

# THE CAMDEN CHRONICLE

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## Firemen Of State Meet At Camden

The Thirty-First Annual Fireman's Convention will be held in Camden on June 10 and 11. W. F. Nettles, Sr., is general chairman and has been busy the past few weeks perfecting plans. Several dinners were given—one dinner, out of town officials of the convention attended, and another, members of the City Council and representatives of various civic clubs attended, and plans were mapped for the two days festivities.

The officials of the Association are: A. McC. Marsh, president, Columbia; H. Leland Law, 1st vice president, Hartsville; F. E. Donald, 2nd vice president, Greenville; K. C. Billings, 3rd vice president, Lancaster; J. H. Wohlers, secretary and treasurer, Charleston; G. H. Fischer, statistician, Orangeburg; J. B. Murphy, attorney, Columbia; Rev. W. P. Peyton, chaplain, Rock Hill.

The convention opens Wednesday morning, June 10th, with registration of members and guests at City Court Room, Rutledge street.

At 10 a. m. the convention will be called to order by President A. McC. Marsh at the Haiglar Theatre. Invocation will be by Rev. J. B. Casten. "America" will be sung by the Columbia Fire Department quartette. J. H. Osborne, mayor of Camden will then welcome the visitors. H. Leland Law, of Hartsville, will next speak. The visitors will then be welcomed in the behalf of the Camden Fire Department by Frank Mayer. This will be followed by an address in behalf of the South Carolina Fireman's Association by K. C. Billings, of Lancaster.

Dr. S. F. Brasington, senator from Kershaw county, will then introduce the principal speaker, Hon. Burnet R. Maybank, of Charleston.

Following this address, there will be an address by Hon. Sam B. King, Insurance Commissioner of South Carolina, and another address by R. M. Kennedy, Jr., former president of South Carolina Insurance Agents Association.

J. B. Murphy, attorney for South Carolina State Fireman's Association, will respond to Mr. Kennedy's address. This will be one of the features of the convention, for the repartee between these two men will have plenty of Irish wit and snappy remarks will fill the atmosphere. This battle of wits will be followed by an address on "First Aid," by W. R. McCallum of South Carolina Industrial Commission.

Memorial services will be held for the following deceased members during the convention:

John W. Burton, St. Phillips and St. Micheal's Parish, January 15, 1935; Arthur H. DeLoache, Sumter, who died July 24, 1935; T. O. S. Dibble, Orangeburg, who died November 1, 1935.

Between 2 p. m. and 5 p. m. the hand reel races will be run on Mill street, just beyond the Court Inn. The first prize will be \$50.00 for the long run and \$25.00 for the short run.

The queen of the convention will be selected at 6 p. m., by the following committee: Mrs. Jack Nettles, Hughey Tindal and Ethel Schlossberg.

At 9 p. m. that night the coronation of the queen will take place. Part of the crowd will attend a special picture show at King Haiglar Theatre at 9:15 p. m., and the balance of the crowd will attend a dance at the Armory nearby.

A buffet luncheon will be held between 7 p. m. and 8:30 p. m.

On Thursday, June 11th, the first event of the day will be the hose wagon races, at 9 a. m. At 2:30 there will be a business session at the Masonic Temple, and an address by F. Alfred Fleming.

At 2:30 p. m. there will be a ladies entertainment, with Dr. A. W. Humphries, president of the Exchange Club, as chairman.

The city forces are now getting the unpaved part of Mill street in shape for the hand reel races and the hose wagon races.

Camden will be decorated along the business streets for the convention and all of the business men are going to give a helping hand to make the convention a success in every way. The following committees will assist with arrangements:

Starting Judges—C. H. Yates, Jr., Boykin Rhame, Claud Jackson.

Time Keepers—Clarkson Rhame, F. N. McCorkle, Dess Goodale.

Rules Committee—Chief G. H. Fischer, Chief F. W. Drake, Chief W. F. Nettles, John Laney, C. C. Whit-

## Golfers Using Kirkwood Links

The local golfers are using the famous eighteen hole golf course behind the Kirkwood Hotel this summer. That is a very old golf course and a number of years ago it was entirely rebuilt at considerable expense under the direction of Walter Travis, the first American to win the British Open Championship. He was assisted in this work by "Jock" Melville, who had just arrived in America from Scotland to practise his profession of a golf architect.

Under the present arrangements with Karl Abbott, the owner of the Kirkwood Hotel, local golfers and members of the cottage colony are able to join the golf club at special rates. The club will be kept open all the year, instead of just during the winter months.

The first tournament was held recently and Ralph N. Shannon won first prize. Some of the local golfers who are playing often are: Mortimer Muller, Will Goodale, John Villepique, R. B. Pitts, N. C. Boykin, Frank Wooten, Jr., Ralph N. Shannon and Rev. Maurice Clarke.

## Coca Cola Company To Improve Property

The Carolina Coca Cola Bottling Company, which operates a warehouse here, announces plans for an attractive new warehouse building. The new building will be located on the present site, where the company has purchased all the adjoining buildings in order to tear them down and beautify the premises. Planning to erect the new structure considerably back from the street, the architects have outlined a design of landscaping and other attractive features destined to improve the appearance of a considerable portion of lower Broad street.

## Ancrum Will Study At Heidelberg

Calhoun Ancrum, Jr., son of Colonel Calhoun Ancrum of the United States Marine Corps, and an old Camden citizen, will graduate at Duke University in June. He was awarded a fellowship at Heidelberg University, Germany, and will leave after his graduation to travel in England and France and will later attend the Olympic events at Berlin. After that he will visit Vienna and then go to Munich University on an exchange fellowship. In the fall he will enter Heidelberg for two years work. He won a fellowship at Heidelberg last summer and studied there for three months. He is specializing in languages. Due to the fact that his father is in the Marine service he has traveled extensively since an infant, having lived in the Philippines, China, Hawaii, Hayti, San Domingo, Panama and other countries, and for that reason specialized in languages at Duke University.

## Miss Savage Will Go To Europe

Friends of Miss Adele Savage, who has been a student of art at the Boston Museum of Art, at Boston, for the past several years, are delighted to know of the success she has met with there. She will graduate in June and was recently awarded a scholarship to one of the leading art schools of Europe over the other students of the college. She will leave later on in the summer for abroad to continue her art studies. While a student there several years ago she made the sketches for the book "Dark Surrender," and received favorable comment on her work.

aker, Sr., M. L. Smith.

Housing Committee—Thomas Ancrum, Brevard Boykin, Otis Arrants.

Decoration Committee—J. H. McLeod, A. S. Karesh, Brevard Boykin.

Refreshment Committee—G. A. Creed, J. W. Wilson, J. C. Hoffman.

Inspectors—James D. Zemp, Alexander Alfred, Edward Sheheen.

Hydrant Judges—L. P. Tobin, D. J. Creed, Ed Williams.

Ladies Entertainment Committee—Dr. A. W. Humphries, Donald Morrison, L. L. Wallnau, Arthur Clark, Harry Porter, Dewey Creed.

Dance Committee—Joe McKain, W. R. Denton, T. D. Massebeau.

Show Committee—T. Lee Little, J. E. Ross, Miles Montgomery.

Boy Scout Committee—W. F. Nettles, Jr., W. A. Rhame, Jack Villepique.

## Confirmation Day At Temple Beth El

In exercises held at Temple Beth El on Sunday, May 24, five young people were confirmed by Rabbi Samuel R. Shillman as the concluding feature of their Sunday school work, the confirmants being Frances Deborah Baruch, Phyllis Karesh, Rose Louise Rich, David Wolfe and Norman Everett Baum.

Assisting in the exercises were: Mrs. F. N. McCorkle, Mrs. Samuel Wittenberg, Clifton McKain and F. N. McCorkle, rendering vocal or instrumental solos.

Following the processional, David Wolfe Wallnau, one of the confirmants, offered the invocation following which Norman Everett Baum led the class in the floral offering. The significance of the day was very clearly defined by Rose Louise Rich, after which Phyllis Karesh led the class in the confirmation vow, following a recitation of the Ten Commandments by the class and an address to the parents by Frances Deborah Baruch.

Certificates of Confirmation were presented the five confirmants by L. A. Wittkowsky, president of Congregation Beth El. The Temple was very prettily decorated for the occasion with flowers, ferns and candles.

After the exercises at the temple the Confirmation class and their parents extended an open house reception to their friends at the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Kirschner, a great number of out of town visitors being present as well as many friends from Camden.

Rev. Caston Spoke at Walterboro

Rev. J. B. Caston, pastor of the First Baptist church of Camden, delivered an address at the county-wide seventh grade commencement at Walterboro. There were about two thousand people out to hear this address. The Rev. Caston spoke in the place of W. A. Sutton, superintendent of the schools of Atlanta, Ga.

## Two Ships Set Harbor Records

Charleston, May 29.—The biggest ship and the largest private yacht ever to enter Charleston harbor were both in port this morning.

The Hamburg-American liner Reliance arrived at 7:30 a. m. to take on 166 passengers for a West Indian cruise. The yacht Sea Cloud, four masted bark owned by Mrs. Marjorie Post Hutton Davies, returned after a 12-day West Indian cruise, to leave a party of guests here.

Despite the great length of the liner, she was docked at Union piers 1 and 2 with ease by two tugs, dwarfing the Bull Line Frances, which was loading potatoes at the same dock. Since the ship is 622 feet long, the bow and stern projected beyond both ends of the 417-foot dock. Her tonnage is 20,000 gross and her draft 26 feet 7 inches.

The 56 passengers who came from New York were not permitted to land because custom regulation forbid intra-coastal business by foreign lines.

Charleston harbor presented the busiest scene in many months, in honor, it would appear of the arrival of the biggest vessel ever to visit a South Carolina port. Six other ships arrived during the hour in which the Reliance arrived, and five vessels besides her sailed during the day.

The Camden party aboard the Reliance, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Alexander, Mrs. D. F. McLaughlin, H. D. Niles and H. D. Niles, Junior, of Camden, and Miss Cecelia King, of Bethune, returned Thursday afternoon after a delightful trip to Havana and Nassau. The boat docked at early dawn but the passengers were held up for several hours by custom inspectors.

## Oliver C Met With A Mishap

Word has just reached us that Oliver C. one of the best steeple chasers in this country met with a mishap schooling at Belmont Park, Long Island, last Thursday. It was found necessary to destroy him. This was a big loss for his owner, Mrs. Marion duPont Somerville and his trainer, Mr. Noel Laing. He was second to Indigo this year in the Carolina Cup races and won the Virginia National for the second time.

May Take Two Days For Races Unless all signs fall it will require two days racing to take care of the horses here next March.

## Senate In Resolution Thanks Mr. Kirkover

A resolution by Senators Hughes, Jefferies and Seanson, thanking Mr. Kirkover, owner and manager of the Camden Race Course, for courtesies extended, was adopted by the Senate last week. Senator Brasington, on behalf of Mr. Kirkover and the people of Camden, thanked the Senate for their expression of appreciation.

Following is the resolution: "Whereas, The members of the Senate have been privileged through the courtesy of owner and manager Kirkover of the Camden Race Course to witness the annual horse show at Camden and to participate in its attendant gaieties; and

"Whereas, the delightful hours of our visit spent in an atmosphere of inherent charm and ideal sportsmanship will be cherished by us always among the fragrant souvenirs of memory;

"Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the Senate that the members of this body do hereby extend to Mr. Kirkover, and the City of Camden, her patriotic civic organizations and her courteous people, this expression of our sincere appreciation of the invitation that has added so much to our enjoyment, with the assurance that "whenever we rove whatever realms to see" our hearts will often fondly turn to Camden, picturesque and historic, with its culture unsurpassed, its hospitality unlimited, its splendid present and its glorious past unblemished, and its future unafraid.

"Resolved, further, That this Resolution be printed in the Journal and copies thereof forwarded to Mr. Kirkover at Camden, S. C."

Senator Lightsey Dies in Columbia

Funeral services were held at Brunson Tuesday for state senator William Henry Lightsey of Hampton county, who died Monday in a Columbia hospital after an illness of several weeks.

The Hampton senator, a man of quiet manner, was popular with members of both branches of the general assembly, and was generally regarded as a man of convictions and excellent judgment. He was generous and kindly and was held in high esteem by his acquaintances.

## New Oil Company Enters Local Field

A wholesale and retail station for handling American Oil Company products has been erected on DeKalb street, near the Southern Railway. This company features Amoco gasoline. Two storage tanks have been erected next to the tracks in the rear of the new warehouse and filling station. This is the first time that the products of this concern have been offered on the Camden market.

Mr. U. N. Myers has completed a very attractive station on the corner of DeKalb and Fair streets, which handles Gulf Refining Company products.

John T. Nettles is erecting two stations, one on DeKalb street, next to the residence of Mrs. W. J. Dunn and another on the corner of Rutledge and Market streets. Mr. Nettles says that the DeKalb street station will be very handsome. Both stations will handle Texaco products.

Another station is being erected on the old Wittkowsky lot on Broad street, opposite the Baptist church, which will handle Gulf products.

Henry Beard recently completed a station on lower Broad street that is handling Standard Oil Company products.

## Erecting Cabin At Hermitage Lake

Henry Beard is erecting a very nice two story log cabin on one of the most attractive points of the large Hermitage Lake. The house will have about six rooms and a view of the lake can be had from any part of the house. His family will occupy this house during the summer months.

Others are going to erect summer shacks on the shore of this lake, which is quite an asset to the community. The fishing has been very good there and later on the lake will have plenty of boats and other pleasure craft for those who like water sports.

Building in DuBose Park

Considerable building is taking place in the DuBose Park section and the settlement just beyond there. A nice house, built of rock, has been completed in DuBose park by H. O. Burns, and garages and other buildings facing Highway No. 1 are being constructed. The Massebeau store at "Dusty Bend" is being rebuilt of stone and rock. It was destroyed by fire sometime ago.

## Camden Man Dies At Conway

The people of Camden were saddened to learn of the death of J. Arch Sterne in Conway. His health had been bad the last few weeks and he took a cottage at Myrtle Beach for a vacation. He became very ill and was being rushed in an ambulance to a Columbia hospital when it was decided to stop at a Conway hospital for treatment. Mr. Sterne had been proprietor of the Hotel Camden for the last six years, coming here from West Virginia, and was very popular with the traveling public and citizens of Camden. He was a member of the Methodist church and also the Shrine club. He was born at Petersburg, Va., December 29, 1881 and spent most of his life in Virginia and West Virginia.

He is survived by his widow, who was Bessie Witten of West Virginia, and by two daughters, Mrs. S. F. Evans of Camden, and Mrs. Jack Nettles, Jr., of Rock Hill, and one grandson, William Sterne Evans and his father, M. W. Sterne of Greensboro, N. C. A brother, George Sterne of Savannah, Va., three sisters, Mrs. J. Henry Boyles of Greensboro, N. C., Mrs. Herbert Bates, Elkton, Md., and Mrs. Wallace Coleman, Crewe, Va.

The funeral service was held at 9:30 Sunday morning at the Kershaw funeral home on DeKalb street, conducted by Rev. J. Barnwell Caston of the Baptist church, Rev. A. Douglas McArn of the Presbyterian church, and Rev. Inabinet of the Lytleton Street Methodist church.

The members of the Rotary club and the Exchange club were honorary pallbearers.

The body was taken to Bluefield, West Virginia for burial.

## Injuries Fatal To Little Girl

Elizabeth Truesdale, ten-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Truesdale and pupil of the Antioch school, near Camden, died Friday at the Camden hospital from the results of a bad injury sustained by being struck by an automobile Wednesday afternoon, the car being driven by Elisha Hall of the Lucknow section. She suffered a fracture of the skull and two ribs. The accident occurred Wednesday afternoon when the child is said to have stepped from behind an oil truck into the path of the Hall automobile.

Mr. Hall picked the child up and brought her to the Camden hospital. After the arrival of her parents he reported the accident to Sheriff J. H. McLeod.

Funeral services for the little girl were held at the Antioch Baptist church Saturday at 11 a. m., conducted by the Rev. B. S. Broom. The interment was in the churchyard.

An inquest was held by Coroner J. D. Rush Monday evening with Olyn Waters as foreman, G. C. Rush, R. B. Brannon, T. E. Corbett, V. H. Sinclair and G. R. Rogers serving. The verdict was that Elizabeth Truesdale came to her death from reckless driving of Elisha Hall, of the Lucknow section. Hall was released on \$1,000 bond Tuesday.

## Farm Women Go To Washington

A group of 140 farm women from twenty counties of the state left Columbia at 8 o'clock Monday morning for Washington, D. C., where they will attend the Triennial Conference of Country Women of the World. The conference is being held in Washington May 31 through June 6. The caravan will leave from the Hotel Columbia.

Greenwood county, with a delegation of 26, has the largest representation from this district. Richland county is sending ten representatives.

Miss Bessie Harper is in charge of the group, which will travel by chartered buses. Six buses will be required to accommodate the party.

6,500 delegates are expected at the Washington meeting. South Carolina will be represented by 300. Kershaw county will be well represented.

Play To Be Given At Baron DeKalb

A play composed of eleven attractive characters will be given at Baron DeKalb school house, Friday night, June 5th, at 8 o'clock. The play is being sponsored by Hanging Rock and Damascus Methodist churches for miscellaneous expenses. Everybody is invited.

## Historic Fires Of Camden

The South Carolina State Fireman's Convention will hold its annual meeting in Camden on June 10 and 11. Since the early days of Camden there have been many disastrous fires, the most pathetic being near Camden when the Cleveland school burned in 1923 and eighty-two persons lost their lives. It was the last time the school was to be used and the auditorium was crowded to witness the commencement play, when a lamp fell and there was a stampede. Fifty-four persons were buried the next day in one grave at Beulah churchyard nearby, and many families were almost wiped out in that fine community. Many editions of papers all over the country were delayed to get a full account of one of the worst school fires to visit any school in America. Besides the Cleveland school fire, Camden suffered from the torch of Rawdon in the Revolution and again by Potter of Sherman's army in the Civil War, when the handsome "Cornwallis House" went up in smoke. This house was owned by the Kershaw family and was occupied by Lord Cornwallis when he commanded the British troops in Camden during the Revolution. Other fires occurred during the early history of the town at most wiping out many blocks of houses or business buildings.

Today the Camden Fire Department has a very high rating and for quite a number of years there has been no serious fire. There is a modern equipped fire department with well trained men to handle same. Camden has a volunteer fire department under the leadership of W. F. Nettles, Sr.

The following articles about fires that have visited Camden were taken from "Historic Camden."

"Fires have been a potent factor in causing the steady progress of Camden northwards from its original location. Often and sorely it has been scathed, beginning with the torch applied by a certain renegade Westberry to the Court House and Gaol in 1779, soon followed by Rawdon's more thorough work on May 9, 1781. A local bard thus sang of that event, in Camden Journal of November 7, 1829:

"Grim War from Camden moved to-day, Long felt was there his iron sway, The town was fired when Rawdon fled, Lo, on its site the embers red."

Then came the fire of 1812, that destroyed the two principal squares of the town, that opposite the courthouse and the one south of it. The Market and Gaol were consumed, and an appropriation was made by legislature for relief of sufferers.

The conflagration of the night of November 23, 1829, was probably the greatest in our annals, and had been described for us by the graphic C. F. Daniels, then editor of the Camden Journal. The heart of the town, the two squares north of the Court House, between York and King, both sides of Broad, were laid to ashes. The fire started near the southwest corner of York and Broad, then occupied by Dr. William Blanding's Drug Store. A strong northwest breeze swept down to the Court House and Market, which were several times on fire. Eighty-five considerable buildings, some handsome, were lost, including Goodman's Hotel and Jackson's Hotel. The latter was a four story brick building the property of Col. William Nixon, costing \$20,000.00. It stood on the corner of King and Broad streets. The paper tells: "An incident connected with the burning of the Jackson Hotel was universally noted and talked about. The hotel sign was what purports to be a likeness of the General. It hung within a few feet of the walls of the house. While both buildings were one sheet of flame, 'Old Hickory' stood his ground unscathed, as he has always done amid the fiery bolts of his foes."

An eyewitness of that fire, an old citizen, said that so embittered was Col. Nixon against some citizens for taking sides against his son, Henry G. Nixon, who had recently fallen in a duel with Hopkins, that he declined their services in saving his house and cursed them off.

The work of the flames in 1865 was very severe including the Cornwallis house already mentioned. In 1874 the northern half of the west side of Broad street, between DeKalb and Rutledge streets, was burned, including the mansion, or Kershaw house, on the corner. The lower half of the same square was destroyed in 1892 and again in 1902. In 1875 the "Meroney Block" on Rut-

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