

BIG SANDY NEWS.

Aut inveniam viam, aut faciam.

VOLUME XXIV NUMBER 52

LOUISA, LAWRENCE COUNTY, KENTUCKY, AUGUST 27, 1909.

M. F. CONLEY, Publisher

INSTITUTE

Of Lawrence County Teachers Held at Louisa.

The Attendance is Very Large, Over One Hundred Teachers Being Enrolled.

The Lawrence County Teachers Institute convened in this city on Monday, the sessions being held in the public school building. Superintendent James Thompson called the institute to order and J. S. Thompson was elected Secretary. The instructors are Prof. W. M. Byington and E. M. Kennison, of the Kentucky Normal College.

No time was wasted in preliminaries, and the teachers speedily got to work. The attendance is very large, over one hundred teachers being enrolled. They are taking an unusually active part in the work of the institute, and as a consequence the meeting this year is most interesting and the good resulting will be great and lasting. Year by year the improvement in the teachers of this county has grown until, individually and collectively, our teachers need not fear comparison with any other teacher body in the State.

During the session several school men from other counties were present and added interest to the proceedings. On Thursday night Prof. Smith, of the Eastern Kentucky Normal College, Richmond, gave an illustrated lecture at the court house on animal and vegetable life. The NEWS will have more to say of it next week. The following Lawrence county teachers are enrolled:

District No. 1—Gipsy Thompson, Willie Byington, Mae Sammons, Sadie Stansberry, D. C. Belcher, Fred See, Nellie Conley, John S. Thompson, Maude Smith, Ruth Norton, Kizzie See.

District No. 2—Amos Davis, H. S. Dean, Bertha Prose, J. M. Moore, A. L. Spencer, Stanton Miller, Allen Miller, Levi Strettleberger, Ethel Grubb, H. H. Moore, Scott Boyd, Nathan George.

District No. 3—Doc Jordan, Wertie Burton, Carl Moore, Daisy Bishop, Essie Cunningham, Geo. Bishop, Milt Burnell, Arthur Morris, Oscar Graham, Drew Adams, David Morris.

District No. 4—W. H. C. Thompson, M. C. Holbrook, Eugene Moore, Harry F. Sparks, Mennie Holbrook, H. H. Holbrook, Oscar Bailey, D. Skaggs, Chas. Hamilton, Willie Gambill, Elva Rose.

District No. 5—Lizzie Carter, Nora Holers, Lige Rice, Mrs. Emma Sammons, Mrs. E. J. Carey, Mollie Roberts, Mrs. J. S. Judd, Ethel Thompson, J. B. Judd, Esther Picklesimer, D. L. Thompson.

District No. 6—Ethel Berry, C. F. Smith, Cynthia Webb, Hannah Webb, Sherman Evans, Jay Compton, Hattie Webb, James Casey, Eddie Crank, J. M. Dalton, Mollie Webb.

District No. 7—H. G. Thompson, James M. McGuire, Rosa Johnson, Emma Thompson, Joe Reaves, E. E. Wheeler, Goldie Byington, Maude Dean, Elliott Sparks, J. L. Thompson, Lizzie Lester, Robert Johnson, Lillie Queen.

District No. 8—Hence Vanhose, J. L. Moore, Sam Jobe, M. C. Conley, Elmeria Waller, John Ekers, Gipsy Burdett, Bertha Anatin, J. H. Frasier, C. B. Stewart, Lizzie Thompson, Land Bradley, Pearl Frasier, A. W. Osborn, Jack Thompson, W. S. Boggs.

Will Dedicate Capitol in November.

The Capitol Commissioners, the Frankfort Business Men's Club and representatives from surrounding cities, discussed the matter of dedication of the new Capitol at a meeting held here Tuesday. It was the consensus of opinion that the ceremony should not be held until after the November election, so that all the newly-elected Legislators might be present.

Attorney General James Breathitt, will appoint a committee to select the orator for the occasion. The former State officials and the present Capitol Commissioners will act as a dedication Committee on the occasion.

A Kitchen Shower.

This is something entirely different from a shower of kitchens. You would probably get hurt if you were caught in one of these, but Mr. and Mrs. Labe Wallace, who were caught by a kitchen shower Wednesday night, are greatly pleased therewith. Some forty or more young people of Louisa chartered a train-of hay wagons—loaded it with themselves and something less than a thousand pieces of kitchenware, and turned the outfit Highland Homeward. And there they had a royal good time. This is the season of grapes, melons and all manner of fruit, and the gay crowd lost no time in giving them a place "in our midst." Kentucky hospitality and a good time were dominant, and it was high unto another day when the visitors reached their homes.

Denies the Authorship.

The recent publication in this paper of the Big Sandy story, "A Half-Life and Half a Life," has brought to this office several letters relating to the time and scene of the story and to the tale itself. Two of these are published in the NEWS today.

It will be seen that Miss Cruikshanks gently denies the authorship attributed to her. A perusal of her letter, however, shows that she was familiar with the people and events of this region. The reading will call up in the minds of many some recollection of people long dead and of scenes which are now but dreams. Two of "Miss Margie's" pupils when she taught in Catlettsburg are living in this city—Capt. F. F. Fessenden and his sister, Mrs. G. W. Wilson.

REV. RIGGAN RESIGNS.

Pastor of the Baptist Church at Louisa Will Accept Other Work.

On Sunday night last the Rev. G. Garland Riggan tendered his resignation as pastor of the Louisa Baptist Church, to become effective August 29th. The resignation was accepted and, so we are informed, Mr. Riggan will leave this city early next week. The NEWS learns that he has work at another point in view but will go to his home in Louisville for a short time before taking up this work.

During his stay in Louisa Mr. Riggan has made very many warm friends. He is an educated, cultured Christian gentleman, zealous in every good work. During his pastorate the membership of the church has increased, and the services have been well attended, not only by its members but by many others. By his uniform courtesy and kindness Mr. Riggan made himself a general favorite, and his leaving will be regretted by many.

Mrs. Sallie Riggan, the estimable mother of the Rev. Garland Riggan, has been a most efficient coadjutor to her son, lately the pastor of the Baptist Church, this city. She has been active in matters pertaining to the church, but she has not confined her work to that alone. She has visited and helped the poor, endeavored to raise the fallen, and ministered to the sick. One act is worthy of special notice and praise. Mrs. Riggan found a woman almost entirely blind. She deplored her sightless, helpless condition. She wanted to read but could not. Mrs. Riggan procured the raised letters used in teaching the blind, and patiently began to lead her sister "Out of Darkness into Light." Step by step the noble work went on until now the woman who once groped in darkness reads all sorts of books and other literature made for the blind and is happy. Because of this and many other deeds of kindness Mrs. Riggan has won a high place in the regard of all who know her.

Mrs. Bull Dead.

Mrs. Edward Bull, of Goodloe, Floyd county, died at Huntington at the home of her father-in-law, W. H. Bull. She had been ill for several weeks with tuberculosis. The deceased leaves a husband and infant son. It is likely that the remains will be taken to Goodloe and interred in the family cemetery.

FATAL BLOW

Received by John C. Sammons, Jr., at Chapman.

An Employee on the U. S. Dam Accidentally Killed by a Crowbar.

As the result of an accident which occurred at Chapman, nine miles east of this place, shortly after midnight of Monday last, John Sammons, 21 years old, is dead. He was an employee of the contract firm which is building the government dam across the river near Chapman, and was working on the night shift. The men were driving piling used in the repair of damages done to the dam by the recent flood in this river. The men had been using a crow bar on the work, and in some way this bar got in the way of the heavy driver, and in one of its descents it struck this bar with terrific force, and one end of the bar struck young Sammons across the lower part of his abdomen.

It was at once seen that Sammons was badly injured and some men with a hand car were sent to Louisa for Dr. York. The doctor went up and declared the case to be a very serious one. He ministered to the young man as best he could, and when No. 27 came along at 9 o'clock Sammons was put on board the train and carried to Riverview hospital. Here the boy's father, John Gaines Sammons, of Summit, was told that the injury would probably prove fatal.

Everything possible was done for the unfortunate young man, but he grew worse very rapidly and died at 2 a. m. Wednesday, having lived about twenty-four hours after being hurt. His mother arrived at the hospital not long before he died. The body was taken to Summit for interment.

May Expend Money.

In a decision which he handed down overruling an injunction granted at the instance of taxpayers of Paducah, Judge E. C. O'Rear, of the Court of Appeals, held that a county can expend money for transporting children to and from school. The decision is important and almost every county in the State will be affected.

The case which Judge O'Rear decided came on appeal from the Circuit Court in McCracken county. Judge W. M. Reed held that the County Board of Education did not have authority to spend money for the transportation of children. Several schools in McCracken county were consolidated, and the Board of Education ran wagons to and from the school house on regular routes, to pick up the children, some of whom would have been forced to walk for miles if they had not been given free rides. There was a question whether or not the money could be used in this way, and a suit was brought to test the point. Application was made for an injunction, and this was granted by Judge Reed. An appeal was taken and Judge O'Rear has now reversed the judgment of the McCracken court.

Body Taken to Paintsville.

The body of Lysle Dills, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Dills, who was drowned Wednesday evening at the south of Hampton City, while in bathing in the Big Sandy river, was recovered about nine o'clock the same night.

The unfortunate youth, it is said, could not swim, and was also lame in one of his arms which was partially paralyzed, one of his legs being also afflicted so as to be of little service. He had gotten onto a small log and paddled to where the water was probably twelve feet deep and losing his hold on the log slipped off and went to the bottom.

The government lock closed only a mile below, caused an eddy in the water so that the body failed to drift west and was found within a few feet of where it went down.

Contract Let For Bridge.

On last Saturday Special Commissioner Highberger opened the bids for the construction of the proposed combination wood and iron bridge across Georges creek, this county. Two concrete piers are also to be constructed and the bids for piers and bridge were separate.

The following are the bids, with the names of the bidders: The Farris Bridge Company, of Pittsburg, represented by William Farris, \$2000 for the superstructure and \$10 per yard for the piers; George A. Brackett, of the Brackett Bridge Company, Cincinnati, \$1675 for bridge and \$6 per yard for concrete; Lewis Bower, a bridge contractor of Huntington, \$1325, and \$6 per yard for the piers; G. W. Castle, of Louisa, \$1590.50 for bridge and \$6.74 for concrete, and H. E. Evans, of Louisa, \$1359 for the bridge work and \$5.10 for concrete. Bridge men from Parkersburg, Roanoke, Va., and Lexington, Ky.

Horse Thieves Captured.

Last week a couple of mules and a horse were stolen from Dinguss, W. Va. They were brought into this State and taken to the mouth of Beaver, Floyd county. They were followed by their owners, who enlisted the services of Marshal Jim Sizemore, of Prestonsburg. It was found that the thieves had traded the stolen mules and horse for other horses and had taken the back track. They were followed by the Marshal and the owners and captured at Big Heart, W. Va., and brought back last Friday. A long term of imprisonment awaits them.

PRESIDING ELDER

Holds Last Service For This Conference Year.

On Sunday last Presiding Elder B. F. Gosling, of the M. E. Church, held his last service for this conference year at the Southern M. E. Church, this city. His morning sermon was a most admirable one, one which merited a full house. There was a goodly attendance, however, and the intelligent audience gave the preacher close and interested attention. The entire sermon was strong and forceful, abounding in logical argument, apt illustration and pertinent story. "Am I my brother's keeper" was the text, and upon it Elder Gosling built as good a sermon as has been heard in Louisa for many a day.

The exordium was a masterpiece, showing that while we understand but little of our own language, comparatively, God understands all language, even the language of inanimate as well as animate nature. By easy and natural steps the preacher led the way into the body of his interesting theme and demonstrated the vital truth that, deny it, evade it as we may, we are "our brother's keeper."

A thoughtful listener to this admirable discourse could not help being struck with that part which dealt with our responsibility for the educational as well as the spiritual welfare of our children. He spoke of the poor little wail he once saw in a great city, and of how he found it easy to say that its parents were responsible for its neglect, and the city was responsible for so conducting things that the child's condition was possible. If we failed to take the best advantage of opportunities; if we failed to improve the privileges afforded us, our children, instead of growing up to be worthy men and women, would be scum upon the bodily polity.

Elder Gosling must have had in mind the fact that our school will begin next Monday, and that there are some among us who think so lightly of education that they keep children at home to do work which they themselves should do, and who permit their children to remain from school upon the most frivolous excuses and pretenses. These people should have heard these remarks of the preacher, but, unfortunately, the most of those who thus permit their children to neglect school and become idlers and strollers upon the streets seldom go to church.

Elder Gosling's work here has been eminently satisfactory to his church and the people generally, and if he is sent to another field it will cause much regret in Louisa.

SKULL CRUSHED.

Ira Frazier Killed at Prestonsburg.

Struck By a C. & O. Passenger Engine and Death Results in 43 Minutes.

At 2 o'clock Monday afternoon, just as train No. 39 was passing the coal tippie of the Middle Creek Coal Co., Ira Frazier, of Prestonsburg, stepped from the sidetrack onto the main line, directly in front of engine No. 812. The pilot struck him on the head, crushing his skull. He lived only forty-three minutes, passing away without regaining consciousness.

The noise from the coal tippie is supposed to have drowned the sound of the approaching train and Frazier stepped in front of the engine with no thought that he was in any danger. There were four eyewitnesses to the tragedy, none of whom attach any blame to the engineer.

The train was held nearly two hours while the County Coroner impaled a jury and held an inquest.

Frazier was between 45 and 50 years old. He had been married twice and left a widow and ten children.

We learn that no possible blame could be attached to the engineer or any other employes of the railroad. The engineer, Tom Souger, is noted for sobriety and carefulness, and the other trainmen are equally reliable.

Died Suddenly.

On last Saturday afternoon while Mrs. Christina Burton, of this city, was doing some trifling work in her garden she was stricken with apoplexy and died the next day. The body was taken to Blaine on Monday and was there buried.

The deceased was the widow of A. M. C. Burton and mother of Mrs. Holbrook and Mrs. R. S. Chaffin, of Louisa. She was 83 years old. The Rev. Walker, of Paintsville, John Stumbo, Mrs. Pat Crager, of Columbus, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Daniels, of Whitehouse, and Mr. and Mrs. David Burton, of Paintsville, attended the funeral.

Riot Voids Election.

When a man enters an election booth, shoots the ballot box full of holes, and then picks it up right in front of the affrighted election officers and throws it into the river, no election has been held. This is the formal opinion of Assistant Attorney General Thomas B. McGregor, to whom a case of this kind was referred recently.

The State Department of Education was notified of the alleged unusual proceedings during a school election on Beaver creek, in Floyd county.

Conductor Eads Hurt.

While on duty Tuesday last Conductor John Eads was painfully hurt. The accident occurred between Pikeville and Harold. The train, a freight, was backing up and while so doing it struck a horse. The impact derailed and upset the caboose, injuring the conductor so much that he was forced to go to his home in Ashland Wednesday morning. Brake-man Powell was also hurt but is still on duty.

Lawrence County Couple Married.

A fresh looking couple from Lawrence county, Ky., were married in the probate judge's office at 7 o'clock this morning by Squire Neal. The couple, whose names are John Hays and Fanny Holt, came all the way from Louisa this morning. Their haste to be made man and wife seemed to indicate that there might be an irate parent in pursuit.—Fronten Register.

The ladies of the Southern Methodist Church served ice cream in the public square on Tuesday evening.

Test Wells in Boyd.

The timbers are being hauled to the Haney farm, one mile below town, preparatory to the erection of the derricks for putting down of the test oil wells in that section. It is the intention of the promoters to push the work right along and it is said that they will not cease their work upon sinking a single well, though it should not result in a paying discovery, and other wells will be put down until this field has been given the most thorough test.

There are now two gas wells in the neighborhood which are each producing quite a handsome amount of fuel. One of these belongs to Mr. Patton who is utilizing the gas for fuel. The other one belongs to J. C. Richardson, who supplies himself with fuel for private consumption. From now on great interest will be taken in watching the developments, which it is believed are going to result successfully.—Tribune.

Painfully Hurt.

Dr. T. D. Burgess, of this city, was painfully hurt last week by the falling of the horse he was riding at the time. The animal, a young, spirited mare, shied a little, and when the doctor applied the whip a little she reared and fell over backwards. As she fell Dr. Burgess instinctively drew away from her to avoid being crushed, but his right ankle was badly sprained and bruised and the cap of the left leg was wrenched so that it became very much swollen.

The doctor was confined to the house for several days, but is now able to go about, assisted by his crutches and a buggy.

DISREPUTABLE ESCAPEE

Which Began in Louisa and Ended in Huntington.

On Sunday last a disreputable woman of this place met by appointment a man, said to be a "drummer," on the train from Pikeville. They went to Clyffside and from that place to Huntington. There they took a room, and from that room, so it is alleged, the girl carried away a diamond ring and several dollars in money.

Soon after their departure the valuables were missed and search was made for the couple. They were found at the depot in Catlettsburg and arrested. The woman was searched, and in her shoe was found the ring, and among the "rats" of her hair most of the money was found. The owner of the property was satisfied with its recovery and would not press the charge of robbery. The parties were released and the girl returned to Louisa.

This procedure did not satisfy the Huntington authorities, and on Monday a policeman from that place came to Louisa and went before County Judge T. S. Thompson and obtained a warrant of arrest charging the girl with being a fugitive from justice. Upon this warrant she was arrested and was taken back to Huntington for trial.

This is the plain unvarnished story of what created no "excitement" in Louisa whatever, and concerns parties of no "prominence" whatever except it be of a very unenviable sort. It is a story of a very disreputable escapade, but around which a Huntington paper has sought to weave a story of "childish confidence and man's duplicity," of "wild, childish beauty"—the story of "a pretty unsophisticated country girl and it might have been that, had the man who she claims attempted her downfall, succeeded in his purpose, there would have been another pitiful chapter written in the history of the white slave traffic that is carried on in the Big Sandy valley year after year and through which so many ignorant country girls go to their ruin.

The whole miserable, garbled, exaggerated mess has been copied into other papers, some, if not all, of which knew that much of the story was false. It has been read by many, doubtless, who, not knowing the facts, have been caused to form a very unfavorable opinion of the morality of this valley—a section free from vice and immorality than any other section of the county. The whole story, like many another emanating from the same source, is a grain of truth in a bushel of dirt.