

BIG SANDY NEWS.

Aut inveniam viam, aut faciam.

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HIGH PRICES

Being Paid For Oil Leases Here.

Standard Oil Company Representatives Taking All the Territory They Can Get.

Interest in oil leases has been at high tide in this vicinity for about a week. The occasion of it all was the entrance of Standard Oil Company representatives into the field. Several of them swooped down upon us a few days ago and it was not long until prices were soaring. They began by getting at a low price what territory they could lease easily. The first interesting price paid was to Alex Stump, whose land is just above the mouth of Three Mile creek. He received six dollars per acre bonus, cash in hand, and rental of one dollar per acre per year. Mrs. Hannah Lackey received \$1000 cash bonus and one dollar per acre annual rental for a lease on a tract in the same vicinity. Other propositions at higher prices than these are reported, but as we have no absolutely accurate information, we therefore will not attempt to state them now.

The leases are being taken in the name of branches of the Standard Oil Company.

They are leasing territory all around Louisa. We hear that they are taking territory as far as four or five miles below (north of) Louisa.

None of the contracts promise development, so far as we have been able to learn.

The well on the O'Brien farm is not yet "cleaned out." The shot exploded in it evidently did good work and tore out a large hole. It is hoped to get the pump in the well next week. It is said that another well will be started as soon as the weather becomes sufficiently mild to permit the building of a standard derrick.

Suit For Damages.

The following from the Courier-Journal will be read with much interest by the Louisa friends of Mrs. Herr. She is a sister of Mrs. G. A. Nash, of this city and Mrs. W. F. Shipman, of Ashland, and is the mother of L. L. Herr, also of Louisa. Mrs. Herr has been a frequent visitor to her Louisa relatives:

Lexington, Ky., Feb. 15.—Mrs. Emma Walker Herr, of this city, who several years ago was an official of the Legislature and well-known writer throughout the State, filed suit today against the Lexington Street Railway Company for \$12,812.50 damages on account of personal injuries alleged to have been sustained by falling from a street car in May, 1909.

Mrs. Herr alleges that her bill for medical services was \$745, for hospital treatment \$385, for trained nurses \$115 and for drugs \$67.50. She says that for a long time prior to the accident she had been habitually engaged in literary work, writing articles for various magazines and periodicals, and for her work she received about \$1,500 annually, and by reason of her injuries she has been unable for a long time to do any literary work and that her health, strength and nervous system have been permanently impaired.

Special Term Lawrence Circuit Court

Judge J. B. Hannah has called a special term of the Lawrence Circuit Court, to begin Thursday, Mar. 3rd, and continue three days. This session of the court is called for the purpose of disposing of about two dozen whiskey cases, and it is supposed that no other cases will be tried.

Died in the Infirmary.

Jane Borders died in the county infirmary last Friday night from tumor. She was totally blind and had been an inmate of the poor-house eighteen years. She was 57 years old.

Howard Little Executed.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 11.—Howard Little, who murdered Mrs. Betsy Justis, her son-in-law, George Meadows, and the latter's wife and three children in their home near Hurley, Buchanan county, last September, was put to death by electrocution in the penitentiary here at dawn today without unusual incident.

Most murderers are executed for single murders; Howard Little has seven to his account. There were six at once in the wholesale butchery for which he was sentenced to die in the electric chair here today—a man, two women and three children.

Little was no ordinary "low-browed" criminal. He bore an excellent reputation in the community in which he lived, and a number of friends still believe in his innocence. His character appears to have been strikingly on the Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde order, to one side being attributed the atrocious crime which brought him to the shadow of ignominious death; the other being of such a nature as to hold the friends who stood by him until the last.

Little is described as one of the handsomest men in the State; more than six feet in height, weighing 236 pounds and being, in short, a more than ordinarily fine specimen of physical manhood. He held the position of Deputy United States Marshal for the Eastern district of Kentucky for a number of years. Except for his association with women, he carried himself generally without reproach. He was a sort of rural "Don Juan," however, and he himself declared that "women had been his ruin."

It was while in office as Deputy United States Marshal that he shot George McKinney in Eastern Kentucky and was sentenced to a life term in the Kentucky penitentiary. He was pardoned after a short period and moved back to Virginia, where he was made foreman by a large lumber company at Hurley, Buchanan county. While in this position he lived with the family of George Meadows. Mrs. Little and her children lived in the same house. Mrs. Little is alleged to have been present when the murders were committed, but she was not allowed to testify in the case.

BIG SANDY APPROPRIATION.

Contest Will be Carried Into the Senate.

The following is a dispatch from Washington to the Courier-Journal: Representative Langley received word from Chairman Alexander that the bill contained \$75,000 for the Levisa fork of the Big Sandy, for the completion of Dam No. 1 and beginning work on Lock 2.

Mr. Langley said: "The action of the committee commits the Government to a continuation of the Big Sandy improvement and insures slack water to Beattyville on the Kentucky."

"We could have secured more money but for the statement of the engineers that this is all they can profitably expend this year on these two projects."

"Since we are to have an annual bill hereafter, the improvements on both rivers will not be longer delayed on account of the lack of funds."

One of the principal contests in conference will arise over the Big Sandy river, between Kentucky and Tennessee. Chairman Alexander would give but \$78,000, and that to be devoted to the Levisa fork, which pierces Kentucky. Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, will put down at least an equal amount for the Tug fork in his State and may generally increase the main river appropriations. This will be stoutly resisted by the House committee.

Homicide in Ashland.

About 8:30 o'clock Sunday morning two negroes employed at Steinbauer & Hoelg's Midway Cafe, on West Winchester avenue, Ashland, engaged in a quarrel, and as a result William Tyler was killed, and Jesse Brown, a waiter, is behind the bars of the city jail, charged with murder.

An Object Lesson.

The fine address made a short time ago by W. H. May, of Prestonsburg, on the occasion of his appearance before the students of the K. N. C., contained much to interest and instruct all who heard it. It was, however, intended mainly for the students present, and what Mr. May said, and said so well, on that evening, should be remembered and heeded, particularly by the young men who were present.

Mr. May is an attractive speaker, but he is more than this: He is an object lesson for the young men of this his native valley. He was born on Beaver Creek, Floyd county. His father was a poor farmer, with nothing but good advice and good training, and a good example with which to endow his son. The traditional silver spoon was a long distance from the young chap's mouth. But the young chap grew to manhood, and he is today a conspicuous figure in Eastern Kentucky. He is Commonwealth's Attorney for a big district. Before he was elected to that honorable and responsible position he had a big law practice, and was known up and down the Sandy valley as a man of brains, energy, honesty and industry. How did he achieve this distinction? Not by loafing on the street corners of Prestonsburg and puffing vile cigarette smoke into the faces of the passers-by; not by haunting saloons; not by loud and boisterous language used in public places; not by promoting dog fights, and not by burning the midnight oil in reading "Deadwood Dick" stories and playing cards.

None of these things is productive of good, none of them is conducive to greatness nor to the achievement of prominence in any respectable calling. You, young man, who came here to attend school have no time to indulge in any of the "pastimes" here mentioned. Not one of them is conducive to health, good morals, or respectability and good standing among men. The young man who indulges in any one of these things has a load to bear, and he who burdens himself with all of them might as well tie a millstone about his neck and jump into the river. Add to these burdens the vice of intemperance, and you are already doomed. Aim high, young man; "hitch your wagon to a star." Remember that if you hold yourself cheap the community will hold you even cheaper. If by your conduct you say that your aims are low, your ideas groveling the public will accept you on these and lower terms. If on the contrary you show by your actions, by your deportment, by the company you keep, by your habits and by your conversation that you want to be a man among men, a man of whom your friends and your country will be proud, a man like W. H. May, for instance, a hundred hands will be stretched out to help you reach the goal of your laudable ambition.

Voluntary Manslaughter.

The jury in the trial of the case of the state of West Virginia versus E. E. Dudding, in which the accused stood charged with the murder of Ira S. Chapman at Huntington, found a verdict Saturday, after having been engaged in its deliberations since Friday.

Dudding was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter, which carries with it the penalty of imprisonment in the penitentiary for a term not exceeding five years.

His attorney moved to set aside the verdict and for new trial.

Killed in the Mines.

Robert Jackson, aged 33 years, was killed in the Greenough coal mines on Marrowbone Thursday by falling slate. He died in a few minutes after having been brought out of the mine. Mr. Jackson moved from Jackson, O., to Marrowbone only a short time ago. He leaves a wife.

The body passed through Louisa on Friday, on its way to Ohio for interment. It was accompanied by the widow and Leander Castle, the mine superintendent.

Have Changed Residence.

The families of G. A. Nash and L. L. Herr have moved from Lady Washington street and are occupying the handsome residence built by Ernest Shannon in south Louisa.

SUDDEN DEATH.

John Bartram's Life Closes Without Warning.

One of Fort Gay's Most Prominent Citizens Falls Dead on the Street.

This community was startled about dark on Friday last by the news that John Bartram, Mayor of Fort Gay and one of the best known men of that section, had died very suddenly. He had closed his store in Fort Gay, and accompanied by his son Grant he had started for his home in the southern part of town when he reeled and called to his son to catch him. The young man caught his stricken parent, and calling for help. Mr. Bartram was carried to his house, where he died in a few minutes.

At ten o'clock on Monday morning Mr. Bartram was buried not far from his late residence. The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Bryan, assisted by other ministers.

Death is supposed to have been caused by apoplexy. Mr. Bartram had had frequent hemorrhages from the nose, and while these noted the trouble they, acting as a vent, probably prolonged his life. Mr. Bartram left a widow and five children, all grown, and numerous friends and relatives. He was 72 years old.

John Bartram was a man of sobriety, great industry and good business qualities, and was straight and square in his various business transactions. These qualities were the means of his acquiring considerable means. He was active in politics, always taking an aggressive part in the affairs of his party. He will be greatly missed by his business and political associates and his family.

Resolutions by Board of Directors

Of The Louisa & Fort Gay Bridge Company, on the death of John Bartram, a former Director:

WHEREAS, the hand of Divine Providence has removed our friend and associate from the scene of his earthly labors, and the places that knew him once, but will know him no more forever, therefore, be it

Resolved, that it is but a just tribute to the memory of the departed, to say that in regretting his removal from our midst, we mourn for one whom we had learned to love and respect. In the most trying time of our existence, his courage never failed, and his loyalty never faltered.

Resolved, that we sincerely sympathize with his family in this, their great hour of sorrow, and commend them to Him who orders all things for the best, and whose chastisements are meant in mercy.

Resolved, that this heartfelt testimonial of our sympathy and sorrow be forwarded to his family. That this be published in the Big Sandy News, and a copy thereof be spread upon the records of The Louisa & Fort Gay Bridge Company.

Augustus Snyder, W. D. O'Neal, Jr., M. S. Burris, Robert Dixon, L. H. York, M. G. Watson, Directors.

Clarke Gets Fifteen Years.

A man calling himself Clarke, who blew a safe in a store not far from Pikeville some months ago, plead guilty in Circuit Court in that town last week and was sentenced to imprisonment in the penitentiary for a term of fifteen years. Clarke spent some time in the Lawrence county jail, having been brought here for safe keeping.

No School Money Yet.

The school money for the February pay, due last Saturday, has not yet reached Supt. O'Daniel. It seems to be the fault of the Auditor, as the State has money in the school fund to pay the teachers.

A Razor With a History.

Martin R. Allen, a barber of Inez, is in possession of a razor that has been in constant use for 125 years. It was bought by Benjamin West, then living in Spottsylvania county, Virginia, in 1785.

In 1798 Mr. West moved to Johnson county, Kentucky, and was drowned while fording Levisa river in 1822. When his body was recovered from the water the razor was found in his pocket and kept by his son, Joseph West, until his death in 1889.

After the death of Mr. West, his widow sold the razor to James Brown, of Inez. Brown used it up to a few days ago, and gave it to Allen, his son-in-law.

Allen sent it to Chicago and had it hollow ground, and says it is the best razor in his shop. It is a Gem razor and does not seem to be more than half worn.

Very many of the older residents of Lawrence county remember "Uncle" Joe West. He was one of the "old field" schoolmasters and taught several schools in this section.

The Senator's Bouquet.

The Catlettsburg Tribune tosses this bunch of flowers at Senator Prichard:

"The people of this Senatorial district irrespective of party affiliations have just cause to be proud of the record Senator Prichard is making in the State Senate. On all measures that so far has come before that body for consideration he has shown to be both safe and sane, and is readily recognized as one of the leaders of the Senate. This Senatorial district has a normal Republican majority of about 1400, but last fall Senator Prichard carried it by nearly 700 majority, a Democratic gain in the four counties of about 200 votes, and this fact together with the splendid record he is making in the Senate has attracted the attention of Democrats of the Congressional district who are looking to Senator Prichard as the safest man to lead the party to victory again next fall and should he enter the race and receive the nomination, his Republican opponent would have to be a quick stepper to keep in sight of the farmer statesman of Boyd county."

ELLIOTT PRESTON DEAD.

A Wealthy Citizen of This County Dies in Cincinnati.

The friends of Elliott Preston, whose serious condition was noted in this paper last week, will be sorry to learn that he died in Cincinnati quite unexpectedly on last Friday evening. As was stated in the NEWS Mr. Preston had been an epileptic for a considerable time. Insanity ensued, and it was deemed best to take him to a sanitarium in Cincinnati for restraint and treatment.

This was done by his brothers and some friends on the 6th of this month. Shortly after his entrance into the sanitarium meningitis seized him and his death followed very soon. On Saturday the body of Mr. Preston was carried to his old home at Georges Creek for interment.

Mr. Preston was about 41 years of age. A widow and eight children are left to mourn the loss of the husband and father. By industry and shrewd business management Mr. Preston had acquired much wealth. He was related to very many different families in this section.

Murder in Martin.

Abe Hensley and Phil Marcum became engaged in an altercation over some ties on the Emily Fork of Wolf creek last Saturday, when Hensley shot Marcum with a Winchester, nearly severing his arm below the shoulder. Marcum died the next morning. Hensley is in jail at Inez. The killing is said to be entirely unprovoked.

Regular services will be held next Sunday at the M. E. Church South by the pastor, Rev. Reid. Since the announcement of last Sunday that he would be absent other arrangements have been made.

A Louisa Girl at Chillicothe.

The following from the News-Advertiser, of Chillicothe, Ohio, refers to Mrs. Martha Pigg Chestnut, daughter of Mrs. Rebecca Lewis, of this place. As a school girl in Louisa she is remembered as one of the brightest pupils in the schools.

"The dramatic recital of 'Enoch Arden' given by Mrs. Austin P. Chestnut, assisted by Miss Adele Westfield, of Cincinnati, at the Masonic opera house Tuesday evening proved to be one of the most novel and thoroughly delightful entertainments ever given before a Chillicothe audience. It was a large and appreciative audience which greeted Mrs. Chestnut and evidenced the keen interest in her initial appearance in this city, since her graduation from the Metropolitan College of Elocution and Dramatic Art of Cincinnati.

"Mrs. Chestnut made a wise choice in her selection of Tennyson's beautiful poem, so full of romance and pathos for the exploitation of her historic ability. Her interpretation of mologues was truly beautiful and for two hours her audience sat as entranced, so realistically did she portray the picturesque situations and the dramatic incidents of the thrilling story, which touch the heart chords and appeal to all.

"As a reader Mrs. Chestnut is possessed of rare gifts, her commanding stage presence, a sympathetic voice and a charm of manner which can never fail to please.

"The characters of Enoch Arden, Annie Lee and Phillip stood out boldly as breathing, living beings so clear was her conception and depth of feeling in her portrayal.

"That Miss Westfield is a musician of ability was shown by her sympathetic rendition of the musical accompaniment by Strauss. So closely allied are reader and pianist that the effect is truly beautiful. Her expression was charming, showing her to be thoroughly familiar with the requirements of mologues programs, an entirely new form of entertainment.

"Mrs. Chestnut is to be commended for the success of the entertainment and the worthy cause for which her efforts were so graciously given.

"The substantial sum of over \$130 will be realized for the benefit of the hospital.

"The board of lady managers certainly appreciate the efforts of Mrs. Chestnut and the hearty support of the public."

Commissioner Rankin Next Week.

Commissioner of Agriculture M. C. Rankin will make an early start toward the organization of a Corn Growers' Association for the production of a better grade of corn throughout the State. He will distribute free seed corn in four of the mountain counties this month and inaugurate the system of corn-growing contests, which proved such a success in the ten counties in which it was tried last year.

The dates announced so far for the free distribution, during which Commissioner Rankin and C. S. Kirk of Inez, will address the farmers, are February 14 and 15, at Pikeville, Pike county; February 16 and 17, at Prestonsburg, Floyd county; February 18 and 19, at Paintsville, Johnson county, and February 21 and 22, at Louisa, Lawrence county. These meetings are to be held at the court house in each place, and it is expected that large delegations of farmers will be present.

Lawrence county farmers will greatly profit by attending these meetings. Remember the dates, next Monday and Tuesday, February 21 and 22.

Nominated to West Point.

Senator Thomas H. Paynter has nominated Richard Garred, of this place, to be a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Mr. Garred will leave on Sunday for the Academy for the purpose of taking the rigid mental and physical examination requisite for admission. His friends hope he will pass the examinations successfully.

Sam Jobe and bright little son, William Goebel Jobe, were in Louisa last week, en route from Chattanooga, W. Va., to Oslie, where they will again reside.