—Howard Bethea 1st.
- Best 6 stalks ribbon cane—P. K. Crosby 1st, S. W. Epps 2nd.
- Best quart Sorghum Syrup—Mrs. L. C. Braddy 1st.
- Best display tobacco, not less than 1 lb—L. L. Stephens 1st, D. S. Hicks

FAIR WEEK RACES.

Following are the results of the races held at the Fair grounds last week:

- 2.17 Trot—1st, Idol Burgen, owned by C. McLaurin; 2nd, Hal Boy, owned by S. E. Earing.
- 2.25 Pace—1st, My Adeline, owned by J. B. Gibson; 2nd, Roy Gentry, owned by Robert Lester.
- 2.14 Pace—1st, Nella Brooke, owned by E. C. and John Rogers; 2nd, Archie Burns, owned by Swisshelm of Greensboro, N. C.
- 2.30 Trot—1st, Peter Baron, owned by E. T. Elliott; 2nd, San Gabriel, owned by J. C. Davis.
- Free for all Pace—1st, J. L. Jr., owned by R. B. Plaxico, of York; 2nd, Dan Spencer, owned by L. P. Christman.
- 2.18 Pace—1st, Don Silvia, owned by Swisshelm of Greensboro, N. C.; 2nd, Barney Edwards, owned by J. Smith.
- 2.12 Trot—1st, Linara Watts, owned by R. B. Plaxico, of York; 2nd, Northern Charm, owned by C. Swisshelm, of Greensboro, N. C.
- 2.20 Trot—1st, Peacherino, owned by Henry Wiggins; 2nd, Virginia C. Forbes, owned by W. N. Reynolds, of Winston-Salem, N. C.
- 2.15 Trot—1st, Idol Burgen, owned by E. T. Elliott; 2nd, Hal Boy, owned by S. E. Earing.

Fork.

Mrs. S. A. Owens spent last week in Dillon with her daughter, Mrs. Maxey Adams. Miss Annie Weatherly spent the week end at her home at Minturn. Mrs. Ruby Fort Carmichael spent a few days last week at Dillon with Misses Eutha and Mildred Carmichael. Miss Thelma Rogers has returned to Columbia College after spending some time at home. Misses Sadie Player, Mollie Williams and Messrs. Hubert Welch and Ben Bethea spent the week end at Elliott.

Imposing on the Doctors.

"The public has no idea how often a physician is placed in an awkward position," remarked a prominent physician the other night to a Herald man. "For instance," continued the physician, "if a person gets hurt out there on the street every physician in town will be called by this or that person. If it is not a very serious or aggravated case one physician would be sufficient. Then when the bill is rendered the person who was injured and received this prompt attention feels that he should not pay more than one physician, and so there you are. And then again in cases of accident the physician uses bandages and medicines which cost him money, and the chances are, unless it is a reliable person, he will not get one cent for his services or his supplies. Not long long since a father brought me a little child who had a broken arm. The father demanded the best of service. When I had dressed the child's arm the man turned to me and said: 'I haven't got the money now, but I'll pay you Saturday.' If he had told me in the beginning that he did not have the money I would have thought more of him, but he did not mention the pay until the child's arm was dressed. I would have dressed the child's arm anyway, even if I had known that I would not get a penny for it, but too often the public takes advantage of the physician in this way. It is one of those problems of the profession, and we do not know how to overcome it. Not only does the physician at times give his services free, but it costs him actual money in the way of supplies."

Presbytery in Session.

Pee Dee Presbytery convened at the Dillon Presbyterian church Tuesday and remained in session throughout Wednesday, every church in this district being represented. One of the principal duties of Presbytery is to look into the finances of the various churches and missionary organizations under their control, and the financial condition was found to be very satisfactory. Yesterday the ladies of the Presbyterian church gave the delegates a luncheon at the church building which was greatly enjoyed.

Mr. B. A. Bedenbaugh came up from Charleston Sunday and spent the day with Mrs. Bedenbaugh who is visiting Mrs. D. M. Michaux. Mr. Bedenbaugh says he is well pleased with his new home but it is a great pleasure to get back to Dillon every now and then and shake hands with old friends.

THE PEE DEE BRIDGE PROBLEM

Engineer Johnson Presents His Side of the Controversy.

The Editor Dillon Herald:

Dr. Stackhouse has published both in The Herald and in the State articles on the Pee Dee Bridge affair in correct in all essentials, even in his conclusion. That there will be no bridge across the Pee Dee at Mars Bluff Ferry.

He says that a contract was made for the construction of a bridge 6,000 feet above the A. C. L. On that question the writer is uninformed except by hearsay. Marion and Florence officials on the Bridge Commission say that no contract was made. Dr. Stackhouse probably knows better for, I am informed, that he was represented at the meeting, when this alleged contract was made by his son as his proxy.

He says that a heavy red line drawn from this proposed site to Dillon on the blue print made his friends at Marion seek to avoid being side tracked in highway matters. The bridge that will be built at Mars Bluff Ferry will give the same opportunity for this direct road to Dillon and will save 8-10 of a mile between Dillon and Florence over that possible where the Highway Commission contended the bridge should be built. Marion runs the same risk of being side tracked with the bridge at Mars Bluff Ferry as if the bridge were built where Dr. Stackhouse has always wanted it: Near his own plantation.

Dr. Stackhouse knows that before the Oct. 15th meeting that all figures for crossing the Pee Dee were for a high water road and that the Highway Commission and Florence and Marion counties calculated that at Mars Bluff Ferry it would be possible at about \$280,000. He now says however that the great divergence in cost is due to the fact that Marion and Florence counties have always compared cost of a highway road by the State Highway Commission to a low water structure by themselves. He entirely fails to say that the Government Engineer at the October meeting said of all solutions for crossing the Pee Dee that a low water road with a highway bridge, of course, was the best possible solution and that it had been eliminated simply because federal aid could not be had on such a structure. This is exactly the solution that Marion and Florence counties had arrived at some months ago, thereby saving \$130,000 as compared to a highway structure at Mars Bluff Ferry and about \$400,000 at any place suggested by the State Highway Commission or the Federal Aid Bureau. This designed low water road will interrupt traffic about one day each year, probably less and instead of being a few inches, only, higher than the present road it will be about 5 feet higher. There is no objection to the crossing at Cheraw, and it too is below extreme highwater.

This road will be built by Florence and Marion counties and will cost them just about the same amount as if they had gone into the other proposition, and they will own the bridge and road. Tolls will pay its maintenance, upkeep, interest and retire the cost. No additional tax burden will be placed on the people of either county as the bridge will be paid for by those who use it. The expenditures by the Federal Aid Government, Dillon county, Berkeley and Charleston counties will be saved and only those from those counties who cross the bridge will participate in the cost thereof.

Dr. Stackhouse seems to have entirely forgotten that Florence and Marion counties alone are burdened with maintenance of this construction and that once begun they alone are irrevocably committed to the completion, regardless of cost. It seems to make no difference to Dr. Stackhouse if the first cost would run about \$600,000 or if the maintenance would be a per annum cost of \$10,000. Of course Dillon county was to pay \$25,000 no more, no less, and he can afford to be as indifferent to cost.

Dr. Stackhouse has interrupted promising plans to cross the Pee Dee before and always on the grounds that it must be crossed above the A. C. L. R. R. Had he been sincere in his efforts to secure a crossing of the Pee Dee, either at this latter or at former times, it would not now be necessary for Florence and Marion counties to undertake it alone.

Dr. Stackhouse's closing remarks are just as insincere as the other parts of his publication. He does not fear at all that we have lost our opportunity to secure a bridge across the Pee Dee; what he really fears is that we will have a bridge at Mars Bluff Ferry and more remote from his special interests and that, therefore, he has lost his opportunity to secure a bridge at great unnecessary expense to the public in close proximity to his plantation. He knows that the bridge as and where planned is easily in the financial reach of Florence and Marion counties, that it will give all legitimate benefits sought or desired and that it will be in all respects stable and dependable.

Yours very truly,
J. M. JOHNSON.

W. V. JONES, Supt.