

The Colfax Chronicle.

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This issue of the Colfax Chronicle begins the 34th year of its existence. The paper was founded in 1876 by J. M. Sweeney, who ran it about one year, when it fell into the hands of its present editor, who has conducted it continuously since Nov. 2, 1877, a period of 32 years.

In starting in upon our 33d year of editorial management of the Chronicle, we have a troop of memories before us of the vicissitudes through which the paper has passed, and it would take columns to recount them here. Above all, however, there is one memory that gives us unalloyed satisfaction, and we hope we may be pardoned for referring to it in this connection. It is this: In all of our writings and contentions we have endeavored to serve our day and generation to the best of our ability, and with fidelity to the people at large. If in any measure we have failed in this purpose, it has been an error of judgment and not of intent or design.

On the 1st of May of this current year 1909, the paper passed into the proprietorship of the Chronicle Printing Co., Limited, but its old-time editor has been continued, and no change in its policy is contemplated. It is hoped to conduct the paper on the same lines as heretofore with increasing usefulness to the public and with an unflinching desire for the uplifting and general good of all. To this end we solicit the hearty support and influence of every good citizen, and assure one and all that we shall do everything we can to deserve their continued confidence and esteem.

A New Restaurant for Colfax.

A new restaurant is to be opened on Railroad Avenue in the Brinker block, next to the Union Mercantile store, which we learn is to be ready for business on or about Nov. 1st.

Mrs. Ada Calhoun Lane Dead.

Mrs. M. M. Ada Calhoun Lane, of Huntsville, Ala., died in the city of New York on October 22d. She was the sister of Wm. S. Calhoun, with whom she inherited a half interest in the immense Meredith Calhoun estate, upon which the present town of Colfax is situated.

Work to Begin Soon on Stave Factory.

We are informed that the machinery for the stave factory that is to be built by Morgan & Company at or near Capt. Teal's gin site, adjoining Colfax on the north, is being loaded for shipment to this point, and may be expected to arrive within the next week or two. Work on the mill will begin immediately on receipt of the machinery.

Four Bales of Cotton Burned.

We are sorry to learn of the misfortune of Mr. Geo. E. Brown, of ward six, in losing four bales of cotton by fire last Saturday night. He had six bales in his cotton house, and expected to haul it to the gin on Monday morning, but his little son unfortunately set the cotton on fire while striking a match and burned fully four bales up. He saved two bales of the cotton, but the others were a total loss.

Foot Ball in Alexandria Nov. 4th.

The big game of foot ball that was to have been played in Alexandria on Nov. 4th, between the Cincinnati University team and the L. S. U. team, is declared off, the Cincinnati team declining to play. A big game of foot ball is to be played in Alexandria on the 4th, nevertheless, as the L. S. U. boys will be on hand to play a game which has been arranged with the crack team of the Ruston Industrial Institute. This team is a very strong one, and the knowing ones think there is a fair chance for them to carry off the honors. At any event the game will be a good one, and lovers of the sport can expect to see some fine playing.

It is thought by the weather-wise and predicted by some of the astronomers that the approach of Halley's comet will cause the coming winter to average three or four degrees colder than any we have had for several years.

Public Attendance at Criminal Trials.

The low plane of morals accepted and tolerated as fit for thought and discussion by a large proportion of our citizens should be a matter for regret and disapproval on the part of all interested in the virtue, morality and christian civilization of our State and country. A marked exhibition of the desire of many persons to revel in and gloat over the vulgar and salacious details of criminal outrage has been shown during the trial of the Miles-Mills case in Colfax during the past week or ten days, the parties being on trial for rape. Perhaps a hundred unfortunate persons, directly or indirectly interested in this trial, had to be present during its progress, but there has been another hundred or more present out of maudlin curiosity and the vicious desire to hear shocking charges and counter charges that no self-respecting man should waste his time to hear, much less to repeat and discuss within the sacred precincts of his home.

Of course the truth or falsity of every charge has to be established in our courts, because life and liberty hinge upon them, and justice can only be done after the most shocking details have been investigated. But the question arises, is it at all necessary that these details should be made public, or that the public should be admitted to the investigation? There can be no question as to the evil effect that general publicity gives to such matters, especially with the young, and also with those viciously inclined. The only question to be solved, is: How can justice be done and the public protected from injury? Our judges frequently endeavor to do this by excluding young people from the court room. This only partially remedies the evil when adults in unlimited numbers are allowed to be present, and newspaper correspondents are allowed to publish all the details of the most shocking crimes. It is a very debatable question whether the ends of justice and protection of society cannot be better served by allowing only the judge and jury, the necessary attorneys, witnesses, officers, and parties directly interested, to be present at all such trials. We think that in all such cases the judge should be required by law to exclude the general public from the trial.

The Great Waterways Convention.

President Taft has been progressing down the Mississippi river this week from St. Louis, with a fleet of steamboats and a numerous escort of governors and other high State and National dignitaries. Four torpedo boat destroyers are with the fleet, and at 8 o'clock Saturday morning, Oct. 30, they are expected to arrive at New Orleans, where four great battleships await their arrival.

The President will remain in New Orleans three days, and his presence is to be made a great time by fetes and parades, possibly eclipsing the grand Mardi Gras displays for which the city is famous. His trip and presence are being made good use of to advertise and emphasize the importance of the great Waterways Convention which is to be in session in the city of New Orleans a couple of days next week.

Thousands of people have been hastening to the city for the past day or two, and the crowd promises to be one of the most imposing both as to personnel and importance that ever assembled in the Crescent city.

New Industry in Grant Parish.

A new industry is reported for the people living in central Grant parish, from which we are told quite a number of persons have made a good revenue. This is the manufacture of the oil of pennyroyal, for which they get one dollar a pound. The ordinary family can make several pounds with the distilling apparatus used. The oil is made from the common "horse mint," which grows wild in the piney woods, and can be gathered in large quantities. The industry was started by a Northern man some weeks ago, and we understand that a good many expect to turn their attention to the manufacture of the oil, for which there is said to be a sure and steady demand.

The Colfax town authorities contemplate putting in street lamps, a sample of which has been exhibited on Railroad Avenue and Court Square this week. The light is made with air and gasoline, and is extra fine, and plants of the light have been put in Tushinello's brick building and C. W. LaCroix's store.

Cotton is quoted in New Orleans at 14 1/2-16 cents for middling, and we understand that Colfax buyers have paid the rise of 13 cents for the staple within the past week.

Verdict of Acquittal in the Miles-Mills Rape Case.

The case of Hargis Mills and Roy Miles, charged with rape, came to a termination Thursday night, Oct. 29th, at 11 o'clock, with a verdict of "not guilty."

This case has attracted a great deal of attention from the fact that the prosecuting witness was the wife of Hargis Mills, one of the defendants. The substance of the evidence for the State was the charge of the wife against her husband and his alleged accomplice. The defense alleged that any intimacy with the prosecutrix was by her consent.

The work of securing a jury to try the case began on Thursday of last week and was completed at noon Saturday, as follows: J. T. Busby, S. B. Parish, Albert Brown, J. H. Stephens, I. R. Pool, W. P. Harrison, W. S. Drewett, E. W. Pollard, W. M. Bowen, A. M. Brown, A. E. Crump and R. K. Garrett.

As soon as the jury was completed the State announced that the prosecutrix was sick, and on a physician's certificate of her inability to appear in court, adjournment was taken until Tuesday of this week. When the case was resumed on Tuesday, all witnesses were present and the trial began, continuing until noon Thursday. Arguments were heard in the afternoon and at night, and at 10:10 p. m. the jury retired to deliberate on their verdict. At 10:45 the jury filed into court with a verdict of acquittal, which ends one of the most sensational cases in Grant parish criminal annals.

At the April term of court the defendants were tried and convicted, without capital punishment, but the Supreme Court granted them a new trial, and the case was gone over again before a jury which has turned them loose.

Halley's Comet is Coming.

Halley's comet is just now engaging the attention and discussion of scientists and astronomers the world over. This celestial wanderer in its flight through space makes its appearance once in each 77 years. Its approach can now be seen through the large telescopes in the world's observatories. When it reaches its nearest point to the earth it will be a brilliant object in the heavens, and will be gazed at in wonder by all.

It will not be visible to the naked eye until February, 1910. During the last months of the present year 1909, November and December, it is said that we may expect quite an unusual display of pyrotechnics in the way of meteors, or "shooting stars," as they are commonly called. In the month of May, 1910, the comet will be at its greatest brilliancy and apparent size, and will be a dazzling and most wonderful object in the heavens. It will then gradually pass out of our range of vision until near December, 1910, when it will be lost in the vast distances, not to be seen again until the year 1987. Very few of the present generation can expect to see it a second time. This comet at its nearest approach to the earth next May will still be the enormous distance of 11,800,000 miles away.

The pipe for the Colfax Gas Well Co. has been shipped from Pittsburg for some time, and is expected to arrive daily. As soon as it is received work will be resumed on the well, which is now down to a depth of 785 feet.

The police jury was in session a couple of days the first of this week, but owing to the clerk being engaged as counsel in the Miles-Mills case this week he was not able to record the proceedings, and their publication cannot be made until next week.

Dr. Walter Leabo returned Tuesday evening from New Orleans, where he went to stand an examination before the State board, from which he came off with fine honors.

Dr. J. L. Kelly and wife, formerly of Rochelle, arrived in Colfax last Saturday, and we learn that the Doctor will locate here for the practice of medicine.

The fourth quarterly conference for the Colfax and Montgomery work will be held at Colfax on Tuesday, Nov. 23d.

Capt. T. M. Wells this week moved his family into the residence which he bought from Rev. L. Fenn.

The Colfax high school has an attendance of 184 pupils.

Looks like old times to J. W. Duncan Company.

The prettiest post cards in town can be found at the Dixie drugstore.

Twenty-five per cent reduction on furniture at J. W. Duncan Co.

District Court Proceedings.

In addition to the trial of the Miles-Mills case this week, the following business was disposed of:

Pollock Mercantile Co., judgment discharging receiver and homologating final account.

John Lewis, plead guilty to larceny, sentenced to serve 20 days in jail, subject to work on public road.

Will Taylor, convicted of larceny, sentenced to 3 months in jail, subject to work on public roads.

J. V. LeSage vs. Lone Sparks, judgment for plaintiff.

T. C. Bush vs. Succession of Henry Thomas, judgment for plaintiff.

Allen Jones vs. Eliza Wilkins, absolute divorce granted.

Gus Antee vs. Annie Antee, absolute divorce granted.

Maek Arrington, for cutting timber, continued to next term of court. Court then adjourned sine die.

Mr. E. C. Gates, road contractor for ward two, who was in Colfax to attend the session of the police jury, while here received a telephone message informing him of the critical illness of his father, Mr. Morgan Gates, at the home of his son, M. M. Gates, at Magda, La. He left Tuesday night for his brother's home to be with his father.

The La. Ry. & Nav. Co. will install a telegraph-telephone service, and their men were in Colfax last Monday, trying the instruments and wires here, looking to this end. This is to be done we understand so as to cut out so much telegraphing and cumbering their lines with orders for cars and other local service.

Mr. Charlie Barr, who has been sojourning about a month at Little Rock, Hot Springs, Arkadelphia, and other points in Arkansas, returned to Colfax last Tuesday night, and will resume his position at Big Pine on the first.

Among those who have gone from Colfax to attend the Taft reception and Waterways Convention in New Orleans are C. H. Teal, Jno. A. Williams, W. A. Brownlee, W. F. Jobe, J. W. Duncan, L. L. Lurry and Joe LeSage; and we learn there are others who will go.

Mr. Angus Kelly arrived home from New Orleans last Monday, and left that night for Alexandria, where we understand he has a position.

Frightful Fate Averted.

"I would have been a cripple for life, from a terrible cut on my knee cap," writes Frank Diaberry, Kelliber, Minn., "without Bucklen's Arnica Salve, which soon cured me." Infallible for wounds, cuts and bruises, it soon cures burns, scalds, old sores, boils, skin eruptions. Worlds best for piles. 25c at all druggists.

Notice, Stock-Breeders.

I have placed on exhibition and sale until Nov. 30th, 25 Red Poll bull calves, six to eight months old. Price \$25.00 each. o30-4t J. H. McNEELY.

Notice to Trespassers.

I call attention to the notices on my plantation gates: Hunting positively forbidden. Trespassers will be prosecuted to fullest extent of the law. JNO. RANDOLPH.

Notice.

The tax rolls for the town of Colfax for the year 1909 are now on file for the collection of taxes. Twenty days from date hereof all taxes are due and collectable by law. All taxpayers are hereby notified to settle their taxes and thereby save interest and costs. W. D. IRWIN, Tax Collector. o2-5t.

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