

The Bamberg Herald

BAMBERG, S. C., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1909.

One Dollar a Year

Established 1891

COUNTRY NEWS LETTERS

SOME INTERESTING HAPPENINGS IN VARIOUS SECTIONS.

News Items Gathered All Around the County and Elsewhere.

Olar News.

Olar, Aug. 31.—Miss Curtis Hughes visited Miss Kate Sadler Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Lucile Rizer returned from New York and other Northern points Sunday morning.

Mrs. H. W. Beard visited her sister, Mrs. Joe Kinsey, Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Ella Bessinger is spending some time with friends at Bamberg.

Miss Kate Sadler spent a few days of last week with friends at Neeces.

Mr. Elmer Mays returned to Savannah Sunday, after spending two weeks at Olar.

Mrs. Wilbur Sandifer and Miss Pauline Clayton left Sunday afternoon to visit friends and relatives at Jessup, Ga.

Dr. L. A. Hartzog, of Govan, was in town Sunday.

Mr. Hugh Kearse spent Sunday in town.

Mr. Grover Kearse, who has been working in Waycross, Ga., has returned home and gone to work at the saw mill of the Saltkeatchie Lumber company.

Olar and Ehrhardt played a series of baseball games here Wednesday and Tuesday. On Wednesday the scores were 5 to 11 in favor of Olar, on Thursday, 6 to 7 in favor of Olar. Much interest was manifested in both games.

Dr. Coleman happened to an accident Saturday while coming home from his place. His horse ran into a wagon and threw him from his buggy. Although seriously hurt, he is up.

Miss Sara Brabham spent Sunday at her home at Kearse's.

A number of the Olar boys went to Tybee Sunday.

Country News.

Mrs. C. L. Williams, of Hardeeville, is visiting her aunt, Mrs. L. E. Hanberry, near Denmark.

Mrs. T. C. Tant, who has been quite sick, is improving.

Misses Clara and Lucile Williams, two charming young girls of Hardeeville, are spending a while with their cousin, Miss Eva Hanberry.

Mr. Joe Williams, of Clio, Ga., arrived Sunday, where he is visiting at the home of Mrs. L. E. Hanberry.

Baseball Games.

Govan, Aug. 30.—The Clear Pond baseball team crossed bats with the Govan team on the Clear Pond diamond Thursday, the 26th. The score ran two to four in favor of Govan.

There were only five innings played. This was an anniversary defeat, the Govan boys having beaten them on their diamond last year the same day of the Confederate reunion at Bethesda church.

The Govan team defeated the Colston team about a month ago on the latter's diamond, but the Govan team was beaten by Colston Saturday afternoon. It was a very interesting game. The score ran two to four, nine innings.

H.

Country Correspondence.

We had a nice rain yesterday evening that makes everything look better, and the weather a great deal cooler.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Sandifer, of Augusta, visited his mother, Mrs. Julia Sandifer, of Bamberg, and brother, Mr. Simmie Sandifer, near Springtown, last Sunday and returned home Sunday night.

Mr. Steedley Hughes left Saturday to go to Spartanburg, where he will work at the carpenter's trade. Steedley, we wish you much success.

David B. Jordan is on the sick list this week.

Little Misses Virginia and Grace Hill, accompanied by their brother, Mr. Benjamin Hill, and Mrs. O. T. Jordan, visited their aunt, Mrs. Lena Hanberry, one day last week. Mrs. Hanberry has been quite sick, but we are glad to say she is able to be out again.

Mrs. Lelia Padgett and little daughter, Geneva, and her sister, Miss Lennie Sandifer, of near Spring Branch, visited their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hill, last Sunday.

Mr. David B. Hill visited friends and relatives (and his best girl, I think) near Clear Pond a few days ago.

Mr. Tommy Tant, from near Denmark, visited Mr. O. T. Jordan last Sunday.

Baseball at Olar.

Sporting Editor, Bamberg Herald, Bamberg, S. C.

Dear Sir:—In two very interesting games of ball the Olar team defeated Ehrhardt in both. The first 11 to 5, and the second 7 to 6. The second game was marred by a decision of Umpire Dannelly trying to put first baseman Ray, of Olar, out of the game, something unheard of in amateur ball games. We are sorry that it occurred, as Ehrhardt has a gentlemanly lot of ball players.

Yours respectfully,
J. R. McCORMACK,
Manager, Olar, S. C.

C. C. Johnson, a negro who runs a drug store in Aiken, was arrested by the police of that city last week on the charge of selling whiskey. He took pure alcohol and mixed it with water and some coloring matter and sold it for whiskey. The mayor fined him fifty dollars.

RURAL DELIVERY'S GROWTH.

750 Routes Now in Regular Operation in this State.

Washington, Aug. 29.—The following interesting data has just been made public by the postoffice department.

On March 1, 1899, the rural delivery mail system was first introduced into the State of South Carolina. On that day two routes were established out of Cope, one out of Orangeburg, and two out of St. George postoffice, the routes having an average length of 23.8 miles. During that fiscal year a total of forty routes, covering nine hundred and twenty-one miles of roads, were established, and during the next fiscal year this number was increased by ten routes. In 1901 the number of routes was more than doubled, there being 103 in operation on December 2. The increase in the number of routes established continued in about the same ratio until 1908, when there was a marked falling off, due to the fact that most of the territory available for rural delivery had been covered.

On August 2, of this year, South Carolina had in operation 750 rural routes, 12 of which were tri-weekly and the remainder daily, except Sundays and holidays. These routes cover about 17,542 miles of roads, with an average of 23.39 miles to the route, serving approximately three hundred thousand people, with an annual rate of cost of \$668,790 to maintain. Up to the present time the service has been recognized on a county basis in sixteen counties in the State, and others will follow as rapidly as practicable.

That the people of the State fully appreciate the advantages of this service is evidenced by the fact that since its introduction there has been a steady and large increase in the amount of mail matter delivered and collected, and in the number of subscriptions to periodicals and daily newspapers. The postoffice department has just received a letter from one of the leading publishers of the State saying that during the period, 1904 to 1909, the approximate percentage of increase in the number of subscriptions received to his newspaper, a daily, is at least four hundred per cent. If the same or even an approximate ratio of increase was enjoyed by other papers of the State, in their rural subscription lists, the showing made would be very significant, and the advantages to the service, the patrons and the publishers, considerable.

A Fish Fry.

Editor The Bamberg Herald:

As you have your local correspondents in different sections, I guess this item will be unexpected. It was my pleasure on the twenty-first day of August to attend a neighborhood picnic at Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Rentz's, given in honor of Misses Grace and Quintarro Hoffman of the Epworth orphanage, and Miss Laura Carter, of Baxley, Georgia.

At an early hour the neighborhood folks began to gather. About 12:30 o'clock the dinner was served under the shade of the oaks, in true picnic style. The crowd seemed quiet for a while, but the readers could guess that they were busy with fish and fatlings, cakes and pies. After the feast the good women, having learned the lesson our Savior taught, let nothing be wasted, and had in their baskets enough to feed as many more. Then came the quiet chat of the visiting friends, Mr. E. E. Hughes, of Mississippi, whose conversation interested young and old; Misses Calvitt and Smith, of Savannah; and Miss Bloom, from Orangeburg; Mr. and Mrs. Long, of Barnwell, and Mrs. Hutto from Midway.

A merry time, but the sad hour came when that crowd had to part, and all of them will never meet again under those oaks.

Smoaks, Aug. 26, 1909. G.

Prisoner Shoots Prisoner.

Rock Hill, Aug. 29.—Roland Steel, a negro with several aliases, who was sent to the chargin' from this place for larceny, was shot at the stockade, two miles south of this city, yesterday morning by Mart Williams, another convict, and his chances are pretty slim for getting well, so the attending physician states.

Steel had been on the sick list, and this morning was left "on the rod" under the care of Williams, who is the cook for the gang. In some way Steel got loose and made a dash for liberty, but Williams happened to see him and grabbed a shotgun loaded with buckshot and called on Steele to stop, which he refused to do, and Williams fired, the lead taking effect in the back of Steele's head and one side. Williams is a trusty, who has been on the gang for some time past, sent up from the Sharon section of this county for being implicated in the shooting of a negro preacher.

Pellagra Not Caused by Corn.

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 30.—A case of pellagra, the victim of which claimed that she had never eaten corn bread or any corn products was revealed today in the death of Mrs. Kate Barto.

Dr. Frank Eskridge, who claims to have treated many cases of the disease, says he doubted his own diagnosis and thought she might be a victim of "sprue," a disease known to the tropics, with symptoms resembling those of pellagra. He called in a physician who had had years of experience in the tropics and found that his original diagnosis was correct.

"I am convinced now," he says, "that the disease does not come from musty corn."

IN THE PALMETTO STATE

SOME OCCURRENCES OF VARIOUS KINDS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

State News Boiled Down for Quick Reading—Paragraphs About Men and Happenings.

Walterboro is to organize a, law and order league.

C. A. Best, Esq., has announced himself as a candidate for intendant of the town of Barnwell at the approaching election.

Dr. F. Williams, secretary of the state board of health, has called a meeting of the doctors of the state in Columbia during fair week to discuss pellagra.

The citizens of Blackville have organized a gun club with Dr. Ryan A. Giles as president. The club will prosecute all violators of the game and fish laws.

Mrs. M. A. Gwinn died at her home in Chester on Wednesday of pellagra. There are two other undoubted cases of the disease in that city and several suspected cases.

The State board of canvassers is to hear the Aiken county contest over the dispensary election tomorrow. In the meantime the dispensaries in Aiken county are closed.

Gus Prather, an employe of the Walthalla cotton mill, had his hand crushed in the carding machinery on Wednesday, and the arm had to be amputated near the elbow.

Mrs. J. L. Brooks, of Buffalo, Union county, died on Saturday of pellagra. She was about thirty-five years old and was the mother of six children, the youngest being about three years old.

Clemson college will open the 8th of September. More than twelve hundred students have been entered for the season, and many who have applied have been refused because of lack of room for them.

The bonding company has paid to the county of Hampton \$20,000 for the shortage of J. C. Langford, county treasurer, who was reported short last year and suspended from office by Governor Ansel. The reported shortage is \$24,171.22, and this leaves a balance still due the county by the bonding company of \$4,171.22.

Dr. W. H. Brown has been arrested and lodged in jail at Orangeburg, charged with storing liquor, a quantity of whiskey having been found stored at the Edisto Social club, of which he was manager. He is in jail in default of bond. The authorities in Orangeburg seem determined to enforce the law, and the social club has disbanded.

Rebecca Taylor, colored, was committed to Richland jail last week on the charge of poisoning the well of her neighbor, Daphne Summers, likewise colored. A cow and a pig died after drinking the water, and an investigation found two partly emptied bottles in the well with some sort of poison in them, supposed to be bichloride of mercury. Daphne's family used spout water, and not the well, or they might have suffered the fate of the cow and the pig. The two women had been on bad terms for a year or more.

The State board of canvassers had a deadlock at their meeting last Thursday, as Comptroller General A. W. Jones absented himself from the meeting when the board began to discuss the constitutionality of the act under which the elections were held, he holding that the board had no right to take action on such a question. However a mandamus was secured from the Supreme Court which compelled his attendance, and the board met on Saturday and dismissed all contests before it. The county boards of Florence and Aiken are to hear the contests in those counties to-morrow.

The Edisto Social Club at Orangeburg was raided last Thursday morning, and 381 half pints and 32 quarts of whiskey, also 49 pints of beer were seized. The raid was made by the policemen of the city. The whiskey and beer was in the lockers of members of the club, and these lockers were broken open. Dr. W. H. Brown, the veterinary surgeon, who is well-known in Bamberg, is the treasurer of this club and appears to be the manager. The officials say the club was selling liquor. There are cases now against Dr. Brown for selling liquor, this not being the first time his club has been raided.

Curious Advertisement.

An advertisement that puzzled many readers recently appeared in the Philadelphia Public Ledger. It read: "Lost—A local option policy, supposed to be indigenous to the South; in recent years having a precarious existence in the South. Supposed to have strayed to Pennsylvania. Any one restoring the same to the States of Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia will be liberally rewarded." Anti-local optionists are of the opinion that it is the beginning of a campaign by the brewers who aim to increase the number of "semi-wet" States throughout the country. "What the advertiser hopes to gain through this appeal is a matter of conjecture," says the Ledger. "He laments the fact that the local option policy has strayed to Pennsylvania, and the prohibitionists believe that this plaintive appeal is practically a call to arms to the saloon keepers of this State to hold tight to the local option policies. As the liquor interests believe that half a loaf is better than nothing, it is possible that many will take heed of the curious advertisement."

SCHOOL BUILDING ASSURED.

Hampton and Varnville Unite for Worthy Purpose.

Hampton, Aug. 29.—That a joint school building will be erected midway between the towns of Hampton and Varnville is now a certain thing. Practically every voter in the two towns has signed the petition circulated by promoters of the joint school, and they have thereby pledged themselves to support bonds for the purpose of erecting the building. Under the agreement each town is to vote \$10,000 bonds, making the cost of the proposed building \$20,000.

Varnville and Hampton are only two miles apart, and are connected by an excellent highway which with a few small improvements would be the equal of any in the county. The citizens of both towns seem to be very enthusiastic over the project and are co-operating for its success, one citizen, Mr. E. R. Ginn, of Varnville, having already donated ten acres of land on which to place the building.

At a joint meeting of the two town councils on yesterday, a committee of two members from Hampton, two members from Varnville, and one member to be selected by the four, were elected to represent the councils from both towns. This committee is empowered to employ a surveyor to run out the land donated by Mr. Ginn and to select a site for the joint school thereon.

This movement on the part of our people was much complimented here at the educational rally a few days ago, and is receiving the hearty support of a large majority.

COCAINE CRAZES NEGRO.

Victim of Drug Slays Colored Woman in Charlotte.

Charlotte, N. C., Aug. 29.—Temporarily deranged, it is believed, by the excessive use of cocaine, Tom Little, colored, tonight shot and fatally wounded Beatrice Williams, colored. Little met the woman going to church on a street in a negro settlement and without a word pulled a pistol and fired four times, one ball plunging through the woman's abdomen, and causing a wound from which physicians say she can not recover. The victim's child, who accompanied her, gave the alarm and the negro residents of the neighborhood seized Little, who was attempting to escape, and after disarming him, held him until the arrival of the police.

Unable to Make Statement.

Spartanburg, Aug. 28.—Mrs. J. H. Thiele, an aged lady of Charleston, lies at the Spartanburg hospital suffering from serious injuries sustained last night by falling from the window of her room on the second floor of the Glenn Springs hotel. In addition to breaking her left limb, she was badly bruised, and was unconscious for several hours. Her condition has been such that she has never been able to make a statement as to how the accident happened, though it is believed that she either rolled out of her bed, which was near the window, or got up during the night and sat in the window to cool off and fell asleep and fell to the ground.

Lutherans at Greenville to Build.

Greenville, Aug. 29.—The Rev. T. B. Epting, of Walthalla, conducted today the services of the Lutherans in the Masonic Lodge. The object of this meeting was to initiate a movement for a Lutheran church building in Greenville. The Lutherans are about fifty or seventy-five strong here, and they have determined to build a house of worship. The church building will not cost less than \$10,000, and will probably cost much more than this figure.

TRAGEDY IN TENNESSEE.

Man Found Dead and Woman Dying at Brownsville.

Brownsville, Tenn., Aug. 29.—Returning from a drive this evening at 7 o'clock, John C. Pracht and wife found stretched on their sitting room floor Owen Tallafarro, dead, and Mrs. Virgie Reeves, dying, from pistol shot wounds. It is believed to be a case of murder and suicide, but which of the couple did the shooting, or what the cause was is unknown.

Mrs. Reeves died without regaining consciousness. She was Mrs. Pracht's sister, and came here from St. Louis a few weeks ago. Her divorced husband lives in California, it is said. Tallafarro, one of the best known men in Brownsville, had been attentive to Mrs. Reeves and had called to take her for a drive.

Wants no Lawyers on Jury.

Durham, N. C., Aug. 30.—Reuben Barbee, a well-to-do white man, to be tried for the murder of Engineer Holt here last winter, caused surprise today when he discharged Attorneys Winston and Bryant from the case and said he would leave the matter to the judge without jury or lawyers.

Barbee has been in jail since December. He became impatient and after discharging his attorneys, told the court he was ready to draw a venire. The court appointed counsel to defend him as required by law.

WAS DRIVEN TO HIS DEATH?

DID DETECTIVES CAUSE BICKLE TO COMMIT SUICIDE?

Company Says He was Not Suspected, But Detectives Kept Worrying Him With Questions.

L. A. Bickle, aged 43 years, a railway mail clerk, cut his throat from ear to ear Sunday morning about 10:30 o'clock in the bath room of his residence at No. 11 Greene street. Death resulted almost instantly. It is thought he was driven to the desperate deed by ill health and a subsequent nervous breakdown, which, coupled with several visits of detectives, broke him up completely and affected his mind.

On the night of May 18 a package containing several hundred dollars was stolen from the express car of a Southern train between Branchville and Augusta. When the train arrived at the union depot, Express Messenger Hutto was found inside his strong box. He claimed to have been held up by masked men who knocked him down and imprisoned him under the lid before he recovered consciousness.

Bickle was mail clerk on that train, and George P. Humphreys was baggage master. About six weeks ago Humphreys killed himself by cutting his throat with a razor. He had been openly suspected by the express company of knowledge of the robbery, or complicity in the crime, and his house was searched more than once by detectives.

Though the express company officials stoutly deny that Bickle was ever suspected, the grief-stricken members of his family tell that he was harassed by repeated visits of detectives, who subjected him to the most searching cross-examinations, and who were finally forbidden by Bickle's physician to molest him again. They state that on the day after the robbery detectives came to the house and Bickle went away with them to make a statement at the investigation. Subsequently, a certain detective—whose name they do not know—made three visits to the house, bringing with them each time a different associate.

Mrs. Bickle asserts that on the detective's first visit she gave him permission not only to search every nook and corner of the house, but to make careful inquiry at all the local banks for deposits of money. He made no search of the house, but contented himself with asking Bickle many questions.

Detectives Accuse.

On one of these occasions, the eldest of the Bickle children, a daughter about 16 years of age, overheard the detective flatly tell her father that he saw the robbers, and could give their names if he wasn't afraid. To which Bickle replied that he knew absolutely nothing of the crime.

Following these visits, Bickle invariably underwent a relapse. He would suffer the most painful agitation, become frightfully nervous, walk in his sleep, go away for long walks, and take but little food.

The family declare, though, that he was improving rapidly up to the last visit by the detectives, which took place about three weeks ago. Its unfavorable effect on his condition was more pronounced than ever before. In fact, so disastrous were the consequences to his nerves and general health that his physician, Dr. G. A. Taylor, is said to have forbidden the detective to molest him again.

Just a year ago yesterday, Bickle's favorite child, a daughter in her teens, who was the eldest of five, died at the City hospital.

Her death cast a shadow over his life, and he was never the same since that bereavement.

About the time of that daughter's death, it is said that four members of the Bickles were ill at the same time in the hospital. He could not leave his work. His run was between Augusta and Branchville, and he could only see his loved ones for a brief period each evening. The flood caught him at home, and he was unable to get to the hospital. It is said that he walked the front verandah in a frenzy.

Health Broke Down.

On June 27 his health broke down completely, and he had to quit work. On August 14 he tried to go back, but was unable. The doctor recommended that he go to North Carolina, thinking a change of climate and environment would result beneficially.

For the last few days Bickle was in deep gloom. He could not keep up a conversation coherently. He ate little, and slept fitfully. He took long walks alone. Friday night at supper he remarked to his wife that he felt like ending it all.

Mr. D. G. Stebbins, who is a neighbor, heard screams from the Bickle home Sunday morning, and ran over to investigate. He found the suicide lying on the floor of the bath room in a pool of blood. In his trembling right hand he held the deadly razor. With one stroke he had almost severed the head from the body.

Funeral arrangements were taken in charge by Vigilant Lodge No. 2, Augusta Knights of Pythias, the deceased having been a member of that order at Ehrhardt, S. C.

Services will be conducted from the house Monday afternoon at 5 o'clock, Rev. J. B. Derrick officiating. Interment will take place at the City cemetery.

The following gentlemen will serve as pallbearers: Messrs. J. W. Lass, W. Easterling, J. F. Roessler, D. G. Stebbins, Henry Hogrefe and S. E. Marston.—Augusta Herald, Monday, August 30th.

COTTON CONDITION.

Crop of Only 10,500,000 Bales Now Predicted.

Memphis, Tenn., Aug. 30.—The reports of the National Ginners' association, made public this evening, gives the condition of cotton up to and including August 25 as 64.1 per cent.

"This is the lowest condition in a number of years," the report says, "and indicates a crop of about 10,500,000 bales. An early frost would reduce these figures somewhat, and a late frost yield probably increase the total yield to 11,000,000 bales."

The report of averages by States follows: Alabama 64, Arkansas 59, Florida 76, Georgia 74, Louisiana 54, Mississippi 62, Missouri 80, North Carolina 75, Oklahoma 58, South Carolina 76, Tennessee 75, Texas 57. General average 64.1.

This indicates a crop of about 2,000,000 bales for Texas.

Ginners report that they ginned 1,565,185 bales last year in Texas, and they estimate they will gin 776,119 bales this year with average weather.

HILLSIDE GIVES WAY.

Part of Scranton, Pa., Sinks Several Feet.

Scranton, Pa., Aug. 29.—Fully \$200,000 damage was done to West Scranton property today by a mine cave, the worst the city has ever experienced. Abandoned workings of the "old cork and bottle colliery" of the Fairlawn Coal company, which ceased operations twenty years ago, gave way under a side hill and an area equal to two city blocks, sunk from two to eight feet, throwing houses from their foundations, cracking walls and otherwise damaging buildings.

Public school No. 16, a \$75,000 brick structure, was so badly damaged that it will have to be torn down. The other properties damaged are mostly frame residences on Fairview and Chestnut avenues and Robinson street, with a few small stores.

One of the biggest items of losses is the land, which, on account of being steep hillside, is probably made unmarketable.

The disturbance is estimated to be about 130 feet below the surface. Fissures extending to the surface and three feet across at the tops show themselves in a number of places.

A new three-story tenement on the brow of the hill slid down the threatening to topple with further settling. Gas and water pipes were giving in in all sections of the disturbed area.

Rats by the thousands ran through the fissures and scampered over the streets.

Negro Breaks Another's Neck With a Stick.

Spartanburg, Aug. 31.—Sam Kennedy, colored, was killed by Wallace Carter, colored, near Glendale, this afternoon. Carter used a stick and the blow broke Kennedy's neck.

The negroes were working at Matthis' camp, clearing the right of way for the Southern Power company. Carter was chased by Spartanburg, where he was caught by Deputy Sheriff Vernon and Police Officer Alverson at the home of a kinsman on Ewins street, back of Wofford college.

The killing grew out of a dispute over some orders conveyed by Carter to Kennedy. He claims self-defense.

TRIED TO POISON CHILDREN.

Missouri Woman Administers Morphine and Attempts Suicide.

St. Joseph, Mo., August 29.—In a fit of insanity Mrs. Carrie Sanders, aged 41, gave five of her six children morphine today. While trying to give the poison to the sixth she was detected by a neighbor and confessed what she had done.

Weldon, aged five years, is dead, but physicians say they will save the lives of the other children.

The mother also took poison and cut her throat after making her confession, but is expected to recover.

The Country School.

While marked improvement has been made in the rural schools of this country, they are yet not all that they should be. Frequently they are woefully deficient in the matter of equipment. Often, too, the condition of the public highways and the lack of other means of transportation make it difficult for pupils to reach these centers of education.

Of course, in the very nature of things the rural schools probably cannot be brought up to the high standard of schools in urban centers; but certainly they may be improved in many ways, and there are few more important educational problems than the problem which has to do with the improvement of these educational institutions.

The country school is an important and vital factor in our system of education, and we have not paid as much attention to it as its work and worth have merited. The usefulness and social and economic efficiency of many men and women who play some part in the affairs of tomorrow will depend wholly upon the kind of training they receive in country schools, for circumstances will make it impossible for such as these to get beyond the village schoolroom in their efforts to secure an education.—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.