

# BIG SANDY NEWS.

Aut inveniam viam, aut faciam.

VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 7

LOUISA, LAWRENCE COUNTY, KENTUCKY, OCT. 19, 1907.

M. F. CONLEY, Publisher

## IN REPLY

### To Charges Made Against The Lawrence Fiscal Court.

It is only in justice to the members of the Lawrence Fiscal Court that we reply to the attack made upon them by the Courier of last week, in an article containing some glaring misstatements.

The Court was clearly right in deciding that it must publish in the Big Sandy News all advertising required by law to be published in a newspaper, because having the largest circulation, it has been declared the official newspaper of the county by the Circuit Court and the Fiscal Court.

The State Legislature made the laws that govern this matter and the court has no right to disregard the requirements.

The Courier says "The law requires the publishing of the financial statement in some newspaper in the same county, but does not specify any particular paper."

The exact words of the section evidently intended to be referred to are as follows: It shall be the duty of the fiscal court of each county to cause to be published annually, in one newspaper in the county, a statement showing the financial condition of the county." etc. But the Courier does not go deep enough into the law in his article, as he well knew after he heard the other side read in court another section of the Kentucky Statutes which says that "authority to insert such advertisements as are required by law to be published in a newspaper" shall be obtained from "the Circuit Court of the county in which the paper is published," by order entered of record.

Does not this virtually specify that the work shall be done in the Big Sandy News?

The Courier further says: "Then another, and not the least important provision in this law is that the work must go to the lowest bidder." This statement is absolutely incorrect. There is no such provision.

The Courier says it made a bid of 37 cents an inch and that the bid was ignored. The publisher of the News was in the court room throughout the discussion of this matter and no bid was offered to the Court by the Courier or any one else. The first we ever heard of his figures was in the article published a week after the adjournment of Court.

Another unwarranted assumption is that the work will cost the county 50 cents an inch. The News has never charged the rate allowed by law, and in looking over our books for several years past we find that the price voluntarily charged for this county work has averaged a fraction under 35 cents per inch. There have been seven newspapers started at Louisa since we began the publication of the Big Sandy News, twenty-two years ago, but most of them died young, and during the greater part of that time the News was the only paper published in the county. We have treated the county in the same fair manner all the way through, regardless of whether we had a competitor or not.

The official newspaper has as much right to charge the full rate allowed by law as an officer has to collect all the salary or costs allowed him by law. Had we done this all through the past twenty-two years we would have been several hundred dollars better off. We believe that every fair-minded member of a Fiscal Court of Lawrence county, regardless of politics, should appreciate this fact.

We can cite eight sections in the Kentucky laws where it is specifically required that the advertising alluded to therein shall be done in the newspaper having the largest circulation in the county, thus showing that the intention of the law is to give the information to as many citizens as possible. No honest member objects to this.

If our Fiscal Court were composed of a lot of grafters who wanted to keep their act from the knowledge of the people they might then be induced to give the financial statement and other things as little publicity as possible. But happily, such is not true.

The value of advertising is based entirely upon the circulation or distribution it receives. There can be no other basis. None other is recognized by advertising experts. Many of the best advertisers in the country

make contracts at a certain price per inch for each 1000 subscribers that a newspaper has. On this basis, then the Big Sandy News is voluntarily doing the county's publishing very much cheaper than any price ever offered by a competitor because it has several times as many subscribers as any other.

As to the reference made in the same article to the fact that the contract for keeping the poorhouse had been re-let to the present keeper at a slightly higher price than that offered by another party we are informed by the court that this was done because a most favorable report had been made as to the excellent care given the inmates by M. Hays.

They say the report was from unquestionable authority, and that in behalf of the poor inmates and in recognition of Mr. Hays' excellent administration, it was decided to continue him in charge. In this action there is no intended reflection upon any one. The Court evidently felt that it should "let well enough alone."

The policy of farming out our helpless poor to the lowest bidder is not the proper one, any way.

### Married In San Diego.

In a San Diego, Cal., paper of October 6, was the following notice of the marriage of Mrs. Susan Wellman, formerly of near Fort Gay, and well known to many Louisians. Her first husband was Keen Wellman, a son of Al Wellman, of Louisa. Some months ago the News published an account of the death of their son, caused by an explosion on board a gunboat of which he was one of the crew.

An interesting romance was terminated at 6 o'clock last night in the parlors of the St. James hotel, when Mrs. Susan Wellman was united in marriage to Marion Smith, of Palomar, by the Rev. W. E. Crabtree, pastor of the Central Christian church. Mrs. Olive Ferguson, a sister of the bride, and E. Yates were, respectively, the bridesmaid and best man.

Mrs. Wellman came to this country a short time ago from the east for the purpose of proving up on a homestead near Palomar. She registered at the Palomar hotel, of which Mr. Smith is the proprietor, but met him while rambling among the mountains. What was at first a mere acquaintance ripened swiftly into love and the friends of the couple were electrified about two weeks ago by the announcement of their engagement.

### After Many Days.

Fifty-two years ago Lewis Williams and his family left the mouth of Hood's fork of Blaine creek, bound for Independence, Mo. then on the western edge of civilization. They went down Sandy on a pushboat, and to Independence by steamer. From there they went to Kansas. In Mr. Williams' family was a slip of a girl then in her 13th year. Last Sunday week that girl, now a plump, cheerful woman of about 65, and named Mrs. N. C. Creel, of Lawrence, Kan., returned to Kentucky and is in Louisa, the guest of her sister, Mrs. Mary Swetnam. This is Mrs. Creel's first return in all these years. There are few, if any, in Louisa whom she remembers, but when she gets out to the Blaine country where she hopes to go before she returns to her western home she will probably meet many of the friends of her childhood.

### A New England Supper.

On this (Friday) evening there will be served at the Burns office building on Madison street, near the passenger depot, a New England Supper for the benefit of the M. E. Church South. On the menu will be found ham sandwiches, potato salad, Boston baked beans, brown bread and home-made light bread. There will also be such orange sherbet and cake as New Englanders never dreamed of. You may have the Yankee feast for a quarter and the other "goodies" for a dime. No charge for agreeable company. Don't fail to attend.

### At Rest.

Mrs. Della Ferguson, whose death at Colorado Springs was noted in these columns last week, was buried last Saturday morning. The body arrived Friday and was taken to the residence of her brother-in-law, R. L. Vinson, at which place appropriate funeral services were held the next morning, conducted by the Rev. O. F. Williams. The funeral was very largely attended.

## THE FAIR.

### Exhibits and Attendance Not Up To Expectations.

The News regrets that it can not truthfully say that the Lawrence County Fair held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week was the greatest success of any yet held.

The attendance was only moderate and the displays, as a whole were not as numerous as heretofore. The quality of the products displayed was equal to that shown at previous fairs.

The officers who served last year and this say that in some respects the farm products display was better than last year.

One thing that reduced the general display was the smaller list of articles of which premiums were to be paid this year.

The awards were made and most of the prizes were paid before the close of the fair. Those who have not collected their prizes can get them by applying to F. H. Yates.

It is the present intention of the officers to hold the fair two or three weeks earlier next year. But if the people want this enterprise to live and grow they must take more interest than was exhibited this year.

### Conerferd Skeens.

Died, at Yatesville, October 9, 1907, Conerferd Skeens, aged 27 years.

This simple announcement means much to all who knew this excellent young man. It means the untimely passing of a devoted son, of a generous friend, of a brave soldier, of a good citizen. He was the son of George Skeens, Sr., a pioneer known to every old resident, of Lawrence county. All his life Conerferd was what might properly be called a modal young man. Sober, industrious and honest, he commanded the respect and esteem of all who knew him. Morally he was all that could be asked, and he had so ordered his life that when the Grim Monster laid his relentless hand upon him he said calmly and hopefully "I am ready—I am not afraid." He had served his country in the Philippines, and there dread consumption the fatal White Plague, attacked him and from that day until the bright October day when he peacefully closed his eyes to dull mortality he knew no day free of pain.

And so it is always. We know not why, but it seems hard that a young man like Conerferd Skeens should be called to suffer and linger and finally to die so young. Some day, perhaps, we'll understand. All we can do now is to speak a word of comfort to the loved ones who mourn the loss of a son and friend. He is not gone from you forever. The Man of Sorrows said to other sorrowing ones "I will send you the Comforter." This He will surely do. In place of aching hearts there will be a tender memory, and you will think only of Conerferd as the son you loved and lost but whom you will meet again to lose no more. A. O. C.

### "To Help Fill Up."

Those people who imagine that they are helping along their favorite newspaper by bringing in something to help you fill up," as they usually announce, might gain some useful information by remaining for a single busy hour in a newspaper office and witnessing the fight the managing editor has to constantly make for space in which to print the actual news of the day. What is finally forced out of the columns for lack of room is generally of far more importance than all the contributions received in a week. This is not said in disparagement of the contributor who is frequently interesting, but is in defense of the managing editor who knows his space and his limitations and who must be the final adjudicator of what shall and shall not be published. He is usually too busy man to let his personal dislikes interfere with his judgment and the occasional writer should bear this in mind when he fails to see his next contribution in type.—Polk Johnson in Lou. Times.

### Masonic Grand Bodies.

Louisa is represented at the Masonic grand bodies in Louisville this week. High Priest H. B. Hulet represents Louisa Chapter No. 95 and A. J. Conley, proxy of W. M. T. J. Snyder, represents Apperson Lodge.

## WEDDING

### Of Former Louisa Girl at Huntington, W. Va.

Last night there occurred at the Johnson Memorial church, the second of the series of fall weddings in Huntington society, when Miss Lida Garred became the bride of Mr. Frank Boggesa.

The large auditorium of the church was artistically decorated with ferns and palms, with many candles shedding a soft light about the altar. Long before the wedding party arrived the church was filled with friends of the contracting parties. The successful seating of the large company was due to the master of ceremonies, Mr. J. W. Valentine and the ushers Messrs. Dubney Caldwell, Earl McClure of Delaware, Ohio; Frank Enslow and Douglas Schon.

The organ was played by Mr. J. Roy Marcus in his usual inimitable style. Promptly at nine o'clock the prelude swelled into the Swedish wedding march as the Brides-Maids and Groomsman preceded by the ushers came slowly down the aisles and crossing before the altar awaited the coming of the bride. It was the dulcet harmony of Lohengrin that greeted the entree of the bride, in advance of whom came the Matron and Maid of Honor, Mrs. E. C. Crow, sister of the bride and Miss Hazel Morton. These passed down separate aisles, then came the beautiful bride on the arm of her father, Mr. O. D. Garred. At the altar they were met by the groom and Dr. Jas. J. Miller, his best man. Rev. Dr. Herring performed the impressive ring ceremony of the Methodist church, which united the lives of this popular young couple. Miss Garred ever one of Huntington's most beautiful young society girls, eclipsed herself in the picture presented as she came to the altar gowned in white satin with Duchesse lace trimmings and carrying a shower bouquet of lilies of the valley. Mrs. Crow, the Matron of Honor, wore a handsome gown of satin Chiffon with princess lace trimmings and carried white roses while Miss Morton, the Maid of Honor, was attired in a lovely creation of White Fillet lace over taffeta and carried white roses.

The brides-maids were Misses Birdie Van Vleck, Hazel Bloss, Louise Stewart, Irene Bowles, Mary Miller, and Sadie Enslow. They were attractively costumed in white French Muslin, with Baby Irish and Val lace trimmings, wore pink girdles with pink coronets and carried Kilarney roses. The grooms-men were Messrs. Jas. Palmer, Alex Garred, Dr. H. L. Cray Geo. Garred, Will Enslow and Dan Holten.

After the ceremony a reception was held at the Gypsy Club rooms with the entire bridal party in the receiving line. Here the happy couple were the recipients of the congratulations of several hundred friends who had assembled. LeRoy's orchestra furnished music for dancing which many enjoyed in.

Mr. and Mrs. Bogges left on C. & O. train No. 4 for a honeymoon of several weeks in the East. Mr. Bogges is one of the most prominent of the society men of Huntington. He is the son of Dr. T. N. Bogges, the druggist, and is one of the rising young business men of the city.—Huntington Herald.

### Looks at the Advertising.

A newspaper may boom a town through its editorial and news columns, but a critical investor looks to the advertising columns for substantial evidence of push and life. To him they are thermometers measuring the intensity of the public warmth; they are the pulses which indicate the healthy condition of the collective body of the people; they tell him whether or not the community is up to the times in business matters.

### Chorus Class.

Parents who desire to have their children's voices cultivated should send them to Miss Kate Freese for instruction in her chorus class. She gives them instruction weekly in the elements of vocal music, including lessons in correct pronunciation and enunciation, how to breath properly time, rhythm and the value of notes, or how to sing at sight. All this for 25 cents per lesson, and its worth double to the child.

## DOUBLE MURDER.

### Webb Syck Kills Himself and His Bride of Two Weeks.

Webb Syck shot and killed his wife, a bride of two weeks and then killed himself in Fairview, a suburb of Pikeville, last Saturday.

Just before daylight a shot rang out in the handsome Syck home and a few moments later another was heard. Neighbors rushed to the scene and found Syck's body in the yard with the entire top of his head blown away and blood and brains scattered for a distance of ten feet. He had on his night shirt. Inside the house stretched out face down on the bed, clothed only in her night gown, lay the still warm body of Mrs. Syck, with the blood oozing from a terrible hole in the back of the head and another in the forehead, where the bullet had passed out after tearing its way entirely through.

The position of the body indicated that Mrs. Syck had been killed without a struggle. She was formerly Mrs. Jane Burris and is connected with some of the most prominent families in Northeastern Kentucky.

The cause of the tragedy is unknown, but is supposed to have followed a bitter quarrel of the previous day and possibly renewed during the night.

The couple had been married but two weeks and had just returned from their honeymoon trip through the South.

Syck was a brother of George Syck, of Pikeville, one of Pike county's successful business men and most astute politicians. The woman murdered by Syck was his third wife, his first wife having died two years ago and his second wife being divorced about one year ago. It is thought that Syck's mind became unbalanced temporarily over his quarrel with his bride, as he was known to be madly in love with her and insanely jealous. He was a veteran of the civil war and was very wealthy.

The body of Syck was taken to his farm on Joe's Creek for burial, Sunday. The fragments of the head were collected, bound in a linen cloth and placed in the casket with the remainder of the body. The body of Mrs. Syck was buried in the Pikeville Cemetery, Sunday afternoon, beside her little son who died there a few years ago.

The funeral was preached by the Rev. M. C. Reynolds. It is supposed she had been shot by the crazed man while asleep, as the expression of the face was one of perfect peace. Syck is supposed to have placed the muzzle of the gun against the back of her head and fired. Her skull was literally torn to pieces, being held intact only by the scalp. This occurrence is a matter of deep regret. Sympathy is felt for the relatives of the dead man and for the children of the woman.

Webb Syck was related to some of Pike county's best people, being an uncle of Dan Syck, Mrs. Dr. W. J. Walters, Mrs. O. A. Stump and Attorney J. P. B. Shelton, all of Pikeville.

### Rev. J. G. Stambaugh.

The NEWS takes special delight in calling attention to any and all Big Sandians who go out into the world and win success. There is one young man from this county whose success has recently come to our notice. We refer to Rev. John H. Stambaugh, who is now preaching in Lexington, Ky. He is pastor of one of the strongest Christian churches in the Bluegrass metropolis—and this denomination is the leading one in that city.

A few years ago Mr. Stambaugh was a school teacher in this county. Afterward he attended the theological department of Kentucky University, from which he graduated with highest honors. His ability attracted attention and it was not long until calls began to come to him from various churches. He accepted one from a large church in Lexington and is serving his congregation most satisfactorily. He is a strong reasoner, a fluent speaker, and an earnest worker. He possesses oratorical powers above the average, is thoroughly educated, and ranks as one of the best equipped young ministers in Central Kentucky.

The NEWS is proud of his success, as it is of the success of all mountain boys.



JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER.

The richest man in the world, who is now having his troubles for violating the Anti-Trust laws. The Standard Oil Company, his unruly child, has recently been fined \$29,000,000.00 in the U. S. Court, but the fine has not been collected. When it is, we will let our readers know, if we are still alive.

### Speaks Highly of Riverview.

Pikeville, Ky., Oct. 14, 1907.

The writer is desirous of speaking a few words in praise of Riverview Hospital, located at Louisa, Ky. and of its skilled proprietor, Dr. L. H. York, who is a skilled surgeon as well as a practitioner. The condition of the writer on entering the Hospital was that of a helpless invalid, with all probability of the necessity of a dangerous operation; but after a five weeks' stay in the Hospital she is at home again, feeling well, looking after her household duties and gaining strength every day, and she desires to pay this slight tribute to this worthy institution.

Mrs. Daisy O. Bowling.

### Mrs. Lyda Wilson Dead.

After a long and painful sickness Mrs. Lyda Wilson, wife of Zeke Wilson, died at her home in this place last Monday night. The funeral service was held at the Baptist church Wednesday afternoon, conducted by the Rev. L. M. Copley, followed by interment in the Fulkerson cemetery. Mrs. Wilson's disease was an affection of the liver. She leaves a husband and four children. Mrs. Wilson was quiet, unassuming woman, devoted to her family, and will be much missed by them and her friends.

### Fire in Fort Gay.

The first fire for years in Fort Gay occurred there last Friday about noon when a little cottage occupied by Lill Lewis, colored caught fire and was totally destroyed. She had locked the doors, and left the house with three small children in it, and had been gone for sometime, when it was discovered that the house was on fire. Some of the neighbors living close by burst the door down and barely had time to get the children out alive. As it was, one of them an infant, was badly burned.

### Drinking Cups.

The Board of Health of Lexington has decided that all students in the public and private schools shall use individual drinking cups. This precaution is taken in order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

The News suspects that in many Lawrence county schools there are no cups at all, and really none is better than only one for fifty.

### Their Wedding Anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Sullivan celebrated the fourteenth anniversary of their marriage last week. The wife, Mrs. Sullivan, was born in Louisa and Mrs. Gallup, were here and they with many of the residents who sat down to and enjoyed a dinner such as only Louisa cooks can prepare. It was a very happy occasion.