

THE ST. LANDRY CLARION

"Here Shall The Press The People's Rights Maintain, Unawed by Influence and Unbribed by Gain."

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MEMBER OF PROMINENT ST. LANDRY FAMILY DIES IN TEXAS

Mrs. Harris, Formerly Miss Mary Littell of This City, Brought to Old Home for Interment

Mrs. M. E. Harris died at her home in San Antonio, Texas, at 6 o'clock on the morning of last Saturday, March 2. In the death of this sweet woman St. Landry mourns the death of one of her fairest daughters.

Mrs. Harris was the youngest daughter of the late Dr. E. H. Littell, the nestor of the medical profession of St. Landry parish, and for a long time the president of its police jury. She was one of the chief operators (district) of the Western Union, with which corporation she had been associated for the past 23 years, first at Lafayette, then in Opelousas, later in Natchitoches and Lake Charles, and finally in San Antonio, where her earthly labors came to an end.

She was a woman with a high sense of duty well performed, and very popular with her employers and the public. Her sweetness of disposition and amiability made her a universal favorite. Even in her unconscious moments, the movements of her operating hand gave mute and pathetic evidence that the thoughts of her labors were obsessing her, and in her lucid moments she thought even of the little negro errand boy that waited on her office. She was stricken two weeks ago, but her true condition was not sensed until a growing unconsciousness alarmed her friends, who wired her brother, Dr. B. A. Littell. He promptly responded and finding her in so alarming a condition, despite able medical assistance, he wired for his wife, who arrived the next day.

Mrs. Harris' body was embalmed and lay in the mortuary chamber at Hagy's in San Antonio. It was brought to Opelousas on the Southern Pacific train of last Sunday, and was viewed by relatives and many friends, as it lay stretched on a bed of the spring flowers she loved so well, and in the home of her childhood to which she was so devoted and wherein it was her oft expressed wish she could close her eyes when the last summons came. She looked as beautiful as in her childhood before the sorrows and cares of life had left their traces, and as one gazed at that placid face with a faint suspicion of a smile lurking there as though some pleasant dream had arrested her attention, the thought occurred: "Then doth the aspiring soul the body leave, Which we call death, but were it known to all What life our souls do by this death receive, Men would call it birth or goal delivery call," for her lips, though dumb, seemed to say: "My soul is on her journey, do not now Divert or lead her back to lose herself In the maze and winding labyrinth of the world."

At 5 o'clock the body, followed by a vast concourse of friends, was carried to the Episcopal church where Dr. Diggs, the Episcopal rector of New Iberia, read the impressive service. "Lead Kindly Light," "Abide With Me" and "Nearer My God to Thee" were sung by friends of her youth, and interment followed in the Protestant Cemetery.

The Clarion extends its condolences to Dr. R. M. Littell, Dr. Theo. Littell, of Evangeline parish, Mrs. K. T. Catlett and Mrs. Florence Wartelle. Mr. Leonce Little and Dr. and Mrs. B. A. Little, her sorrowing brothers and sisters, the last two standing in locus paternis to the deceased.

—Mrs. Auguste Elter and Miss Susan Gibson of Washington were visitors to our city Tuesday.

—Walter Reed of Ville Platte was here Monday.

—Mrs. H. Webre of Port Barre was in Opelousas Tuesday.

ST. LANDRY ASKED FOR 100 CARPENTERS FOR SHIP-BUILDING

Frank A. Crippen, Secretary, Visits Opelousas—Work of Enrolment Will Be Handled by Jacobs

Frank A. Crippen, the secretary of the ship building committee of the Louisiana State Council of Defense, was a visitor to Opelousas on Friday in an endeavor to secure in this parish 100 mechanics, artisans and common laborers to aid in carrying on the work of the national ship-building program. The work of the enrolment will be handled here by Aaron Jacobs at his news depot.

The nation needs 250,000 volunteer workmen. Louisiana must furnish 7,000. The quota for this parish is 100. All classes of mechanics and common laborers, both white and colored, are wanted for this service.

Standard wages will be paid, and steady employment is assured for eight hours a day. The government is erecting in the shipyards comfortable houses which will be rented at from \$12.00 to \$15.00 a month. Also, theatres and other recreational centers will be provided.

A man does not have to be an experienced ship carpenter to enter this work. The government will instruct him and his wages will go on just the same. For instance: If a house carpenter is sent to the ship yards he will be placed under the instruction of an experienced ship carpenter and he will be taught how to become a ship carpenter. This arrangement also applies to all other branches of work in the ship yards.

This is an opportunity for any man who is seeking employment. Just go to Jacobs News Depot and fill out a blank. This will be sent on to Mr. Crippen in New Orleans, and when your services are needed a man will be sent here to instruct you what to do and where to report. If, however, you have obtained employment in the meantime and do not care to enter the government's ship-building work, that is the end of it. You do not have to report.

The work of shipbuilding will not end with the war. For the next twenty years America's ship building program must continue until we have established an unrivaled merchant marine.

If you want to enter this work, assist your government and receive good wages for your services, see Aaron Jacobs.

VITAL STATISTICS

The vital statistics for Opelousas and vicinity, for the month of February, have been filed by the secretary of the city board of health. This report shows that during the past month there were seven deaths and six births registered in the city of Opelousas and for the same period there were nine deaths and sixteen births reported from the surrounding country. The record of births however, is incomplete, as some of the registers failed to report.

SERVICES AT THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Divine services will be held at the Church of the Epiphany in this city, on Sunday, March 10, at 7:30 p. m., by Rev. Mr. Cooper. Everybody is cordially invited to attend.

It has been announced that Dr. Cooper has been named to fill the pulpit of the local church, and the dates on which he will conduct services here will be given out later.

—Willie Moreau of Swords visited Opelousas the past week.

—J. Smith of Sunset was a business visitor to Opelousas Wednesday.

—Mrs. Paul Pavy and children left Saturday for San Antonio, Texas, where they will join Lieut. Pavy who is stationed at that point.

NEGROES WILL HAVE THEIR SCHOOL FOR NEXT SESSION

Police Jury Will Donate \$500 or More—City Council and School Board to Help Materially

To have attended the police jury meeting on Monday afternoon and the city council meeting on Tuesday night was all that was necessary to know that the colored people of this community are going to have a public school building of their own. Both bodies recorded a unanimous vote of approval of the proposition to help—the only question being as to the amount.

Austin Fontenot and others appeared before the police jury and pressed the claims for the negroes. Mr. Catlett then moved to appropriate \$500, but after some discussion in which several members participated, it was agreed the plans could be better formulated and more justice done to the proposition by appointing a committee to confer with the members of the school board, the city council and the negroes who have the movement in hand.

The city council will also assist in the building of the new school. At the meeting on Tuesday night a committee was appointed to meet with other interested parties. Messrs Danel and Fields were selected. The conference will be held in the police jury room on next Friday, March 15, and an organized effort will be started. The city council will probably donate the amount arrived at in the conference.

The Clarion is glad to know that the people of Opelousas through their representatives, are one in their effort to do full justice to the colored people. The negroes have ungrudgingly paid the tax for the construction and maintenance of our white school, and right alone demands that they be given all the help they need in building a school to meet their growing needs.

SCHOOLS OF PARISH SHOW INTEREST IN EXTENSION WORK

Over 600 Enrolled in Various Clubs—Sixteen Schools Visited Last Week

Sixteen of the parish schools were included in the itinerary of the demonstration agents last week, and the enrolment in the various clubs was brought to something over six hundred by their activity. The children everywhere are interested in this extension work that is being brought to their very homes by efficiently trained agents.

Mrs. Mary B. Giesen organized the various clubs in each of the sixteen schools, and reports that the pupils of the Washington school displayed exceptional interest in the work she has in charge.

Mrs. Giesen is effecting the organization of the clubs in the fourth ward during this week.

The war garden of the Opelousas High School was given a start on the road to success. Dr. Haas generously gave the use of a lot near the school to the youthful gardeners, and Chris Reuter, the well known seed man of New Orleans, has sent with the compliments of his house seed for five war gardens. The Opelousas school will have one of these packages and other schools of the parish will share the remainder.

The young people are interested in the new work, and ask the co-operation of their parents and friends in making the garden a success.

—Mrs. O. Ledoux of Eunice visited friends in this city on Wednesday.

—Mrs. Paul Foster of Lawtell was in Opelousas on Tuesday.

PUBLIC BODIES HELP PARISH COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

Police Jury Contributes \$500, City Council \$250—Washington Gives \$25—Other Towns Will Aid

The police jury voted an appropriation of \$500 for the Parish Council of Defense, the city council of Opelousas \$250 and the town of Washington gave \$25. It is expected that Eunice, Melville and other towns of the parish will aid in this matter and raise the fund to about \$1,000—the amount the members of the council say they need.

The Parish Council of Defense is a very necessary organization. The country today is a net work of similar organizations. Besides guarding and providing safety against internal enemies, the councils perform many other useful works, and we are certain the record of the St. Landry Council will compare favorably with the others. Our council is composed of some of the leading men of the parish who gave their services without compensation. They draw no salary and never will. These appropriations will be used for expenses and emergency work in the parish.

For the information of our readers we mention here a few things the local council is doing. It has brought up the question of a tax on dogs as a measure of conservation. It has vigorously demanded the enforcement of the vagrancy laws with the view of having every man produce something for his support. Mr. E. M. Bogani, is today compiling data as to the number and value of livestock killed by the railroads in this parish during 1917. When this information is at hand the matter will be brought to the attention of the state council and then to the legislature where an effort will be made to stop the useless loss of money and meat. This is the kind of work the local council is doing. Other matters of as much importance come up before it. Its service is of the real common-sense kind, and any money spent for its expenses and maintenance is well spent, and the people of this parish should fall in and support the organization in word and deed as our representatives have done.

LOCAL BAKERS ARE STILL ON THE JOB

While the local bakers are having troubles of their own, the current rumors to the effect that the Opelousas bread men have not enough flour for two weeks' use, will have to close down, and the like, which are heard daily, are without foundation as far as the Opelousas bakers are concerned.

What may or may not happen in the future no one can tell. But up to the present time the local dealers have managed to supply their customers with the staff of life.

One baker stated it was true they were having trouble in procuring flour and the substitutes that the food administration requires in the making of bread. This was in part due to the fact that a number of mills had closed down, and that material even when shipped was delayed, on account of inadequate railroad facilities, brought about by war-conditions. But this optimistic baker expressed the opinion that sooner or later matters would adjust themselves, and the bread dealers, like others, would again pursue the even tenor of their way.

—Mr. and Mrs. Perry of Mount Hope were Opelousas visitors this past week.

—L. T. Castille and family visited relatives at Church Point Sunday.

—Mrs. H. Lewis of Whiteville was the guest of relatives in this city during the week.

—Joe Barry of Grand Coiteau was among the visitors to Opelousas on Wednesday.

REPRESENTATIVE E. K. EASTHAM RETURNS FROM NORTH

Finds Patriotic Spirit Present Everywhere—People Bending All Efforts to Win War

Representative E. K. Eastham, who is the secretary-treasurer of the Bennett Stores returned from a trip of a month or more through the North. While gone Mr. Eastham visited his old home in Kentucky and then went on to New York and other cities where he purchased extensive property for his establishments in this parish.

Mr. Eastham lost no opportunity to look into the war situation, and he found a splendid spirit of patriotism—no sacrifice too great for the people of the North.

"After a trip through several states to New York, including Pennsylvania, Maryland, and back through the National Capital, the Southern states of Virginia, the Carolinas, Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi and on into New Orleans," said Mr. Eastham when asked of his trip, "I am pleased to record a universal patriotism and a universal observance of the comparatively few sacrifices civilians are called on at this time to make—wheatless days and meals, meatless days and meals, porkless days and lightless nights."

"In the four weeks I was gone I talked to scores of officers and privates from almost every state in the Union, and there was not a dissenting voice from the chorus—'Let us get over there and we'll do our bit, only back us up at home.' Yet on the first Monday night after my return the butchers called up my house and offered beef for meatless Tuesday.

"It is not altogether the butchers' fault, however. It is up to you and me. For God and our country's sake, for our boys and our Allies, let us save and sacrifice just a bit of our luxuries and comforts."

"Moderate sacrifices today may save later on the supreme sacrifices of our boys' lives, of America's honor, of our own and our children's liberty, of the sacredness of our wives and daughters, of the future of all humanity. Shall we fail?"

Mr. Eastham purchased a large assortment of Spring and Summer apparel for men, ladies and children while in the North. Part of the line is arriving daily, and quite certain it is his trip will afford the people of Opelousas an unusual opportunity.

OPELOUSAS HIGH SCHOOL ON THE ROLL OF HONOR

The Opelousas High School has obtained the 100 per cent membership in the Junior School Auxiliary of the American Red Cross, with the other high schools throughout the state, and will be placed on the roll of honor.

There are 593 pupils enrolled in the local institution, and it is understood that the majority of these will engage in work in behalf of the refugee children of Belgium and France. Now that the high school rally has been postponed the children will have more time to devote to this very laudable cause.

A gift of twenty-five dollars from Mrs. J. P. Saizan, was received. This was greatly appreciated by the auxiliary as it will aid in the purchase of material necessary in the work which the pupils have mapped out.

—Messrs. Guy Tatman and E. Burgess were business visitors to Eunice this past week.

—Joe Benoit, prominent Arnaudville citizen, was an Opelousas visitor Thursday.

—E. Lafleur, well known farmer of the Lawtell section, was in Opelousas Thursday.

—Dr. J. Raphael and A. Cormier of Port Barre, visited this city during the week.

—L. B. Wyle, formerly of this city but now of Melville, was mingling with friends on Sunday and Monday.

BAYOU VERMILION AND ATCHAFALAYA TO BE CONNECTED

Permission Given by War Department to Company of Interested Capitalists

Washington, March 6.—Permission was given by the War Department today for the connection of Bayou Vermilion with the Atchafalaya river. The carrying out of this plan will insure an adequate supply of water for rice and will be a great aid to navigation. The project calls for the expenditure of \$300,000 which will be furnished by a company composed of the local interests which will benefit.

The permit signed today by the secretary of war provides for the excavation and construction of channels which will make possible the conduction of water from the Atchafalaya, through Bayou Courtableau and Bayou Teche to a point below Breaux Bridge thence through a cutoff to Bayou Vermilion as far as Pin Hook bridge, near Lafayette. The war department approved what practically was the plan as worked out by the local interest. The entire work, however, will be carried out under the supervision of the war department.

The necessity for taking water from the Atchafalaya for use in the rice section was emphasized by last year's drouth, when the rice production was reduced greatly. For many months active efforts have been in progress to relieve the situation which caused such wide-spread loss last year. Senators Ransdell and Broussard and Representatives Lazaro and Martin have had the matter before officials here since last fall. There are so many possible effects to be considered when artificial waterways are cut that slow and difficult procedure is necessary to obtain the requisite permission.

One of the conditions of the agreement with the war department is that tolls may be charged for the use of the water for irrigation purposes. These tolls are limited to such time as may be necessary for the repayment of the expenditure for construction.

While the chief object of the project is the securing of adequate water for the irrigation of rice fields, the new channels will be of value in aiding drainage, bettering navigation conditions and furnishing an additional outlet for the waters of the Atchafalaya when swollen by flood waters.

WORK IN SURGICAL DRESSINGS PROGRESSING

The six ardent Red Cross members of the local chapter who have taken up the surgical dressing course, have their work well under way, and are making good progress, is the report of their able instructor, Mrs. M. A. Fielder.

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons of each week these ladies devote their time to the making of the different kinds of surgical dressings. They are clad in white, in accordance with a ruling that demands this of those who engage in this special kind of work.

It will be remembered that it was through the patriotic spirit of the local Elks that the Red Cross was enabled to secure the suitable quarters in which the surgical class is now suitably installed. Of course the Chapter was duly grateful to the Elks for their kindness.

—Misses Lucie Arnaud and Flavie Quebedeau, two of Leonville's social favorites, were in this city during the week.

—Miss Lessie Nezat of Port Barre spent the past week in this city as the guest of Mrs. Lee Danel.

—Dr. Frederick J. Meyer was a visitor to Lafayette during the week.

—Mr. and Mrs. John W. Lewis were Crescent City visitors this week.

—J. P. Savant, well-known citizen of Whiteville, was in Opelousas on Monday.

TWENTY SEVEN MEN FAIL TO REPORT TO BOARD FOR EXAMINATION

Names Handed to Sheriff Fontenot and He will Endeavor to Locate Them Before Thursday

Twenty seven men failed to report to the local board in Opelousas since examinations were begun some two weeks ago. Twenty four of these are negroes and three are white.

The names have been handed to Sheriff Fontenot, and he has until next Thursday in which to locate them. If they are not found then they will be classed as deserters, and the office of the adjutant general will begin a search for them.

Joseph Jenkins, Opelousas, La.

Simon Chretien, Opelousas, La.

Eugene Major, Leonville, La.

Gustave Riggs, Opelousas, La.

Alfred Daniels, Opelousas, La.

R. F. D. No. 2.

Robert Harris, Opelousas, La.

R. F. D. No. 2.

Joseph Williams, Port Barre, La.

Horace England, Opelousas, La.

George Pickney, Port Barre, La.

Clifton Jones, Opelousas, La.

John Stelly, Opelousas, La.

Sidney Cavapbell, Opelousas, La.

Louis Jackson, Opelousas, La.

Cleveland Green, Opelousas, La.

Lee Campbell, Opelousas, La.

R. F. D. No. 2.

Frank Arceneaux, Leonville, La.

John Andrus, Opelousas, La.

Jacobs Bertrand, Opelousas, La.

R. F. D. No. 2.

Thomas Rideau, Opelousas, La.

R. F. D. No. 2.

Jack Guillory, Opelousas, La.

Edgar Landow, Opelousas, La.

Vernon White, Opelousas, La.

Jos. Octave Comeau, Arnaudville, La.

Anthony Hawkins, Opelousas, La.

Joe Landow, Opelousas, La.

R. F. D. No. 3.

Eleir Richard, Shuteston, La.

Michel Stelly, Arnaudville, La.

AS QUARANTINE IS RAISED SOLDIER BOYS VISIT HOME

As the quarantine at Camp Beauregard was lifted several prominent young Opelouseans were granted furloughs and spent their "leaves" with relatives here. Joe Chachere, now in the ambulance corps, who was just recovering from an attack of rheumatism, came home for ten days. This was Joe's first visit home since going to camp, and it was a good one, for he speedily regained what little he has lost in his illness. He arrived on last Friday.

Corporal Sidney G. Roos came in on Friday of last week, for a stay of three days, and went on back to Alexandria only to learn an extension of three days had been mailed to him. He came back home to take advantage of it. Corporal Roos has gained 16 pounds since going to camp. Unquestionably the soldier's life has agreed with him.

Sergeant Rob Lacombe came down last Saturday for a visit of five days. Needless to say "Bob's" many friends were glad to see him, and his stay was an enjoyable one.

Sergeant Eddie Littell arrived last Saturday to attend the funeral of his aunt, Mrs. M. L. Harris, and spent several days thereafter with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. B. A. Littell.

Albert Garland, now in the detail of the Washington Artillery, spent six days with relatives in Opelousas and Eunice.

Valex Robin, now driving one of the big army trucks at Camp Pike, is here for fifteen days. Someone accused this St. Landry soldier of having a "pull," for he comes home on nice long furloughs very often.