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FORMER SHERIFF OF ALLEN PARISH WILL BID ON ROAD WORK

O. Reed, Real Capturer of Helaire Carriere, Now Contractor

LOOKS SITUATION OVER IN ST. LANDRY

Has Been Engaged in Similar Work in Home For Some Time

O. Reed, former sheriff of Allen parish, whose home is at Opelousas, La., is in his own town and parish, engaged in road work for some time and has had considerable experience in the work of building modern highways. Allen parish since its creation has established numerous splendid roads and at present time is engaged in finishing the share of the Pelican highway which runs from Alexandria to Lake Charles parallel to the Mo. Pac. railway. This highway will connect the Anderson and Pershing highways with the Spanish Trail.

Mr. Reed won considerable fame as real capturer of Helaire Carriere, who was outwitted in July, 1916, when St. Landry's famous sheriff, Marion L. Swords, while the latter was trying to arrest him at Pot Cove, not far from Opelousas, in the Mallet woods. The story of the killing of the sheriff, the long hunt for the murderer, the spectacular capture, transportation, trial, conviction and execution of the desperate criminal are still fresh in the minds of the people. Mr. Reed, who knows the concern part of the state thoroughly, had made his escape from the Mallet woods. The outlaw made his way across Mamou prairie, in Orange parish, crossed Bayou Nez Pesse into Allen, thence westward north of Oberlin to some point on the Calcasieu river. This stream he followed south to a point southwest of Claiborne. Then, rabbit-like, he returned eastward, going to near Basile, but leaving Kinder and Elton to the north by avoiding all thickly settled communities.

He made his headquarters in an abandoned sawmill, on the railroad just west of Basile, and would slip into that village at night. This information Mr. Reed secured from a relative of Carriere's who resided in Allen parish. Securing the aid of Sheriff Reid of Lake Charles, with Oscar Tate of Kinder and several deputies, the posse descended on the mill at night and awaited Carriere's return from Basile. When the criminal walked up to the mill platform he was ordered to surrender. When he attempted to use the rifle that Sheriff Swords in death, a load of buckshot stretched him out and his capture was easy. Taken to Lake Charles he was treated for his wounds, later brought to Opelousas, tried and convicted and sentenced to hang. Before being executed he was taken to New Orleans for safekeeping, and when the date for the execution was about due he was transported to Baton Rouge. While within the walls of the penitentiary he attempted to escape by slashing his throat with the blade of a safety razor but surgical attention saved him for the hangman's noose.

Sheriff Reed has never received credit for his remarkable detective skill in locating the murderer, for he is certain that Carriere might never have been caught had not the tail end of Allen stirred himself to aid in the avenging of Sheriff Swords.

Telephone Men Meet Here

The employees of the southern division of the Bell telephone association held a get-together meeting in this city last Friday, the same being staged in the hall of the local fire company. Division Chairman Flipping of Passmore, Mr. Ferguson of Lake Charles, Mr. Curran of New Orleans and Mr. Duncan of Alexandria, prominent members of the body were in attendance.

Services at Episcopal Church

Announcement is made that divine services will be conducted at the Episcopal church today (Wednesday), March 2, at 7:20 o'clock p. m., by the Rev. E. M. Bullock. All members of the congregation and the public is cordially invited to attend.

PRESIDENT SIGNS COCODRIE BILL

ACT BECOMES LAW WHEN EXECUTIVE AFFIXES HIS SIGNATURE TO MEASURE

The bill introduced in the senate by Hon. Jos. E. Ramsdell of Louisiana declaring Bayou Cocodrie non-navigable, having passed both houses of congress was approved by President Wilson last Saturday and is now law.

Thus all legal obstacles in the way of the construction of the great gravity canal proposed by Welman Bradford have been removed and Mr. Bradford and the interests behind him will have a clear way in beginning active work of building the canal from the Red River to the lower tier of Louisiana parishes. It is a man-sized job and will cost a fortune to construct, but Mr. Bradford states he has ample financial means behind him and that all plans for the canal's construction have been worked out and no unnecessary time will be lost in pushing the work through to an early and successful completion.

SANDOZ-CULP

Of much interest Sunday was the wedding of Mrs. Hattie Culp to Mr. Charles Sandoz, which was celebrated at 1 o'clock in the parlor of the Philip Hotel. Rev. J. Ivey Hoffpauir pastor of the Eunice M. E. Church South officiating.

The wedding was a quiet, though lovely affair, only the immediate relatives of the contracting parties and a few friends being present. Immediately after the ceremony the happy couple left over the Gulf Coast Lines for New Orleans where they will spend a brief honeymoon. Returning they will stop over in Opelousas for a short stay with relatives. The bride is the daughter of Mrs. E. Edgin, well known family of this place, and was the widow of Dr. Culp prominent dentist of Southwest Louisiana; and for the past year has been proprietress of the Philip Hotel which she purchased last February. She has made a success of her business, having made the Philip a popular hostelry, and also by her charming manner and agreeable nature has made many warm and influential friends in Eunice.

The (?) blushing groom is a member of one of Opelousas' oldest and most prominent families and for the past two years has been connected with the large department store of Frankel & Mayer as manager of the dry goods and ladies furnishings departments. Charlie is by nature "one of the boys," always genial and courteous, which qualities contribute to the high esteem in which he is held by his many friends and acquaintances.

They were the recipients of many valuable presents from the proprietors and sales force of the Frankel & Mayer store as well as from other friends and relatives.

The out of town guests and relatives present for the nuptials were Mrs. Sandoz and daughters, mother and sisters of the groom from Opelousas; Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Walton and Mr. Culp of DeQuincy, Mrs. Blanche Savoy of Church Point, Mr. W. E. Mitchell of Orange, Texas and Mr. G. H. Sloane of Lafayette.

SURRENCY WINS CASE ON APPEAL

RAILROAD MAN, SENTENCED TO LIFE TERM, GETS NEW TRIAL FROM HIGH COURT

Monday the state supreme court, Justice Dawkins being the organ of the tribunal, rendered an opinion in the case of the State vs. J. M. Surrency, on appeal from conviction and life sentence from the district court of St. Landry parish. The verdict of the trial jury was set aside and the case remanded for trial.

Surrency, former freight conductor on the Gulf Coast Lines, shot Hildley, another freight conductor on the same road, while the latter's train was switching in the Opelousas yards last August. He was indicted on the charge of lying in wait and shooting and wounding with intent to murder. The penalty for this crime, according to Louisiana law, is death. In due time Surrency was brought to trial in the district court and promptly convicted, the jury qualifying its verdict "without capital punishment." Refused a new trial, his attorneys, Messrs. Lewis, Galbreath and Haas, appealed to the high court. The case was argued and submitted some time ago and the decision rendered Monday was expected that day.

OIL CONCERNS SAYS WILL START DRILL AT MALLET WOODS

Company Represented by G. W. Morgan Makes Important Statement

DERRICK ERECTED RIG IS ON WAY

Location Made by Geologists Several Years Ago

Mr. G. W. Morgan of this city, local representative of a Shreveport oil company, stated this week that his company would begin drilling at the Mallet woods location in the next few days. The derrick was to have been erected this week and the rig, owned by the company, is either on the way here from north Louisiana or will be shipped in a day or two.

The location where the test well will be sunk was made by a geologist some five years ago. The late C. J. Thompson, then parish superintendent of education, was the head of a company which was organized to prospect for oil in the Mallet woods, slightly north of west of Lawtell and not far from Pot Cove. Mr. Thompson was very enthusiastic over the prospects of finding oil in the locality and much of the land surrounding the proposed well was under mineral lease. The particular spot where the well was to have been sunk is a peculiar formation. The soil in the Mallet woods is very flat but the place picked for the well is slightly elevated and shows up strongly in comparison with the surroundings.

It is this same spot selected by Mr. Thompson where the Morgan well will be sunk, and the promoters of the enterprise fully expect that they will uncover a big find of the liquid gold. The company also holds extensive leases in the neighborhood as well as in the territory surrounding Church Point, and if they uncover oil at Mallet woods they propose to develop their holdings to the limit.

Drilling at the well on the Cresswell farm is progressing right along, according to people who are on the ground every day. Up to Monday over seven hundred feet of the casing had been sunk and the drill was going down at a good rate. Work proceeds both day and night, except Saturday night and Sunday when the machinery is at rest and the crew of men is given time to rest. Nothing of a startling nature has so far been brought to light, but the drillers and promoters of the well feel confident that oil will be discovered long before the 3,000 foot depth is reached.

FARM LOAN BANK ACT IS UPHELD

SUPREME COURT KNOCKS OUT INJUNCTION AND BUSINESS WILL PROCEED

Monday the supreme court of the United States handed down the long-expected decision in the injunction proceedings against the federal farm loan bank. The act creating the bank was upheld and the injunction dissolved. This removes all restrictions on the bank proceeding with business and Attorney M. H. Thompson of the St. Landry association stated Tuesday morning that the local organization would be ready within the next few days to take up the matter of extending loans to farmers of this parish. It is expected that ample funds will be available to make the proposed loans now pending and also to extend aid to others who have been contemplating asking for assistance from the land bank. Fully a quarter million dollars have already been loaned the farmers of this parish at a low rate of interest in thirty-five annual payments.

Repair Local Phone Lines

District Lineman Hauze of Lake Charles, with four assistants of that department of the Cumberland arrived here some days ago in a big White motor truck for the purpose of putting in extensive repairs to the lines and other equipment of the company. New cross-roads poles are being placed in position and the men are busy on the job every day.

Miss Gertrude Fox motored to Lake Charles Saturday, returning via rail Monday morning, having left her car in that city for repainting.

W. F. Nolan made a business trip to Crowley Saturday, returning home Sunday afternoon via Lafayette. John W. Clark, Landry street jeweler, went to New Orleans Saturday night, returning home Monday morning.

BOUANCHAUD HEADS THE BIG CONVENTION

Lieutenant Governor Chosen as the President by an Overwhelming Majority Over Mr. Breazeale

As expected, Lieutenant Governor or Hewitt Bouanchaud of Pointe Coupee parish was elected president of the constitutional convention when that body assembled in Baton Rouge yesterday (Tuesday) at noon, in the hall of the house of representatives.

The names of Mr. Bouanchaud and Mr. Phanor Breazeale were presented to the convention and on a call of the roll the former received 117 votes to the latter's 27, two members being absent at organization.

O. H. Simpson, for many years secretary of the state senate, was unanimously chosen secretary of the convention.

The two absentees were Congressman Jared Y. Sanders, who remained in Washington to finish out his term, and Dr. Roy O. Young of Lafayette, only republican member, who was detained at home on account of illness.

Governor Parker addressed the convention by request, and the executive stated emphatically that he was "hands off" and advised the delegates to act wisely in framing the new constitution. He recommended that the governor and the mayors of all cities in the state having over 25,000 population be made ineligible to succeed themselves at the expiration of their terms of office.

Mrs. Joe T. Stokes

Died, at the family home, two miles west of Opelousas, last Saturday night at 10:45 o'clock, Mrs. Agnes Hayes, wife of Joe T. Stokes, aged 64 years, 11 months and 26 days. The funeral was held Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, with services at the Methodist church and interment in the public cemetery.

Mrs. Stokes was a daughter of the late Egbert O. Hayes, once sheriff of St. Landry. She was twice married, the first time to Hiram Burr, and by this marriage three children were born: Lester F. Burr, now a freight conductor on the main line of the Texas and Pacific railway; Miss Neita L. Burr and Charles Burr, all three of whom survive. About fifteen years ago she married Mr. Stokes. The deceased was a most estimable woman and a consistent member of the Methodist church, and her sudden death proved quite a shock to her many relatives and friends here and elsewhere in this parish, all of whom feel deeply for the bereaved husband and children.

PALMETTO RESIDENT SAYS NO SMALLPOX

RUMORS THAT SECTION WAS FULL OF DISEASE DISCOUNTED BY AUSTIN A. RICHARD

Last week it was currently reported on the streets of Opelousas that the neighborhood around Palmetto was full of smallpox cases. There were no denials and the rumor was generally believed.

Friday night a reporter met Austin A. Richard, prominent citizen and business man of the village of Palmetto, and asked him about the matter. Mr. Richard stated emphatically that he had heard of no cases of the disease either in the village or in the surrounding neighborhood. If there had been any cases the fact would have been known, Mr. Richard said. Dr. R. G. Hawkins, physician living in the village and having a practice throughout the section, would have reported to the health authorities any cases and the facts established would have been made known immediately.

Delay Opening Restaurant

Mr. Dumart, proprietor of the new restaurant that is to open in the Morley building on Bellevue street, opposite the Lacombe hotel, stated Saturday that it was impossible to start business on the 1st instant because of the non-arrival of supplies ordered from dealers out of town. However, he expects to have everything going within the next few days and promises patrons splendid service at reasonable prices.

Mrs. John M. Prescott is visiting relatives in Opelousas and will shortly join Mr. Prescott in Houston, Texas. They have been residing for some time in Crowley and Jennings.

The many friends of Mrs. W. D. Lewis will be glad to know that she is rapidly improving after a spell of illness lasting several weeks. Warren Lacoste and Nathan Ross of Lafayette were Opelousas visitors Friday.

TELEPHONE OUTFIT GETS RATE HIKE ASKED OF BOARD

Twenty Per Cent Increase Authorized by Commission

HUEY P. LONG IS DISSENTING MEMBER

Surprise Put Over Saturday in Long-Drawn Hearing

The patrons of the Cumberland telephone company in Louisiana had one put over them in the matter of the company's request for a twenty per cent increase in rates for services rendered. The railroad commission, last Saturday, announced that the request of the company had been granted. The order was signed by Chairman Shelby Taylor and John T. Michel, constituting a majority of the board. The dissenting member, Huey P. Long, was not in Baton Rouge, and when informed of the decision, at his home in Shreveport, grew wrathful and issued the following preliminary statement:

Shreveport, La., Feb. 26.—Commissioner Huey P. Long, of the third Louisiana railroad, district when roused out of bed tonight and informed of the decision of his two colleagues in the Cumberland telephone company's appeal, granting an increase of 20 per cent in rates, said: "The order signed by Commissioners Taylor and Michel is the most humiliating document ever signed by a majority of the Louisiana railroad commission."

"I will issue a statement Sunday, stating some facts which will take the people of Louisiana by surprise. These same two men about one year ago, recognized a rate without giving the people a hearing when only a few months before that time on their oath before the court, they said the same rate was not justified."

"John T. Michel was Jimmy Henriques," the Cumberland telephone company's attorney, political partner in the thirteenth ward of New Orleans and always has shown a friendly attitude toward the Cumberland telephone company.

"Taylor promised me and many people that he would vote against the rate raise, but what I will say Sunday will open the eyes of the public. There will be many people who can and will verify the statement which I will issue through the press tomorrow."

This ends a long-drawn fight between company on one side and the people of New Orleans and St. Landry parish. The balance of the state protested little against granting the increase. New Orleans interests were represented by one of the city commissioners, who made a vigorous kick against the granting of the increase. St. Landry and Opelousas were represented by Police Juror W. F. Brown, and he made several trips to Baton Rouge to protest against the proposed increase. All these protests were in vain, judging from the order signed by Taylor and Michel.

The twenty per cent hike in phone costs will become effective practically immediately and will affect many thousands of patrons all over the state.

Mr. Long, member of the commission from the North Louisiana district is wrathful over the action of his two colleagues and promises some rich sensations in an exposure of the methods employed in granting the increase of the telephone company's rates. His statement, printed above, fore-shadows an "explosion" that will prove extremely interesting to the people of the state. The matter of the increase will no doubt finally land in the courts for final settlement, as the opposition to the company's grab in these times of falling prices will no doubt refuse to quietly abide by the dictum of two members of the railroad commission without taking the entire matter through all legal channels available.

Hila Morgan Show Here

The tent theatre of the Hila Morgan company, which played a very successful engagement of one week in Opelousas last fall, returned to Opelousas Sunday to play another week's engagement. The show opened Monday night and played to a crowded house. An entire new program was arranged and there will be a new play each night. The show is located on the Jacobs lot, corner Main and Bellevue streets, right in the center of the city. Popular prices are being charged—25 cents for adults, 10 cents for children, war tax included.

Has Big Corn Crop Planted

Mr. E. M. Boagni, owner of the Camp Hamilton-Belmont place near Opelousas, has approximately two hundred and fifty acres of corn planted for his individual crop on the big farm. This is exclusive of the acreage planted by tenants. His crop is worked by day labor, and according to his son Vincent, they are expecting no trouble whatever this year in securing an ample supply of farm hands, often having more applicants Monday mornings than they have places for.

ROADS LAYING OFF MEN AS BUSINESS BEGINS TO SLUMP

Various Lines Reducing Number of Employees in All Branches

SAME CONDITIONS PREVAIL EVERYWHERE

Fewer Freight Trains Are Now Being Operated Over Main Lines

The railroad business is reflecting the general business depression existing all over the nation. A short time ago when the high tide of prosperity had everyone guessing what would happen if the pace continued, the railroads stated it was impossible for them to furnish equipment sufficient to meet the demands for freight cars loaded with goods. All passenger trains were taxed to accommodate the tremendous travel and rolling stock and motive power threatened to give way under the mighty strain, and it was a difficult matter for men working in the repair shops to keep engines and cars in running shape, and so far as building new ones—that was almost an impossibility. There was a shortage in every department of the rail service of the nation and the roads appeared breaking down under the load they had to carry.

There is quite another story to tell today. The roads are not handling near as much freight and the passenger end of the business has followed suit with the freight end. In order to curtail expenses, the roads have found it necessary to lay off many men employed in the several departments. The cancelling of trains has enabled the roads to dispense with the services of engineers, conductors and brakemen, while expenses in the maintenance of way department has been materially reduced also.

Asked about the passenger traffic, he stated that too, was rotten, few people traveling as compared with several months ago. High cost of tickets and freight charges, coupled with a shortage of money, is given as a cause for the slump in business. It costs much more today to travel or to ship than it did before the war, due to the increased rates in effect and the added war tax. Once an Opelousan could buy a ticket to New Orleans for about \$4.17. Today the same ticket costs nearly \$5.50, including the fifty-cent charge for the river crossing and the added war tax. As long as people had lots of money they kicked very little at this extra charge, but now that money has gone in hiding they hesitate about traveling unless it is an important business.

The roads began laying off employees some time ago and they are still on the job of putting men out of employment. Howling for a reduction in wages, they make no statement as to probable reduction in freight and passenger charges. The solution of the problem, which some wise heads claim is the biggest thing ever before the American people, still seems a long way in the offing, and it may yet require government action to bring a final settlement. Nothing but lower rates will act as a stimulus.

Police Jury Meets Monday

The March meeting of the police jury will be held starting next Monday, March 7, and the session is expected to attract a large crowd of country people to Opelousas.

Garland Dejean, prominent farmer of the Plantation Point neighborhood was a business visitor here Monday morning.

ANOTHER BIG SLUMP IN COTTON WARNS FARMERS TO REDUCE

Staple Loses Ten Dollars And Half Bale Within Very Few Days

PRE-WAR VALUES NOW IN EFFECT

Cut in Acreage Only Solution of Problem Facing South

Middling grade of cotton is now hovering round the ten-cent price. Values slumped again last week and the first of this week the total loss being around ten dollars and fifty cents per bale. This, added to past losses, puts the south's great staple practically on a pre-war price. For grades lower than middling such ridiculous prices are being offered that some local buyers stated they are actually ashamed to make an offer to farmers who are holding.

Many farmers at the beginning of the ginning season, late last summer, were offered and refused as high as twenty-eight cents, or about one hundred and twenty-five dollars per bale, refused twenty-five cents, or one hundred and twenty-five dollars per bale. They heeded the cry of "hold your cotton," thinking that the reaction would set in and that the crop would again kite upwards to the forty cents price. The hopes went glimmering when the markets followed the general tendency to drop. Some of the cotton holders are taking the matter philosophically and state there is no use in crying over spilled milk. There is quite a number of others who feel sore at recent developments in the market and swear they will hold their cotton "until h— freezes over before they sell for less than thirty cents."

There is no use in holding on to false hope. Frankly, though it may sound brutal, the cotton market, according to experts, is in such a shape that producers can not hope to get any price near twenty cents for middling cotton. A reaction is hardly possible for the world apparently, is not wanting much American cotton just now.

These are hard, cold facts, and the farmers of the south should as well digest them now and grow wise: than to suffer for their short-sightedness later on. The object lesson right now at hand should be sufficient to drive home the unanswerable doctrine that the only insurance for the future stability of the cotton industry is to reduce the acreage and production to its year to one-half that of 1920. There is a large carry-over supply of cotton in sight that may require a long time for the world to consume and if another twelve million bale crop is produced in 1921 it will set back the industry for five or more years. The only sensible plan to stabilize it, according to those wise to the situation, is to produce a small crop and thus aid the world in consuming the surplus now on hand. War always sends cotton skyward in price but the war is now over and cotton, like every other commodity, is fast getting back to a normal basis.

Huckins-Latit

The following account of the recent marriage of Mr. Elliot Huckins to Miss Ida May Latit was taken from the New Orleans Times-Picayune. The bride once taught school in St. Landry and made many friends while in this parish:

"St. Joseph's Catholic church was thronged with relatives and friends Monday evening, February 7, to witness the wedding of Miss Ida May Latit to Mr. Elliot Huckins, formerly of Boston, but now of this city, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Father Lucien Caillouet. The wedding march was played by Professor J. A. Fourrier, organ, and Mrs. Henry Falcon, violin, to the strains of which the bridal party entered the church in the following order: Ushers, Mr. Edgar Latit and Mr. Claude Latit; the bride's attendants, Miss Alice Capdevielle of this city and Miss Aline Dejean of Opelousas; the matron of honor, sister of the bride, Mrs. John F. Boyle. The bride entered on the arm of her brother, Mr. Brogan Latit. They were met at the altar by the groom with his best man, Mr. John F. Boyle. After the ceremony the bride and groom, relatives and a number of friends gathered at the home of the bride's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lagon, where an informal reception was held and refreshments served, after which Mr. and Mrs. Huckins left for a short stay in New Orleans. They will make their home in this city."

Hon. P. R. Sandoz and John M. Danho spent most of last week in Opelousas, Allen parish.