

The Lower Coast Gazette.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE LOWER COAST: AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, FISHERIES AND COMMERCE.

VOLUME I.

POINTE-A-LA-HACHE, LA., SATURDAY, JULY 3, 1909.

NUMBER 27.

NEWS OF LOUISIANA

Louisiana Items of State Interest From All Over Our Commonwealth.

Summer Normal School Accident.
Ruston.—Last Thursday about 12:30 o'clock, as the teachers of the Summer Normal School were taking their places upon a tier of seats that had been erected against the west end of the main building for the purpose of having their pictures taken, some of the supports gave way and about two hundred people were precipitated to the earth from a maximum height of about 15 feet. Those nearer the ground did not fare so badly. Twenty or thirty were injured, some quite seriously, and that more were not hurt is due to the fact that nearly all were on their feet at the time the crash came. Every doctor in the city was soon upon the scene, and they, assisted by the faculty and many other willing ones, quickly rendered all needed help. That there were no fatalities is considered marvellous, and is a cause of profound gratitude. Those most badly hurt are as follows: Mrs. Nina McMichael, Grand Cane, compound fracture of leg; Terry Lowe, Rocky Mount, compound fracture of leg; Willie Walters, Ruston, fractured thigh; Ruth Midven, Logansport, fractured leg; Blanche Phillips, Glenmore, fractured leg; Mamie Vaughan, Ruston, fractured leg; Mand Nixon, Melder, fractured clavicle; Ella Price, Natchez, Miss., bruised back and hip; Mrs. Richardson, Monroe, sprained ankle; Mina Franklin, Ruston, badly sprained leg; Lewis Vaughan, Waskom, Tex., sprained leg; Mamie Lee Lane, Ruston, sprained ankle; Atlanta Meadows, Ruston, crushed foot. Mrs. McMichael and Miss Lowe are in the Ruston sanitarium, where they are doing well. Nearly all the others are in the dormitory, and they also are doing well. The deplorable accident did not stop the operation of the school, though the afternoon classes were very depleted.

Was Quiet, Hard Working Man.
Opelousas.—Gilbert Wilson, a well known negro man, who has resided near town for years, recently began a career of crime, which ended in his own death. After criminally assaulting a negro woman, he shot a negro man in the shoulder, inflicting a serious wound. Returning to his home on the outskirts of town, he threatened his wife, who sued out a peace bond against him. He tried to kill his wife with a shotgun, but she escaped, and he then shot their daughter, a young woman, killing her almost instantly. Hardly had the fatal shot been fired when he took off his shoe, and placing the muzzle of his gun under his chin, pulled the trigger with one of his toes, and blew his own head off. The first person to reach the house where the tragedy was enacted found the woman breathing her last and the man dead. The coroner's jury returned a verdict in accordance with the above facts. No way of accounting for the terrible acts of Wilson can be suggested, except that he had become insane, and never stopped until his own life had been taken. Previous to this he had been a quiet, hard-working man.

Accused of Wrecking Train.
Mansfield.—The preliminary investigation in the case of John Moseley, a negro charged with wrecking a train at Gloster, in which two men were killed and one seriously hurt, has been held in the district court. The defendant was represented by J. W. Parsons, ex-district attorney, and H. T. Liverman appeared for the state as district attorney pro tem. The accused was section foreman on the Gloster section of the Texas and Pacific railroad for a number of years, but was removed to the Grand Cane station some time since, and shortly afterward the train was wrecked at Gloster, with serious results as to life and property. The case was hotly contested, the theory of the prosecution being that the accused had wrecked the train in order to secure his old job by bringing his successor into disrepute. A strong circumstantial case was made out and Judge Correll remanded the accused to jail without bond. The defense did not fully develop its side of the case, and the preliminary trial was probably insisted upon in order to make the state disclose its evidence.

Rice Mill is Started.
Esterwood.—The Eureka Rice Mill started up recently and run through 3,000 bags of clean rice, which they have sold and will ship out this week. There is more inquiry for clean rice and stocks are shortening up in this section, and expect to be relieved of most all of the old rices on hand by the time the new comes on the market. The Crowley Oil and Mineral Company struck oil Saturday in a new well 2,200 feet deep.

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Lake Charles.—After spending several days investigating the charbon epidemic here, Dr. C. E. Maudin of the Bureau of Animal Industry has gone to Cameron parish, where a similar outbreak is reported. Over 200 cases have occurred in the vicinity of Lake Charles, and probably one-fourth of the animals have died, but local veterinarians believe that the spread of the disease has been checked by the vigorous measures suggested by the government expert.

Public Buildings For Monroe.
Monroe.—Mayor A. A. Forsythe, in accordance with instructions from the city council, has advertised for bids on the new \$100,000 city hall, to be built on the site now occupied by the old city hall, city and parish jails, and several other smaller brick buildings. The new city hall will also have additions for the jail and for the fire department. Superintendent T. O. Brown is having plans and specifications made for the new school house at Calhoun, the tax for which will be voted at the election which is to be held in July. The new house will be of brick and will contain ten large, airy school rooms. Two of these rooms will be arranged so that they can be thrown into one large auditorium. The Calhoun high school will be made one of the ten agricultural high schools of the state.

Pension Board is Adjourned.
Baton Rouge.—The state board of pension examiners completed its labors and have taken final adjournment. With the exception of a small amount of routine business, nothing of importance was transacted and no definite action was taken on the 1,500 applications for pensions that have accumulated during the last two years. The pension board has no funds by which these pensions could be paid, and it was therefore decided not to pass finally upon them until the money to take care of the pensions after they were approved was on hand. The state board, as it now stands, has an appropriation of \$150,000 a year, but this is used up every year in the pensions that have been approved. The appropriation can be increased by the next legislature to \$250,000.

Will Vote on Tax.
Edgard.—The police jury of St. John parish held a special session last week, with all the members present, and upon a long signed petition from every ward in the parish, ordered that a special 2 mill school tax election be held throughout the entire parish August 3. The school board created the entire parish into school district No. 1 and the tax is to run for ten years, through the entire district, and is to be for building adequate school houses, with two high schools, and for other school purposes. With this tax realized, the school board and the superintendent will be able, and it is the intention, to put adequate schools in every school district.

Monroe in Good Shape.
Monroe.—The city council held an interesting session last week, the chief feature being the annual report of Secretary-Treasurer D. W. Faulk. The report shows receipts for the fiscal year ending June 1 of \$236,214.09, which include a balance from last year of \$84,061.57. The report shows the city finances to be in excellent condition, a cash balance of \$124,076.40 being on hand at the close of business. The council received a commission from the police jury relative to the drainage district. The matter was referred to the drainage committee. Applications for two saloon licenses were granted.

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Plaquemine.—The steambot Joo Birg, with three barges of sand and gravel, met with an accident recently. One of the barges struck a snag in front of the locks, damaging it to such an extent that it had to be beached on the batters, where it sunk. The other barges were taken through the locks, and the steambot Jennie Barbour, which came to the assistance of the Joo Birg, started down Bayou Plaquemine. When a short distance below the saw mill of the Schwing Lumber and Shingle Company one of these two barges hit a sinker, or some obstruction, and sank in about 12 feet of water.

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Franklinton.—The police jury reviewed the assessment rolls of Washington parish last week, as prepared by Assessor Magee, and as completed, they show the total assessment of the parish to be \$5,126,725 as follows: White residents, \$1,824,425; colored residents, \$1,011,860; nonresidents, \$3,734,440. This assessment is an increase of \$298,680 over that of 1908, and it is likely that it will be raised still higher by the state board of equalization.

BOLD BANK ROBBERY

MOST SENSATIONAL HOLD-UP AT FORT WORTH, TEX.

Bandit Takes \$8,100 From Cashier at the Point of a Pistol and Makes His Escape.

Fort Worth, Tex.—Walking into the Waggoner Bank and Trust Company, a well-dressed stranger compelled Cashier Walter E. King, at the point of a six-shooter, to turn over the \$8,100 which was piled in front of him, and made good his escape.

The hold-up was the most sensational robbery pulled off in Fort Worth in a quarter of a century. There was no one in the bank at the time, with the exception of the cashier, who was busy working on the cash balance, and had the bills in a roll, ready to take them to the company's central bank, at the corner of Houston and Eighth streets. Cashier King was the only man in the branch institution at the time, and paid little attention to the stranger when he walked in. He looked up from his work to stare into the muzzle of a six-shooter.

"Make a move or a noise of any kind and I'll kill you," said the stranger, in a low tone. "Now, push that pile of money to the window here."

With the alternative of death if he did not comply, the cashier obeyed, and, after stuffing the \$8,100 into his pocket, the stranger backed out of the door, still pointing the gun at the cashier's head and threatening to kill him if he made an attempt to follow him.

GETS VERDICT FOR \$15,000

Corra Sinclair Winner in Breach of Promise Suit.

New York.—Corra Sinclair, the "sand snipe girl," was awarded a verdict of \$15,000 against Samuel S. Laird, Jr., son of a wealthy Philadelphia manufacturer, whom she sued for breach of promise to marry.

Laird met Miss Sinclair, whose real name is d'Allo, in 1899. Their acquaintance ended in his renting a flat for her in New York City, where they lived from 1900 to 1908. Laird, she alleged, promised that if she did this he would marry her when his father died.

During the trial over a hundred love letters written to Corra by Laird, all assuring her of his affection for her, were introduced in evidence.

Throughout the trial, Laird's wife, formerly Mrs. Lillian G. Hayes, of Philadelphia, sat beside her husband and aided his defense by notes she made. She also testified in his behalf.

HAD ONE LONE DOLLAR.

John J. Richards of Columbus, Miss., Gives His Money Away.

New York.—A man who said he is John J. Richards, of Columbus, Miss., a traveling salesman, is in the observation ward in Bellevue Hospital, where he was taken after being arrested.

A crowd on First avenue attracted the attention of a policeman. When he reached the center he found Richards grinning and perspiring, handing out \$10 and \$20 bills, saying: "Buy a pint, pal. Here, little boy, get some ice cream."

At the hospital it was found that he was suffering from heat and drink. He was incapable of estimating how much he had given to the crowd. He had just one lone dollar left.

SAYS IMMORALITY IS TAUGHT

Serious Charges Brought Against University of Chicago.

Chicago.—Charges of teaching atheism and spreading ideas of immorality among students were brought against the University of Chicago today by Rev. Johnstone Myers, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church and trustee of the divinity department of the university. "The University of Chicago stands charged with teaching atheism and spreading immoral ideas among its students," declared Dr. Myers, "and I can mention samples to back up my statements. You know that Parker Sercomb left the university faculty to establish a free love colony. Prof. Behan left there and became an anarchist, having expounded the anarchistic propaganda even while there. Prof. Zuebin attracted much attention by defending Maxim Gorky, when the latter traveled through America with the Russian actress, and Oscar Trigg's affairs are still fresh in the public mind."

House Stuffed With Cash.

Sperry, Ia.—The administrators of the wealthy estate of Mrs. Elizabeth Farrier, of this place, have finally solved the mystery of the disappearance of the money of the deceased, by taking up the carpet in the parlor and finding the floor under it fairly peppered with bank notes. Nearly \$1,000 were thus discovered. Other sums were revealed about the house in an old organ, in the walls and other out-of-the-way places. In fact, the house was fairly lined and stuffed with cash, and the administrators are still finding money.

Jumps With Child to Death.

New York.—With her arms tightly clasped around her 8-year-old daughter, Lillian, Mrs. Hannah Muntie jumped from the roof of a five-story apartment house. Both were driven insane through grieving over the death of another child.

Thirty-four Prostrated.

New York.—The fourth day of unabated heat that has afflicted this city at a late hour has recorded thirty-four cases of prostration and three suicides. The mercury went to 92 officially at 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon.

AMERICAN TOURISTS.

(Copyright, 1909.)



Find a New Charm in the Home Atmosphere.

COTTON CROP FLOODED

WORK IMPEDED IN MISSISSIPPI, ALABAMA AND GEORGIA.

Elsewhere the Crop Shows Slight Improvement—Some Fields Abandoned.

Memphis, Tenn.—The condition of the cotton crop at the close of the week was worse in Mississippi, Alabama and about two-thirds of Georgia than at the close of the preceding week. Continuous rains stopped cultivation and the grass made such headway that a greater percentage of the fields must be abandoned. Some crops have received no cultivation at all. The best of weather in the future can not repair the loss already sustained. The plant in these States, even where partially cultivated, is small and growing slowly. It is far behind last season. Elsewhere the crop has improved. The improvement in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Arkansas was not great, being rather less than normal, because rains delayed work and prevented the farmers plowing fields in a good state of cultivation. It is still possible, however, in these districts, to regain much of the loss.

In Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana cotton made normal progress, and is now in the best condition of the season. Tennessee—The cotton crop in Tennessee is grassy and not well cultivated. Some improvement resulted during the week, as rains were not so heavy as elsewhere east of the river. Mississippi—Many rains fell during the week and little cultivation was done. The plant is small and badly in grass. The abandonment of acreage because of the impossibility of cultivation will be considerable. The best weather henceforth will not repair all the loss.

Alabama—Little progress was made in cultivation, as rainfall was general and in many sections daily. The crop is very grassy and some lands in the bottoms will be abandoned. The plant is very small and the outlook is regarded everywhere as gloomy. Good weather can not repair the loss that has been suffered.

Louisiana—With a few local exceptions the rainfall of the week was beneficial. The crop improved greatly in condition and growth. It is regarded now as promising in the south and west. Boll weevils, however, are numerous.

Arkansas—Cultivation is behind a normal, and some of the crops are very grassy. Rainfall during the week not general, and in the drier districts considerable progress was made in cultivation. Some reports are good. The boll weevil is becoming increasingly numerous.

Texas—Rains were local and, except on the coast, where they were excessive, benefited cotton. A few sections had no rain, but have not suffered. Temperatures were high and checked the boll weevil, which are growing more numerous. Cultivation made progress and the plant is growing well.

CALIFORNIA GIRL PERFECT.

Eleven-Year-Old Margaret Edwards Has Wonderful Development.

San Francisco, Cal.—Miss Margaret Edwards of Oakland is claimed to be the most perfectly physically developed girl under 12 years of age in all the world. The child's mother is a teacher of physical culture. Miss Margaret is 11 years and 9 months old, is 5 feet 5 1/8 inches tall and weighs 106 pounds. Her physical measurements are as follows: Neck, 11 1/2 inches; arm, 9 inches; forearm, 8 3/4 inches; wrist, 6 inches; elbow, 8 3/4 inches; chest, normal, 31 inches; contracted, 27 inches; expanded, 32 1/2 inches; bust, 33 inches; waist, 23 inches; hips, 34 inches; thigh, 19 inches; calf, 13 inches, and ankle, 8 inches.

SIGEL GIRL'S LETTERS READ

Told Both Ling and Gain That She Loved Them.

New York.—The first actual evidence of the strange, triangular romance which resulted in the tragic death of Elsie Sigel because of her infatuation for two young Chinamen was given out at police headquarters. A letter to Chu Gan, signed "Elsie," constitutes a confession from the granddaughter of the late Gen. Franz Sigel that she loved the Mongolian restaurateur with as much ardor as though he was a man of her own race and color. Another letter signed by the young girl and addressed to Leon Ling, the "Christianized" young Chinaman who strangled her and placed the body in a trunk June 9 last, tells of an earlier love affair with the latter Oriental. This letter also reveals the coquetry brought into play by the pretty high school graduate to hold the affections of both of her Chinese sweethearts. From the reading of the letters the willingness of an American mother for her daughter to make an alliance with a Chinaman is shown with such clearness as to leave no doubt about the social basis upon which Orientals were received and entertained in this strange household.

MOON WAS CAPTURED.

Astronomer See Refutes Old Theory of Earth's Origin.

Berkeley, Cal.—That he had mathematically proved a discovery that the moon was a planet captured by the earth from space, and not a detached portion of our globe, was the announcement made by Prof. T. J. J. See, astronomer in charge of the naval observatory at Mare Island, in a report to the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. He rejects entirely the long accepted theory of Laplace and Sir George Darwin, ascribing earthly origin to the moon, and declares this discovery is supported by rigorous mathematical proof, based on the methods of Hill, Poincare and Darwin.

WANTS BLACK HAND LAW.

Representative Kennedy Would Give Offenders Life Imprisonment.

Washington.—Imprisonment for life is the penalty which Representative Kennedy of Ohio proposes shall be inflicted on all agents of the black hand and kidnapers who use the mails for their nefarious purposes. He introduced a bill providing such punishment. The bill provides that recipients of such mail who fail to turn it back to the postoffice officials for investigation shall be liable to \$100 fine.

JOKE NOT ALL ON THE COP.

Owner of Sign Loaned to College Boys Was Also a Regretter of the Event.

Stealthily the Gotham policeman stole out from behind the side door of the saloon and quickly pounced on some Columbia college boys who were carrying a long board sign that had hung over some tobaccoist's shop. The youths protested against the officer's interference, but he told them that they would find it a hard job to turn little old New York into a college town, and off to the lockup they went, college boys, sign and all.

"What's the charges?" asked the sergeant as he looked out at the aggregation of the coming great men of learning.

"Stealing a sign," answered the cop, as some of the boys humped it into the station house, where it reposed against the wall.

"We did not steal it," spoke up one of the youths, "we only borrowed it."

The sergeant turned to the cop and told him to call up the owner and find out what the true state of the case was. The policeman read the sign slowly and then turned to the telephone book to look up the owner.

"Hello! Did you lose a sign?" and the answer made the policeman scratch his head.

"What did he say?" asked the waiting sergeant. The reserves were beginning to grin and the policeman looked very uncomfortable.

"It is all right," he said, scowling at the youths. "The owner says they treated the sign for the night and are to return it tomorrow morning when he is ready to do business again."

A shout went up from the youths as they were ordered out of the station, and they took up their triumphal march and sought out some other unsuspecting cop to dupe, and far down the street came back their triumphal yell:

"C-o-l-u-m-b-i-a!"

The cop laughed to himself as he started out again on his beat, and a friend at his side asked him the cause of his merriment.

"The owner of the sign was mad all the way through and wanted me to hold the sign. He had rented it all right, but he said that was the third time he had been called out of bed tonight, for the boys had been pulled in in three other precincts, but as long as I was a goat for him I thought I would let the rah-rah boys have some more fun with some other cop, and sent them on their way. It is my day off tomorrow anyhow, and I didn't want to have to stay around here."

SLIPPED HIS MEMORY.

Magistrate—Have you ever been sentenced to punishment before?

Prisoner—Yes, I had to pay \$10 once for striking a man.

Magistrate—Was there any other time?

Prisoner—No—yet stay. It comes to my mind now that I was once in jail for 15 years.

Myrtle and George.

"O, forgive me, Myrtle! I forgot all about this being the night your beau is due."

"Don't speak of him, Mabel. Here it is 8:15. If he doesn't think enough of me to call on time he may stay away altogether!"

"Gracious! I—"

"O, I mean it. You shall stay with me all the evening, and if he comes, remember, I am not at home."

"Really!"

"Eight-thirty! The idea! I shall close the storm door and lower the blinds. I wouldn't so much as look out if he rang all night, and—"

"O, there's the bell!"

"The bell! O, it's he! Mabel, you slip out by the back way and call some other evening. O, how grand! To think it is really George. Poor fellow! Maybe he was delayed and ran all the way. I shall not even ask him 'why he was late.'"

Accounting for the Death Rate.

"I understand there were 17 more deaths in this town last year than there were the year before. How do you account for it?" inquired an inquisitive stranger of the health commissioner, whom he chanced to meet.

"There were 17 more automobiles," was the quick reply, as he looked out of the window in time to see another victim added to the list.—Judge.

Not Athletic.

Mrs. Dodge—"That's what comes of sending girls to college! They learn 'em to be as cruel as boys there. I should think Mrs. Smith would be ashamed to tell about her daughter what she told me yesterday."

Mrs. Dodge—What was that?"

Mrs. Dodge—She said Emily was the best in her class at skinning the cat.

WIFE'S SIN MAY PROVE FATAL.

Atlanta, Ga.—Caught by her husband in a room with another man, Mrs. Nellie Johnson, a pretty brunette of 22, married just six years ago, was lowered from a window by a rope of sheets, held by Harry Wolford, the rope parting when she was half way down, precipitating her two stories, breaking her back in the fall.

Lynch Negro in Oklahoma.

Wilburton, Okla.—A mob of fifty masked men took Sylvester Stennien, a negro, from the jail here and lynched him. The negro had shot and killed Albert Turner, a deputy constable, who had attempted to arrest him.

Killed in Church.

Chico, Tex.—J. E. Moser, 47 years old, was shot to death while on his knees praying in a church near here by his son-in-law, Roy Burnham, 19 years of age. Burnham's wife, who had recently left him, was sitting beside her father at the time.

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