

THE CAMDEN CHRONICLE

VOLUME XXXVII.

CAMDEN, SOUTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1926.

NUMBER 46.

NEWS OF THE COURT.

McGirt and McGee Convicted of Setting Fire to House.

The February term of court of general sessions came to a close here Tuesday afternoon with the conviction of John Cameron, charged with assault and battery with intent to kill. Cameron, a former bridgekeeper, was charged with having shot and seriously wounded Levi Melton, also a former bridgekeeper. It was the last case tried and the jury, composed mostly of Camden men, brought in a verdict of guilty. Before a large number of court spectators Cameron was told to stand up and Judge J. K. Henry delivered a kindly lecture to the convicted man, telling him that he knew he was a likable fellow, but that whiskey had brought him into his predicament and that it was only through an act of Providence that he was not charged with a graver charge of murder. Upon being questioned if he had ever attended school he stated that it was very little and that he could only write his name and that he could figure a little. He stated that he was born in Fairfield county and that he had a wife and seven children residing at Lugoff. Judge Henry then sentenced him to serve from eight to sixteen years, but later changed it from five to ten years. A motion for a new trial was made but was overruled. The defendant was released on a bond of \$2,000 pending an appeal to the supreme court. Levi Melton had his right arm shot off by Cameron while working in the store of J. L. Hinson at Lugoff. Cameron is said to have been crazy drunk when the tragedy occurred. Melton is a married man and has a wife and several small children.

Another case occupying the whole of Monday and attracting a great crowd of both white and colored spectators was that of Charlie McGee, a negro barber, of Columbia, and Herbert F. McGirt, a Camden negro attorney, charged with burning a residence belonging to McGee to obtain an insurance policy of \$1,500. The case against the two defendants was brought by the city attorney of Camden, L. A. Wittkowsky and Solicitor Spigner for the state. A large array of witnesses appeared for the defense—many being character witnesses. The chief plea of the defense—conducted by Attorney C. T. Graydon, of Columbia, and former Judge M. L. Smith and G. G. Alexander of the Camden bar—was that of an alibi for Charlie McGee. Three witnesses from a motion picture theatre in Columbia appeared and stated positively and minutely that McGee was seen at certain hours at their theatre in Columbia on the night of the burning. Their testimony tallied minutely, but upon cross-examination by the solicitor as to whether they remembered any other persons of the many hundreds who entered the theatre on the same night their memory was hazy and the witnesses for the defense proved good witnesses for the state.

Charlie McGee, who bore an excellent reputation in Camden before going to Columbia, and who also bore a good reputation in Columbia, had summoned some of the best men of Columbia as character witnesses—among them being the Rev. Henry D. Phillips, an Episcopal minister of note of the Capital City; S. B. McMaster, a well-known and state-wide sporting goods man, Prof. Reed Smith, of the University of South Carolina; Dr. Quattlebaum, and Dr. Theo. M. DuBose and a Major Fairfax of the United States Army stationed at Columbia. All of these gentlemen gave McGee an excellent reputation, so far as they knew.

Other witnesses for the defense were the 78-year-old grandmother of Herbert McGirt, McGirt's wife and a neighbor by the name of Alexander, all of whom testified that he was in the house at the time of the fire. Constable Wade Stokes, of Camden, also took the stand as a witness for the defense and stated that he was at the Wateree bridge on the night of the fire on the watchout for a car containing liquor and that he had not seen McGee pass the bridge, although he finally admitted to the solicitor that McGee could have been hidden in the car and that he could not have seen him.

Witnesses for the state were Mayor H. G. Carrison, L. G. Whitaker, J. D. Sinclair, W. F. Nettles, Christopher Lindsay and a statement was read from Chief of Police A. G. Whitaker, who is ill at his home in Camden.

Christopher Lindsay made a confession in which he told of driving McGee and a negro woman to Camden, that he was sent to purchase gasoline to fire the house with. His statement was corroborated to a certain extent by the testimony of Mr. J. D. Sinclair who sold him the gasoline a few minutes before the fire started. McGee was placed on the stand as well as McGirt and both positively denied any knowledge of the fire. McGee denied that he was in Camden on the night of the fire, although he had admitted to both Messrs. H. G. Carrison, L. J. Whitaker and A. G. Whitaker that he was in Camden that night.

They were both sentenced to serve from four to eight years at hard labor. A motion for a new trial was made, but was overruled by the trial judge, and both were released on bonds in the sum of \$1,000 each pending an appeal to the supreme court. Odell Houston, the negro who broke into the store of the Enterprise Mercantile company, in this city, and who was later captured in Columbia, plead guilty to a charge of larceny and was sentenced to serve six months at hard labor. Houston while confined in jail here was said to be wanted in Jacksonville, Fla., on a murder charge committed more than twenty years ago. He was carried to Jacksonville but proved to be the wrong man and was returned to Camden.

Willie Portee, a negro, was convicted on a charge of shooting into a dwelling house and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$200 or serve nine months.

John T. Melton, a white man, of near Cassatt, was convicted of manslaughter with no recommendation. Melton killed a young white man by the name of Leland Anderson, while the two and another white man and negro were engaged in a game of cards in a hog pasture. Anderson was stabbed to death with a knife. The defense offered no testimony and left it up to the state to prove its case. Melton was given a sentence ranging from ten to twenty years.

Scion Dees, an old negro, was up on a charge of violating the prohibition law. He plead guilty and was given a sentence of \$100 and one year, but both were suspended pending his good behavior.

R. C. Cross and Laura Huggins, white, convicted on a charge of living in adultery, were sentenced to serve one year, but the sentences on each were suspended, providing the woman would go back to her people, and the man would go back to his wife and support her and her children.

Joe Blanding and Willie Magbee, two young negroes, plead guilty to having liquor in their possession, claiming that they found it wrapped up on the old river road, while out looking for a cow. Judge Henry gave them each a sentence of one year and a fine of \$100, but suspended their sentence with a warning not to have anything further to do with liquor.

Anna Bracey Jones, a negress, was convicted on a charge of having stolen a dress and other articles from a home in which she was employed. She was given a sentence of thirty days in jail.

A sealed sentence was left for A. E. Woodham, a Lee County man, charged with violating the prohibition law.

In the case of the state against Sam Cody, Joe Karol, William Gap, A. B. Rush and Mike Thompson, charged with burglary, all were given sentences from three to six years, except in the case of Mike Thompson, who was given a sentence of one year. Judge Henry made this distinction because of the fact that Thompson stated that he was born in Prussia, and that he wanted to treat foreigners fair. The five men broke into the Blaney Mercantile company store at Alma, Ga., and were later captured at Columbia, with part of the stolen goods in their possession. The men all plead not guilty and stated that they did not even come through this county. Said that they passed through Chester and when asked to describe Chester they stated that it was a level, sandy place. Judge Henry told them that Chester was so hilly that horses have been known to fall down both going up and down hill. He gave the young men who were all of foreign extract a sound lecture. He cited the fact that young white men were crowding the negroes out of their places in prison. He said that up to a few years ago it was a rare thing to see a young white man up on a charge of stealing, but of

late years these cases were numerous, and told of a white man being convicted before him recently on a charge of having stolen chickens from a negro.

Presentment of Grand Jury

To his Honor Judge J. K. Henry, the presiding judge at the February term of court for Kershaw County:

We beg leave to submit the following presentment: We have passed on all bills of indictment handed us by the solicitor.

We find the jail full but inmates seem to be well cared for. We recommend that the county directors have the jail painted, both inside and out, otherwise the jail is in good condition.

We find the court house and grounds in good condition.

In view of the recent audit of the county officers by the county delegation, we defer making a report at this time.

The roads of the county are in fair condition, considering wet weather, etc. We would suggest that some work be done on the Porter road.

The Sawney's Creek bridge has been reported to the grand jury as being in a dangerous condition and we recommend that it be attended to and put in good shape. We also recommend that the crossing of the Southern Railway over the Charlestop road be plankd.

We have appointed committees to look after the various departments of the county government, and we will make a more detailed report at a later term.

We note that the former recommendation of the grand jury has to a large degree been disregarded, and we ask that more attention be paid hereafter to said recommendations.

We wish to thank the presiding judge, the solicitor, and all the court officials for courtesies shown us at this term. All of which we respectfully submit, R. S. Williams, Foreman.

Mr. Truesdale Dead

Mr. Henry Truesdale, one of Camden's oldest and most highly respected citizens, died at his home on Broad street Wednesday night after a lingering illness extending over a long period. For a long time he had been confined to his bed.

Mr. Truesdale was 80 years of age and was one of the few surviving gallant old Confederate veterans. He saw service in the War Between the States as a member of Company K, 7th South Carolina Cavalry.

Mr. Truesdale resided on a farm in West Wateree before moving to Camden where he engaged in the mercantile business in the old building where the Loan & Savings Bank building now stands. He had retired from active business for many years. He is survived by his wife and the following children: Mr. W. R. Clyburn, Mrs. J. K. Lang and Mrs. N. C. Arnett.

His funeral occurred Thursday afternoon at four o'clock from his home, services being conducted by Rev. J. T. Peeler, of the Methodist church and the following gentlemen served as pallbearers: G. F. Cooley, W. F. Nettles, L. C. Shaw, J. B. Zemp, T. Thorne Truesdale and E. P. Truesdale. The burial was in the Camden cemetery.

Admiral McGowan To Be Here

We understand that Rear Admiral Sam McGowan, chief highway road commissioner of South Carolina, and Mr. Charles Moorefield, chief engineer, have accepted an invitation from the local chamber of commerce to be their guests at an informal banquet at the Kirkwood hotel for next Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.

Mr. John T. Stevens of Kershaw will be present, as also will many of our leading business men.

Mr. McGowan has agreed to make a talk on "Good Roads" and it is hoped that a thorough discussion of this subject will result in much good to our county.

Nearly every city in South Carolina has had as their guest Mr. McGowan and The Chronicle congratulates the chamber of commerce in giving our business people the opportunity to meet Mr. McGowan and Mr. Moorefield.

Concert To Be Given

Antioch is planning a concert for Friday night, February 12th, at 7:45 o'clock that promises to be a rare treat for all of their friends. The Darlington school orchestra which is composed of more than 40 members will put on the program. This orchestra has played in many of the larger towns of the state and for two consecutive years has been one of the most popular features of the State Teachers' association. A large crowd is expected to hear these young people, but as Antioch school house is one of the recently completed buildings of the county a large and well heated auditorium can very comfortably take care of the crowd. Admission prices fifteen and thirty-five cents.

SEASON AT ITS APEX

Hotel Registers Show Large Number of Tourists Arriving Each Day.

With the winter season approaching its apex and more visitors here than in many years, there is an air of bustle and activity on every hand.

The Kirkwood, which has had many accessions during the past week with a large number of distinguished arrivals is the center of much social life. Parties and dancing in the popular grill are nightly interests, while there are always many dinners and luncheons in the main dining room of the hotel.

One of the large affairs of the past week was a dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Halliday in the Kirkwood Grill on the eve of their departure. Mr. Halliday has large shooting preserves consisting of thousands of acres well stocked with game in the Spring Hill section, and during his visit at the Kirkwood has been on them with parties of friends daily. Mr. and Mrs. Halliday intend to return here later.

A series of tea dances will be inaugurated very shortly by Mr. Thompson, the popular manager of the Kirkwood. They will be bi-weekly affairs and will be held in the Club House fronting the hotel.

Mr. Frank Gulden, of Hempstead, L. I., has joined the polo colony, making his headquarters at the Kirkwood, and at Hobkirk Inn Mr. Arthur Vignoles, also here for polo is staying and Mr. Carl Foster is also here for the matches, which are now being held regularly three times a week.

A very large gallery witnessed the game Saturday afternoon, indeed the grandstand on the Kirkwood field is always an indication of the number of winter visitors, for one and all, when in Camden desire to witness the fine polo matches for which the resort is known far and near.

Dr. and Mrs. Charles L. Minor, of Asheville, N. C., who have been at Hobkirk Inn for the past week have gone for a visit with their daughter, Mrs. Ball, in Columbia.

Mr. Lawrence Norton is in his charming home for a brief period, preparing it for the reception of a number of guests whom he intends to bring with him on his return visit next month.

Many interesting revolutionary relics are being assembled by the committee of the Hobkirk Hill chapter D. A. R. which will be placed in the old court house, and it is planned to have a tea and exhibition of them during the season.

Arriving at the Court Inn are: Mrs. C. K. Pritchett, N. Y.; Mrs. William H. Walker, Mrs. O. W. Dana, of Englewood; Miss L. S. Henry, and Mr. Ralph Murray, Dr. J. D. Bolton, Miss M. S. Oliver, of East Orange; Philadelphia; Mr. W. H. Voss, Miss Voss, New York; Mr. and Mrs. Charles V. Jenkins, Philadelphia; Mr. H. G. Holbrook, Walpole, Mass.; Mrs. Charles Williams, Mrs. Henry Dillard, Philadelphia; Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Tappen, New York; Judge and Mrs. J. B. Treacy, Jersey City; Mr. and Mrs. John Lincoln, Mr. E. H. Ford, New York.

At the Kirkwood recent guests are: Mr. and Mrs. Louis Tiff, Springfield; Mr. and Mrs. Rodney W. Brown, Reading, Mass.; Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Yerkes; Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Phillips, New York; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Blyne, Morristown; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Debevoise, Summit; Mr. Henry W. Everts, Detroit; Mr. R. C. Powell, Philadelphia; Mrs. Frederick Bill, Groton, Conn.; Mrs. John T. Plamer, Philadelphia; Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Hurst, Mr. and Mrs. Carter Brown, Summit; Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Crow, Mr. and Mrs. Rex Paris, New York.

Mr. John S. Sweeney, who is passing the winter at Hobkirk Inn gave a dinner at the Betty Thomas Coffee Shop a few evenings ago for Colonel Charles Clifton, Mr. Guy E. Johnson, Mr. F. M. Rhodes, Mr. Louis Sledge, Mr. C. P. Bassett, Dr. John W. Corbett, Mr. Thomas J. Anketell, Mr. A. D. Holmes, Mr. W. L. DePass, Mr. Miron Neal, Mr. W. N. Hoobs, Mr. Ralph N. Shannon, Mr. L. A. Kirkland, Mr. Arthur E. O. Connors, Mr. George L. Bahe, and Colonel F. G. Hoyne.

Hobkirk Inn arrivals include: Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Nilsen and Miss C. L. Covell, of New York; Mrs. Samuel Ayers, Cohasset, L. I.; Mrs. John Reid, Jr., and Miss Ellen Reid, of New Rochelle; Mrs. C. H. Seabrook, of Cleveland, and many others.

Many teas have been given at the Sarsfield club, the Studio Tea Room, the Betty Thomas Coffee Shop and the ever popular Holly Tree tea room. Mrs. W. W. Gibson, who is passing the winter at the Court Inn entertained at Sarsfield on Monday afternoon with a card party and tea for ten guests.

Dinners and luncheons at the various homes of cottage residents have also been events of the week's social life. Among them may be noted a dinner at her home by Mrs. Charles M. Taintor, another by Mrs. Leonard Graham, and a luncheon by Mrs. W. N. Kerr for her house guests; Mrs. H. Page Warder and Mrs. C. L. Doyle.

Mrs. Wendell N. Hobbs, of Hobkirk Inn, has gone to Palm Beach for a week's visit as have also Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Morgan of the cottage colony.

Dr. William S. Rainesford's interesting lecture attracted a large audience on Friday afternoon to the

BETHUNE HONOR ROLL

Many Were Proficient in Studies During the Past Month

Bethune, S. C., Feb. 6.—One hundred and twenty-two pupils in the Bethune school system met the requirements for the distinguished and proficient lists during the third six-weeks period, according to an announcement by Superintendent J. C. Foster. Fifty-three of these were high school pupils. Forty-nine were from the Bethune grammar school, 12 from the Shamrock grammar school and 8 from the Timrod grammar school.

Pupils meeting requirements for the distinguished list follow:

Eleventh grade: Ruth Kirkley, Vesta Copeland, Lula Lee Williams, Thelma Smith, Heyward Blackmon, Elva Stogner, Clara Jordan, Thelma Huckabee.

Tenth grade: W. E. Arnold, Ralph Arnold, Sara Lee Heustiss, Blanche Gardner, Lavin Severance, Gordon Watts, Neil Truesdell, Thomas Smith.

Ninth grade: Kathryn Truesdell, Willine Estridge, Kitty Best, Rosa Lee Fields, Olga Brannon.

Eighth grade: Emily Blackmon, Allene King, Essie Melton, Margaret Squires.

Seventh grade: Margie Parrott, James L. King, Jr.

Sixth grade: Margaret Truesdell, Philip Brannon, Mary Brannon.

Fifth grade: Francis Hallford, Ruth Jones.

Third grade: Mary Ellen McLaurin.

Second grade: Clarence Heustiss, Marvin Hedgepath.

First grade: Sarah Parrott.

Pupils meeting requirements for the proficient list follow:

Eleventh grade: Annie Huckabee, Evelyn Blackmon, Emily Barnes, Lillian Robinson, Fred Josey, Bonnie Rea Outlaw, Kirkland Watts.

Tenth grade: Alvin Clyburn, Gladys Baker, Clyde Horton, Luella Hilton, Lee Morgan, Thelma Hyatt, Ernest McGlothlin, Claudine Gardner.

Ninth grade: Dorothy Parrott, Lucile Gardner, John Neal McLaurin, Clara Hough, Sarah Hammond, John Edwin King, Cecil Estridge, Fred Brannon, John Cate.

Eighth grade: J. B. Ellis, Melita Hinson, Lonnie McGlothlin.

Seventh grade: Lola Grace Catoe, Frank Hammond, Margaret Heaton, Clifton Severance, Edna Stokes.

Sixth grade: Mittle Davis, Paschal McLaurin, Minnie Eddins McKinnon, Mildred Ellis, Edith Tolbert, Willie B. Horton, Elizabeth Baker, Elizabeth Riley, Lewis Blackmon.

Fifth grade: Ruby Lee Horton, Mary B. Radcliffe, Eloise Estridge, Edith Clyburn, Effie Mae Parrott.

Fourth grade: Thelma Davis, Elsie Mae Hammond, Lottie Outlaw, Ida Outlaw.

Third grade: Sarah Ruth McKinnon, Doris Shaw, Myrtle King, Francis Gardner, Lawson Brannon, Ruth Riley, Iva Blackmon, Elmore Elliott.

Second grade: Josh King, Johnnie Brown, Oneida Outlaw, Dorothy Elliott, Evelyn Elliott, Nannie Ruth Hilton, Bozie Davis, Wilson Outlaw, Ernest Mangum, Berkeley Sowell, Queen Alice Horton, T. F. Mangum, Fricke Baker.

First grade: Marguerite Jones, James Bolton, T. R. Copeland, Jr., Barr Gardner, Jr., Carrol King, Richard McLaurin, Rabon Polson, J. K. Polk, Otis Elliott, Rosalie Hinson, Wilson Hunter, Pete Mangum, Nannie Mae Mangum, Dempsey Stogner.

Named Honorary Directors

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the Camden and Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce Mr. Henry G. Carrison, Sr., of Camden and Mr. John T. Stevens, of Kershaw, were unanimously elected as honorary members of the board of directors of this civic organization. Both are among the county's most foremost citizens and their counsel and advice on matters pertaining to the city and county's welfare will be invaluable.

Woman's Exchange, and those who had the pleasure of hearing him were so urgent in requests that he again speak that he has consented to talk on March 5th on his Hunting Experiences in Africa. Friday, February at three o'clock Judge Robert W. Winston will speak on Abraham, Lincoln.

A large number have qualified in the Men's Annual Gold Tournament now being played over the Kirkwood course. Mr. Newton C. Boykin made the low score in the qualifying round played on Tuesday with 88.

Playing in a match with Columbia professionals a few days ago the course record was smashed by Mr. Tom Harmon with 66. The previous record was 70.

REV. FORBIS TO ANDREWS

Beloved Presbyterian Minister Has Resigned Pastorate at Bethune

Bethune, S. C., Feb. 10.—Little Edwin, the sixteen months old child of Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Braswell of this place, died Friday morning at the home of his grandmother in Morvin, N. C. Mrs. Braswell left Tuesday afternoon with the baby, seemingly in perfect health, to visit her mother. After reaching Morvin the baby became ill, but not alarmingly so. Dr. Braswell was notified and left Thursday afternoon with the intention of bringing the child back with him. He decided later to leave the child and return to his work here. On arriving the telegram awaited him bearing the news of his little son's death. Rev. W. V. Jarman, pastor of the parents, left Saturday morning to conduct the funeral exercises at Morvin. He was accompanied by Messrs. J. A. McCaskill, L. M. Beat and J. M. Clyburn. Great sympathy is felt for Dr. and Mrs. Braswell in the death of their only child.

A feeling of sadness swept over the congregation Sunday morning at the Presbyterian church when the pastor, Rev. J. M. Forbis, announced that a congregational meeting would be held in two weeks to dissolve the relationship existing between him and the church here. Mr. Forbis has accepted a call to the Presbyterian church at Andrews.

Fourteen years ago when Mr. Forbis took charge of the church here it was included in a mission group with Turkey Creek and Pine Tree churches. Now the old church has been replaced by a handsome brick structure with eight Sunday school rooms and a ladies' parlor. It has grown into a self-supporting church with an average membership, live Sunday school, two Christian Endeavor societies, active woman's auxiliary with two circles and a mid-week union prayer service. A library has just been added to the Sunday school. Not only the members of Mr. Forbis' church regret his leaving but those of the other churches here as well. Also the whole town and the entire community unanimously regret giving up so valuable residents as Mr. and Mrs. Forbis.

Miss Kathryn and Margaret Truesdell entertained the members of the Junior Christian Endeavor Society Saturday afternoon with a book shower. Each young guest brought a book and twenty-one volumes were donated for the Sunday school library. Interesting book contests, in which valentines were awarded as prizes, were enjoyed by the guests and light refreshment were served. Those assisting in making the afternoon pleasant were Mrs. J. M. Forbis, Mrs. T. R. Bethune and Mrs. R. E. McCaskill.

The proceeds of the minstrel given in the school auditorium Friday evening amounted to twenty-seven dollars. This minstrel was put on by the high school boys in the interest of the athletic association.

The bungalow in erection by Mr. W. E. Davig on upper Main street is nearing completion.

Mr. G. B. King is having a cottage built for rent near his residence.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles McKinnon were guests of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. McKinnon in Lancaster Thursday.

Miss Katharine Ward of Coker is at home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. O. Ward, recovering from an attack of throat trouble.

Mrs. Kate McNaull of Columbia accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Anderson were visitors here Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Yarbrough spent Sunday at Belmont, N. G., as the guests of Mrs. Yarbrough's brother, Mr. A. T. Bethune. They were accompanied home by their daughter and little granddaughter, Mrs. Margaret Marion and Robbe Newton Marion, who have been in Belmont for several weeks.

Mrs. W. H. Heaton returned from the Columbia hospital Friday where she underwent an operation some time ago. She was accompanied home by her granddaughter, Miss Malloy Heaton.

Mrs. Dan McDonald and children, Miss John T. and Mr. Erskine McDonald of Kershaw were visitors here Sunday.

Dr. E. Z. Truesdell made a professional visit to the Columbia hospital Monday.

Mrs. Kirkley of Cheraw was the guest of her daughter, Miss Ruth Kirkley Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell of Darlington were visitors at the home of their daughter, Mrs. L. O. Johnson Sunday.

Mr. John McDonald and family Miss Christine McCaskill and Mrs. L. M. Yarbrough and children of Hartsville were visitors here Sunday.

Rest Room For Colored Women

At the last meeting of the City Council the city authorized the equipment of a rest room for the colored women of Camden. The room that has been fitted up is upstairs over the undertaking parlors of Champion and Haile, a few doors below the Chero-Cola bottling plant. The city has furnished all necessary sanitary equipment and the colored citizens will furnish the room.

Kershaw School To Stage Play

Don't miss "Rosetime" at the Kershaw school auditorium on Friday evening, February 12, at 8:15 o'clock. It is said to be the best yet.