The Snyder Signal

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FIFTH MONTH OF SNYDER SCHOOLS

Institution Now Taking High Ground —Industrial Training to Take Place in Curriculum

The fifth month of the present session of the Snyder Public Schools has just closed and the report for the month shows an enrollment of 622. This is just 100 more than were enrolled in the scholastic census in May 1913, including the transfers. The school has been taught for twenty full days this month and the work has been good. Both teachers and pupils have done excellent work and since no contagious disease or epidemic has prevented the regular attendance we should feel thankful. The grades made by the pupils have been better this month than for the past months, especially on deportment. This is, no doubt, due to removing the cause as far as possible of the communication of pupils during study hours.

I call the attention to the parents that the pupils should bring their report cards to their parents. These cards are handed to the pupils of the primary and grammar grades on the Monday following the closing of the month. In the High School the cards are given to the pupils on Tuesday of the week following the close of the month. We hope the parents will inspect these cards and if the pupils are not making satisfactory grades report to me. Some of them are not satisfactory to me and I fear that they are the very ones whose parents do not look carefully into the reports. Let me urge that all parents see that their children bring these cards home promptly and return them the next day properly signed.

At a meeting of the board on Tuesday night, they decided to install the industrial departments in the schools next year. These departments will consist of manual training, domestic economy and agriculture. Plans are being worked out and an application is being made to the State Board of Education for State aid in this undertaking. The last session of the Legislature appropriated $50,000 for this purpose and Snyder schools should participate in this appropriation.

Our courses of study have been criticised as being impractical and that they do not fit our boys and girls for the duties of life. These departments are designed to offer the very practical training which the world is expecting of the schools. The cost of these departments will be slight in proportion to the increased efficiency of the schools. In fact, no additional expense will be incurred as to the teaching force and only part of the equipment will have to be bought. We should be able to get $1,500 or $2,000 from the State and that will more than pay the difference in the cost of maintenance and initial equipment.

The day has come for boys and girls to be trained to do things that will fit them for the places they will fill in the world. Only a small per cent of the pupils have the natural talent for the professions. The greater per cent have hidden talents for the industrial pursuits. Many pupils who could be happy in a life work of ordinary consideration can never be satisfied in the professional world. Many boys who could have rendered real service to the world as mechanics, architects, agriculturists have been put through school by ambitious parents and prepared for the professions of medicine, law, etc and at last spent a useless and dissatisfied life. The trend of educational progress is toward the industrial and Texas is following slowly the progress of the Nation. During last year 37 High Schools in Texas established these industrial departments. There are some 75 schools in the state now with these departments in successful operation. In all these schools both pupils and patrons are pleased with the results.

Some time in March there will be a school rally at which time the plan of the board will be fully discussed. The date for this will be announced and an effort made to get the State Superintendent to be present and discuss it with us. In a recent letter he says "It will enhance the value of your school and your community very much to have any one or two or all three of these departments in your school. The members of the State Legislature recognized this value when the appropriation was made. The results obtained in other schools by having established these departments have not been disappointing to the members of the Legislature or to the State Board of Education. By establishing these departments in your school you will be able hold your boys and girls in school to a more advanced age; also interest those in the workings of the school that are not now interested. Bear in mind it is very essential that these departments be rapidly established in all schools throughout the state." Mr. Doughty is no novice in this work for he has successfully operated a school with these departments and knows what he is talking about. I sincerely trust that the people of Snyder will give the board their unstinted co-operation in this most important move for a more practical education and I do not for one minute expect anything else. It is of vital interest to every citizen and especially to those who have boys and girls to be educated. Thanking the good people for their splendid co-operation and asking for a continuance of same, I am

Yours to serve,
E. A. WATSON

"JUST SEW" CLUB MET THURSDAY AFTERNOON

The "Just Sew" Club met Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. J. F. Avary and spent a most delightful hour sewing, chatting and engaging in other amusements.

Quite a number of the ladies were there and everyone expressed themselves as enjoying the occasion.

Sewing and needle work was the order of the afternoon.

Delicious candy was served to the guests and it was voted to meet with Mrs. George Harris next Thursday afternoon.

E. J. ANDERSON WILL PLANT ARTICHOKES

Mr. E. J. Anderson is getting well in line in progressive experimental farming. He owns a good farm near Ira and has it well stocked with hogs. He recently received from Dallas quite a quantity of artichokes which he will plant on his farm for hog feed.

The artichoke is recognized as a superior hog feed. They are usually left in the ground for the hogs to root for and it is a succulent root and possesses just the characteristics for a fattening feed.

Mr. Anderon is trying out various farm crops and while not saying much now, he will probably tell us about it later.

WRECK ON THE SANTA FE

On account of a derailment at Happy last Tuesday, the Santa Fe passenger train, southbound, was an hour late getting through. Trains are nearly always on time on this line and a late train creates general interest.

JUNIOR BARACA ENTERTAINMENT

On last Friday night the Junior Baracas of the First Baptist church entertained the Junior Philathea Class at the home of Mrs. Cunningham.

As the guests arrived they were ushered into a room where profiles of their faces were drawn and later in the evening guessing whose faces they were furnished a part of the amusement.

The evening was taken up with playing games which all seemed to enjoy.

It was then announced that the boys would bring in the refreshments and our mouths began to water at the thought of something good to eat, but we were a little surprised when they brought in law breakers. The second course was fruit salad, cakes and chocolate with generous helpings of whipped cream.

We all departed hoping the boys would not wait long to entertain us again.—Junior Philathea Reporter.

PROGRAM FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Snyder, Texas, Sunday, Feb. 22, 1914.

9 a. m.—Regular Sunday School.
10 a. m.—Song, Scripture, Prayer.
10:20—Report from District President, J. R. Coker.
10:40—The United Standard of Excellence. Can we attain it?—Rev. W. W. Werner.
11:00—Convention Address—Rev. J. B. Kerr, County President.
12:00—Recess.
2:00 p. m.—Roll Call by District Secretary, Miss Ethel Cherry, and response (reports from the schools represented.)
2:20—Can we grade the Sunday Schools of our District? The difficulties in it.—C. R. Buchanan and Rev. M. Godfrey. The Solution—Rev. H. T. Tucker.
2:45—Home Visitation, Purpose and Plans—U. C. Howard.
3:00—Preparation for Sunday School Work. The Officers. The Teachers—Miss Bonnie Wilkins.
3:30—The Place of Music and Song in the Sunday School.—Professor Berry.
4:00—Shall we push the Home and Cradle Roll Departments in our District? Why?—Mrs Hairston and Mrs. N. W. West.
4:00—Miscellaneous. Finances. Place of next meeting, etc.

CHILD BORN AT WAGON YARD ON FIRST MONDAY

An unusual thing happened in Snyder last Monday when Mrs. J. W. Wilson of Fluvanna gave birth to a child at a wagon yard in Snyder. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were stopping at the yard at the time. The child, a boy was not born in a manger, but in a wagon. The family left Tuesday in their wagon for their home in Fluvanna. All parties concerned doing well.

P. Brady went to Post City.

MRS. LATHAM DENIED BAIL

Woman Charged with Killing of John Y. Stewart Remanded to Jail to Await Grand Jury Action.

LARGE CROWDS ATTENDED THE TRIAL

The Case Was Hard Fought and Every Inch of Ground Was Firmly Contested by Contending Counsel.

The case of the State of Texas vs. Mrs. Minnie Lee Latham, charged with the killing of John Stewart in Snyder, Jan. 20th was called about 10 o'clock Thursday morning in the Justice Court before Justice of the Peace, Geo. W. Brown.

The trial was held in the district court room and all persons entering at the opening session in the morning were searched.

The house was packed most of the day by crowds from Snyder and all parts of the county. The case was called at 10 o'clock Thursday morning and held until 5 o'clock Thursday night, only a short intermission at noon and at supper time.

The defendant, Mrs. Latham, appeared a little nervous at the opening of the morning session, but soon seemed to regain her composure and appeared to stand the ordeal of the long trial remarkably well.

County Attorney Webb was assisted inthe prosecution by Higgins & Hamilton of Snyder and the defense was represented by Judge Wright of San Angelo and Judge Snodgrass of Coleman. Every inch of the ground has been stoutly and firmly contested.

The State announced ready for trial and the defense was ready.

The warrant being read by Sheriff Boles, charging Mrs. Latham with the killing, the following witnesses were called: J. V. White, B. F. Pryor, O. P. Wolfe, T. P. Moore, Ed. Kelly, Dr. Rosser, Gay McGlaun, and Mrs. C. E. Davis, also Jim Latham, J. F. Butler, C. M. Latham, R. I. Goodall, Mrs. Ada Cochran and Wooden Stinson.

The defense invoked the rule.

The first witness was R. I. Goodall of Girard, Kent county, witness knew Mrs. Latham, the defendant and identified her, knew Will Latham and saw Latham and little boy in car in front of store at Girard. Latham, woman and boy left in car over Jayton road Sunday, January 18t. Lathams had been around Girard about a week before they left on the 18th.

B. F. Pryor testified to seeing Mrs. Latham on the day Stewart was killed, at corner of Snyder Grocery Company, walking west; had seen Stewart and spoke to him as deceased passed witness about half way on north side square on side walk. Stewart was going west. From this testimony it appears that Stewart had preceded defendant, both going west.

O. P. Wolfe testified to the killing and incidents immediately following as has been heretofore related in the Signal and which facts are known to the public.

John Latham of Dickens county testified that he was a brother of Will Latham, husband of defendant and they had one child, a boy and no other children. Will and Minnie Latham had stayed at his house in Dickens county from Saturday till next day week. Will Latham had asked him directions to Colorado City by way of Jayton, Clairemont and Snyder. Latham had a shot gun and "22" repeating rifle; his brother had a pistol but not the pistol with which Stewart was shot. Knew of trouble between Will Latham and defendant, but had not discussed same with Latham in defendant's presence. Had a letter from father about trouble between Will Latham and wife.

Mrs. Ada Cochran, of Teague, Texas, sister of the defendant was placed on the stand next and remained for several hours. She testified she was twenty-three years old, her husband is dead, she has one child and lives with her parents. Had younger sister, Era, 16 years old, knew John Stewart, but had never seen him in Teague. Saw Stewart about two years before he was killed. Said Mrs. Latham came to them in Teague in April 1913 and that she was torn up, almost in hysterics, stated that Stewart had broken up their home. Defendant said Stewart used to hang around her shop in Sterling telling her how nice she was. She paid no attention at first, but got afraid and placed a mirror in the back of her shop so she could see when he was coming and she would go away and hide. One night Stewart came to her sleeping porch when she was alone and she said she drove him away. Said Stewart called defendant over the phone and wanted to talk with her. She walked the floor and thought what to do and finally decided to talk to him and persuade him to leave her alone. He told her he loved her and defendant said she was very much in love with her husband. This meeting was in Latham's barn. She successfully resisted Stewarts advances. Said Stewart drew a gun on her and told her what he could do for her and her husband.

Said defendant had never said anything about killing Stewart. Witness testified that defendant received telegram from her husband asking her to meet him in Temple and they would go home together. Witness replied "Will meet you." Next saw defendant in jail at Snyder. Witness said she had several letters from defendant but burned all of them. Always wrote about trouble between herself and husband. Said her husband wouldn't listen to a thing she said. Said they had decided to separate, wanted witness and defendant to get a home together and raise their children but didn't want to live in Teague. Said defendant wrote in June or July last year that seemed likethe trouble would kill them both. Witness said she did not know Stewart was in danger of being killed. Did not know Latham had threatened to kill Stewart, could not identify gun with which killing was done. Her brother, Guy, had given Mrs. Latham a gun several years ago. Witness had letter from Stewart replying to a letter she wrote Stewart, asking him for return of letters written him by defendant. Stewart replied letter were in safe keeping. Witness identified registered envelope addressed to Stewart also letter and made her mark on back of each page of letter. After discussion between counsel it was ruled that this letter could be examined by defendants attorneys. Letter was later introduced as evidence. State's attorneys introduced photographic copy of handwriting made from letters on wood, for identification of witness. Objected to by counsel for defense. Objection sustained by court.

On cross examination witness said when defendant came to their home in Teague, said that her husband had driven her from home and that John Stewart was the cause of it. Said that defendant said Stewart told her if she would meet him at the barn he would not say anything out of the way but would talk business. Said after this Latham had kicked defendant out of bed and called her all sorts of vile names. Latham went to Ft. Worth during the latter part of August or first par. of September. Had a letter from defendant saying her husband was quitting her again, tried to convince him of her innocence.

On re-direct examination witness could not identify name of Mrs. C. C. Evertts, Fort Worth on White hotel register as handwriting of sister, but said "Fort Worth" looked like her writing. Said she only wrote one letter to Stewart demanding her sister's letters back.

J. V. White, proprietor of the Maxwell hotel, Snyder, testified that woman that killed Stewart registered at his hotel as Mrs. C. C. Evertts, Fort Worth" on Monday night Jan. 19 and had room 22. Said woman took breakfast and dinner next day and appeared restless. Said she had come in auto to Snyder from Girard and wanted to go to Roscoe on 4 o'clock train.

Dr. Rosser testified that he examined the body of John Stewart and that four bullets entered the body, also Stewart was shot through arm and palm of hand. Any one of the shots in the body would have killed. One bullet passed through the base of the heart.

Chas. Latham testified that he lived 11 miles from the stock yards in Fort Worth. Knew of trouble between Will Latham and defendant. Will Latham and family stayed with him a good deal last fall and winter. He frequently discussed the trouble with Will Latham. Witness identified pistol with which shooting was done, said it belonged to Mrs. Minnie Latham, saw it at his home; Will also had shot gun, 22 highpower rifle and 45 automatic revolver. Will Latham told witness he had caught his wife and Stewart in the barn together, said he had made up his mind to quit her, but loved her so well he didn't see how he could do so.

Cross examined, said Latham sent for boy at Vernon, said they were congenial for awhile, but Latham would have spells of jealousy and go all to pieces. Said he stayed with Will day and night while these spells were on him. Will said he loved the woman. Said he gave up good job in Sterling and also a good home and was going to take the woman to Colorado, but did not know where he would go. Said nothing about John Stewart. Witness testified as to the ability of the Lathams to secure a bond and expressed their willingness to do so.

Here the State rested and the defendant rested on the testimony of the State's witnesses. This was at 2 o'clock p. m. and court adjourned until 8:30 a. m. Friday.

The above testimony is given briefly, but sets forth most all of the salient facts as brought out by the witnesses. Time and space would not permit the publication of all testimony in full.

The taking of testimony was closed Thursday night at nine o'clock and Court adjourned until Friday morning at 9:30 o'clock, when the arguments were heard.

The counsel for both sides argued the case from the convening of court Friday morning until noon.

At about 12:15 o'clock the court remanded the prisoner to the custody of the sheriff to await the action of the grand jury at the March term of district court.

SERIOUS CONFLAGRATION NARROWLY AVERTED

Snyder came near having a fire Tuesday night. It progressed far enough to burn out a string of electric wire at the picture theatre in the Wilmeth building. The walls were slightly scorched.

Col. Wilmeth says that the switch carries all the lights in front and the lights in the show house and when it was thrown on as to cut off the lights in front it gave a current over the other wire too strong and caused the blaze.

The damage was not serious.

STIMSONS BOUGHT PART OF SNYDER GROCERY STOCK

In reporting the sale of the stock of the Snyder Grocery Company last week we failed to state that the Stimson Dry Goods and Grocery Co. bought a large part of the stock. They have moved it into their store and have it all nicely arranged.

LANE YIELDS TO PRESSURE

Following the announcement by Will H. Mayes that in order to promote the prohibition cause he will submit to the action of a representative meeting to be held in Ft. Worth on Feb. 21, W. P. Lane has reversed his former action and has announced submission to the will of Texas prohibitionists. Mr. Lane, however, reserves the right to hit the Convention if he should see any political chicanery in the elimination process. Now it begins to look like this Lane and Mayes have both believed that there was a deep laid design to eliminate them and nominate Cullen Thomas and should that be done it is plain now that Lane will not feel bound by the Fort Worth outcome. Mayes is a man who will stand up to an agreement, but he might possibly be goaded to resentment. There is an under current of belief that Hall is now looming up large in the popular mind and if he should be the choice of the convention, he is most sure to win.

Rev. J. W. Hunt went to Abilene Wednesday night to a meeting of the church board of the Conference and from there will go to Munday to deliver two lectures.

WOMAN'S MISSION AUXILIARY MATTERS

The Methodist Auxiliary will meet Monday, February ninth at 4:00 p. m. instead of 3:00.

Bible Study. Judges: 2:16
Leader—Mrs. Morrow
Hostess—Mrs. Hutcheson.

We had a fine meeting last time. We want every Methodist woman in Snyder to be a member of our Society. We need you and you need us.

Brother Hunt will give us a lecture on Yellowstone Park, illustrated so there is a chance for us to visit this noted place for awhile and enjoy some of the grandest scenes on earth.

We will conduct a market Saturday afternoon at Curry & Tarler's Grocery Store.

Mrs. J. G. Lockhart was in Post City this week and reports Dr. L. slowly improving. There is hope that he may be fully r to health, however he is no ered to be yet outof danger.

Judge C. C. Higgins r nesday from Auson been attending mat Court.

The cemetery trustees of have a meeting over all mat interest the city cemetery in which

TO SEEK REPEAL OF PROVISIONS

Wilson Bitterly Opposed to American Ship's Exemption From Canal Tolls.

WASHINGTON, Feb 6.—President Wilson today announced that he would use every legitimate influence to have repealed the provision of the Panama Canal act excepting American coastwise ships from the payment of tolls. The president's intention is to start at once on the matter and from announcement it is surmised that he will put forth big efforts to carry through his intention of having the provisions repealed.

The president today agreed with the House and Senate Leaders that rural credits legislation would be passed during the present session of congress.

MRS. W. A. JOHNSON BOUGHT FINE TURKEYS

Mrs. W. A. Johnson received a pair of registered bronze turkeys this week from a poultry firm at Milano Junction. They are very fine specimens. Guaranteed to produce turkeys that will weigh twenty-six pounds. It is Mrs. Johnson's ambition to grow a thirty pound gobbler and with this splendid strain of birds she feels sure of success.

SANTA FE COMPANY INSTALLS NEW AGENT

The Santa Fe has made a change in depot agents at Snyder. Mr. F. E. Jolly, who has been agent here for several months is out and will no longer be connected with the Santa Fe service.

Mr. J. M. Rogers, late of Texico was installed as agent here this week. Auditor F. S. Walker was here Monday and Tuesday checking up the business and installing the new man.

Mr. Rogers comes as a practical railroad man and is quite a courteous gentleman.

He will move his family to Snyder in time and will take his place as one of Snyder's citizens.

Mr. Jolly goes out of the railroad business entirely. He expects to remain in Snyder however, and will probably go into business here.

Ralph Hardy remains here as operator and will continue to meet the people at the ticket window and sell you transportation anywhere you may want to go.

SNYDER PEOPLE MOVING TO DALLAS

O. M. Roe and family and N. H. Tally and family left Tuesday evening for Dallas to reside. The gentlemen have been engaged in the automobile business in Snyder.

They think they will find better business conditions in the Texas metropolis.

AMONG OUR FRIENDS

The following named persons have our sincere thanks for money paid on subscription to the Signal since January 29th. Nearly all of them are for one year:

J. Gilmer Davis, Knapp; Jeff McLemore, Houston; W. J. Arrington, Aspermont; Vernon Shelley, Cuthbert; M. S. Teter, Snyder; T. C. Davis, Snyder; J. W. Russel, Snyder; J. A. Bailey, Snyder; J. M. Temple, Route 1; J. J. Pope, Route 1; Mrs. J. T. Prewitt, Route 1; G. R. Higginbotham, Hermleigh; Dr. L. E. Trigg, Hermleigh; R. H. Hyman, Snyder; L. E. Carlisle, Route 4; John G. Davis, Snyder; Will Lane, Frankfort, Ky.; O. M. Rhea, Florence; R. E. Curry, Route 2; W. W. Rogers, Snyder; Joe Wolfe, Snyder; J. A. Vineyard, Route 2; W. J. Evans, Ira; Matt Smith, Alpine; W. J. Norris, Lampasas; R. E. Wagner, Knapp; Mont. Swaim, Lubbock.

WELL KNOWN INSTITUTION CHANGES IT NAME

A deal that has been pending for some time has been finally closed up by which R. Coleman goes out of connection with the Coates-Coleman Mercantile Co. and the company will hereafter be the Coates Mercantile Co. Company is made up of Mrs. Coates, Miss Birdie Alexander and C. R. Alexander. They will continue to carry everything in the dry goods store line and meet all demands of a purchasing public.

SUNDAY SERVICES AT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The church comes together at 10 a. m. for the purpose of studying the Bible Lesson, Second Chapter 1st. Cor.

Communion Service at 12 a. m.

Preaching service at 7:30 p. m. by Evangelist J. A. Bradbury, "A W[illegible] of Christian Union."

All lovers of the Truth and those who are interested in union are cordially invited.