

H. F. ALEXANDER IS THOUGHT HAVE ENDED OWN LIFE

PROMINENT FARMER AND CATTLE DEALER MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED FROM HOME.

TELEGRAM FROM YUMA, ARIZONA

Says Man Fitting Description of Mr. Alexander Killed Himself There Yesterday—Efforts Make Complete Identification Continue.

(From Wednesday's Daily Herald.) Henry Frank Alexander, extensive cattle dealer, big farmer, dealer in phosphate lands, and one of the most prominent and widely known citizens of Maury county, is believed to have committed suicide at Yuma, Arizona, Tuesday, according to information received here by friends and relatives.

The finding of the body at Yuma, located in one of the most remote spots of the United States, on the line between Arizona and California, and near the International line which separates the United States from Mexico, and the mysterious disappearance of Mr. Alexander from his home here, and his somewhat peculiar actions just prior to his disappearance have been coupled together by friends and relatives here, and it is no longer doubted that Mr. Alexander came to his death by his own hands.

On last Thursday Mr. Alexander shipped a car load of cattle to the Louisville market, and on which he is reported to have lost heavily. He is also reported to have lost considerable money in phosphate transactions during the past few months, but after getting out his cattle Thursday, without saying a word to his family concerning his departure from home, he is said to have boarded a train for Alabama, and for a day or two he remained in Northern Alabama and was seen in Florence, Sheffield and Decatur. It is reported that William Burnett, of Columbia, saw Mr. Alexander at Decatur, and that Mr. Alexander told Mr. Burnett he was in search of work as a laborer. Mr. Burnett tried to persuade Mr. Alexander to return to Columbia with him, reminding him of the fact that he had two good farms and other splendid property in Maury county which needed his attention. Mr. Burnett's efforts to have Mr. Alexander return with him proved unavailing, and the next report of Mr. Alexander's whereabouts came from Birmingham, where he is reported to have been seen by someone who knew him.

It is said that Mr. Alexander purchased a ticket at Decatur, Ala., for Florida, and later went back to the ticket office and stated that he had decided not to go to Florida and wanted to exchange his ticket for one to New Orleans. At this time Mr. Alexander's disappearance was causing considerable uneasiness at home, and every effort was being made to locate him. Friends here got into communication with Fred Evans, an old Columbia boy, but who now lives at New Orleans, and Mr. Evans notified railroad and civil authorities of Mr. Alexander's disappearance and sought their aid in locating him. A veritable dragnet was spread by railroad detectives and state and county authorities throughout the west, and it is believed that it was through this agency the report of the death was received.

It is reported that Mr. Alexander, on the eve of his departure from Columbia telephoned to Spring Hill and secured the address of Percy Brown, who is now in California. It is believed that Mr. Alexander intended to go to California and making an effort to keep his whereabouts unknown, he went to Yuma in the extreme southwestern corner of Arizona.

The dead man was registered at the Yuma Hotel as Charles Thompson, of Knoxville, Tennessee, but according to the description received by friends here, the name Alexander Columbia, Tenn was found sewed in his inner coat. The description of the dead man stated that he weighed about 250 pounds, and that he had a crippled hand. This description tallies almost exactly with Mr. Alexander. While he did not weigh 250 pounds, he was a large man and had the appearance of weighing that much. He also had a crippled hand. The laundry mark found in the dead man's collar, A127, also tallies with Mr. Alexander's laundry mark at the Columbia laundry. This was looked up on the records here last night upon the receipt of the telegram asking for information.

Mr. Alexander is reported to have attempted to leave home before, having been detained by his wife, who urged him to remain. On the eve of his departure he is said to have told a friend here he was going to take "a long journey," but at that time the friend thinking all was well with him, said nothing to his family or friends.

Columbia relatives are making every possible effort to secure more definite information from the remote little Arizona town, but owing to the great distance, and to the uncertainty of

telegraphic correspondence from that section, and the difference in time, this has proved a difficult undertaking, but it was believed that something more definite will be received before night.

Mr. Alexander was a member of one of the most prominent families of the county. He married a sister of the Rev. W. A. Provine, of Nashville, one of the leading ministers of the Presbyterian church, U. S. A. He was a brother-in-law of former State Senator W. B. Greenlaw.

Mr. Alexander was about fifty-three years of age, and is survived by his wife and two children, one boy, Henry F., Jr., and one daughter, Evelyn, three brothers, Clarence, Eugene and Will Alexander, and by one sister, Miss Carrie Alexander; also by his aged mother, Mrs. Frank Alexander.

Mr. Alexander was a devout and consistent member of the Garden street Presbyterian church, and had long been active in affairs of his county and state, always standing firm upon what he believed to be right.

It is regarded as a certainty that Mr. Alexander's queer departure from home and his actions thereafter were those of a man mentally unbalanced. It is certain that his losses on either cattle or phosphate land were not just cause for his action, for he was a man of considerable property, owning much valuable farm land in this county and other property.

It had been known for several days by the general public that Mr. Alexander had disappeared from home, but his return was almost momentarily expected by his friends and relatives, and no mention of the fact was made through the press, and the news received from the Arizona town last night spread like wildfire here and was largely the topic of conversation.

TAPS SOUNDS FOR VETERAN WORLD WAR

MEMBER BATTERY F 114TH FIELD ARTILLERY DIES IN HOSPITAL OTEEN, N. C.

(From Tuesday's Daily Herald.) News has been received here of the death of Raymond Hughes, gallant young veteran of the world war, which occurred at government hospital No. 60, Oteen, N. C., where he had been confined since the return of his regiment, the 114th field artillery, from France.

Young Hughes was a foster son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Z. Hughes, and was born on March 15, 1901, and therefore was not yet twenty-one years of age. Despite his youth when the call to arms came when the United States declared war upon Germany, Raymond enlisted in Battery F 114th Field Artillery, and in this outfit served throughout the war.

While in the service of his country he contracted the dread disease, and upon his return to America from France, where he served for eleven months, he was sent to the government hospital at Oteen.

The body is expected to arrive in Columbia at 9:50 o'clock Wednesday morning and will be carried directly to the parlors of the Maury Undertaking Company where it will remain until the hour of the funeral, which will be conducted at the First Christian Church with full military honors at 2:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

A military escort will accompany the body to the grave, and a firing squad will fire a volley over his grave as the body is tenderly laid to sleep beneath its beautiful Rose Hill cemetery.

The young soldier is survived by his foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Z. Hughes, who are now at Avon Park, Fla., and one sister, Mrs. Howard Stubbfield, of Nashville.

FINE PROSPECTS FOR LAMB CROP

(From Tuesday's Daily Herald.) Lambs are going to be of exceptionally fine quality and weight this spring, said M. E. Allen, well known buyer, discussing the situation this morning. The winter has been mild and pastures have kept fine all the time and the unusually early spring has made an abundance of grass and clover upon which the lambs will fatten. It is expected that the lambs will, for these reasons, mature earlier than usual. While the sheep population of the county is not as large as it was a few years ago it has increased in the past two or three years and even at the lower prices which they will command the lambs will bring into the county many thousands of dollars during the latter part of May and the first of June.

The wool crop is going to be good. The fleeces are exceptionally heavy but here again the price will make a big cut into the income that will come from this source. It is not likely, from present indications, that the price of wool will be over twenty cents at shearing time. It may not be even worth half that price as surplus wool stocks are unusually heavy.

FARM SURVEY OF WOODROW SCHOOL ORDERED BY CLUB

TO TAKE ACCURATE CENSUS OF EVERY FEATURE OF RURAL LIFE AT EARLY DATE.

SCHOOLS WILL COOPERATE

Largely Attended Meeting of Organization Held With Profs. Dean and McLean and Joe Frank Porter as Speakers.

(From Monday's Daily Herald.) There will be a complete farm survey made of the Woodrow community in the eighth district. Decision to make this survey was reached at the meeting of the community organization there on Friday night. The committee to make the survey is composed of Joe Frank Porter, Mrs. Early Moore and Prof. A. E. McLean, the county agent. Prof. Burcham, principal of the school, will co-operate with the committee in making the survey.

This survey will ascertain the number of owners and tenants on the farms of the community; the number of farmers who have purebred live stock and the kind, the number of stock, the character of farming, the acreage of the various crops. The survey will also ascertain the number of farmers who have labor saving devices and home conveniences. It will be the first survey of the kind made in the county and it is expected that other community organizations will follow suit.

There was a large attendance at the meeting of the organization and addresses were made by President Joe Frank Porter, District Agent Jas. M. Dean and County Agent McLean. Mr. Dean gave the club a full resume, or outline of the work that should be done by a community organization, and farm problems were discussed by Porter and McLean.

Prof. Burcham, of the Woodrow school endorsed the work of the organization and pledged his hearty co-operation. There was a fine musical program rendered.

MILITARY HONORS ATTENDS FUNERAL

RAYMOND HUGHES, FORMER MEMBER 114TH F. A., SLEEPS BENEATH NATIVE SOD.

The funeral of Raymond Hughes, young soldier who died in a government hospital at Oteen, N. C., was conducted with full military honors here this afternoon.

At 2:15 o'clock the funeral cortege left the parlors of the Maury Undertaking Company for the Christian church, where at 2:30 o'clock the funeral was conducted by Elder F. C. Sowell. Former comrades in arms, in full uniform, formed an escort from the time the body left the funeral parlors until taps was sounded by the bugler, as the body was laid to rest in Rose Hill cemetery.

The following served as pall bearers: M. S. Shirley, W. P. Jackson, Dillingham, Clyde McKee, Cowden Shaw, Girard Brownlow and Sam Rogers.

The following composed the firing squad: Bedford Cornwell, C. H. Hamison, Lexie Nicks, Gly. Gray, Erwin Voss, J. H. Batts, Arthur, Paul and J. E. Tanner.

In addition to the survivors reported Tuesday, Mr. Hughes is survived by his wife.

INCREASED ACREAGE OF IRISH POTATOES

MANY ACRES OF TUBERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PLANTED IN THIS COUNTY.

(From Monday's Daily Herald.) There will be a big increase in the acreage of Irish potatoes planted in the county this spring as compared with that for several years past. Few large crops will be planted but nearly every farmer is planting a few more than he will need for family use. The impression seems to prevail that the crop will bring a good price and as the seed are not so expensive as they have been in recent years the farmers have decided to try from half an acre, to three or four acres. Many of the potatoes are already in the ground, the weather last week having been very favorable for the preparation of the ground.

Several years ago Maury county was a big potato county but in recent years the yield has dropped very materially. Formerly the crop was shipped by the car load. Mrs. T. B. Hendley and little son, Ed Hendley, Jr., arrived Friday afternoon and will be the guests of Columbia relatives for several weeks.

TAYLOR ADVOCATES ABOLITION OF PRESENT BACK TAX SYSTEM

SENDS SPECIAL MESSAGE TO LEGISLATURE WHEN IT CONVENES TODAY AFTER RECESS.

PLEADS FOR SAVING MONEY

Sets Out Eight Methods in Which Revenue of State Can Be Conserved. Favors Creation of Central Tax Commission.

(From Monday's Daily Herald.) Special To The Herald.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 7.—The abolition of the back tax system is advocated by Governor Alf Taylor today in a special message to the general assembly upon its reconvening after a three week's recess. He was brief in his opinion on the matter, but sufficiently clear as to be understood as uncompromisingly against the present system and its attendant evils.

Governor Taylor said that the legislature should "wipe out the abominable back tax system now in vogue to plague us," and advocated putting the collection of delinquent taxes in the hands of county officials under the supervision of the central tax commission.

Governor Taylor's message offered suggestions as to the best methods for deriving more state revenue and saving money in the operation of the state government.

He suggested eight methods by which money can be saved to the state. He urged the creation of a central tax commission as outlined in his first message to the legislature, favored the cutting of the railroad commission to one member, highway commission in a like manner and asked that the state police be eliminated. He advocated making the state food and drugs department a bureau of the health department; the fire prevention department a bureau of the insurance department, and combining the horticultural activities, with that of the division of entomology under the agricultural department. He said that all allied departments and bureaus should be co-ordinated.

He urged that there be the following departments: Education, Agriculture, Insurance, Health, Prison, Charitable institutions, Labor, Geology, Forestry. Each department should have an executive head in the person of a secretary who should be under the supervision of the governor to whom he should make all reports.

LARGE CROWDS HERE FOR FIRST MONDAY

USUAL QUOTA FROM THIS AND ADJOINING COUNTIES MADE THINGS LIVELY.

(From Monday's Daily Herald.) There are not so many mules here today but the people came to town in large numbers despite the fine farming weather. Not only was every section of the county represented by a big delegation, but there were the usual contributions to the crowds from the adjoining counties. Hickman county was especially represented there being many farmers here from Shady Grove to Centerville. Business generally was lively and many of the stores reported that trade was satisfactory.

EXHIBIT OF NEGRO RURAL SCHOOLS

(From Monday's Daily Herald.) Negro public schools of Maury county will hold their annual exhibit on next Saturday at the Odd Fellows hall on Eighth street and the public is cordially invited to attend. The program will be at 11 o'clock with addresses by Prof. W. J. Hale, president of the Middle Tennessee (colored) Agricultural and Industrial Normal School. Prof. Hale is one of the best speakers of his race in the South. M. L. Barr, home demonstration agent, of Pulaski, will also make an address. Another address will be delivered by Prof. O. H. Bernard, supervisor of the negro rural schools of Tennessee. The exhibits will be arranged under the direction of Stella L. Howse, the county supervisor of colored schools. These exhibits are held annually here and they have been a source of great interest to the white as well as the negro population. They give evidence of the great progress that the negro children are making in industrial education.

Education Board Demands Annexation Issue Settled Without Further Delays

(From Monday's Daily Herald.) Insisting the delay in settling the annexation issue on the part of the Maury county legislative delegation is embarrassing the whole building program of the school board, the county board of education this morning unanimously adopted a resolution by Senator Clarke demanding that the members of the legislature from this county, immediately announce a decision one way or the other on this important question.

The county board of education disclaims any desire to be a party in any way to the controversy and it distinctly states that the board expresses no opinion as to the merits of annexation, but it does insist that the

Senator and Representatives state at once what they intend to do with the matter. The delay in settling the issue is embarrassing the board. No bonds can be issued or sold until after the McDowell school issue is finally disposed of, and in the meantime the citizens of Spring Hill and other portions of the third and fourth districts have advanced money for school repairs and school buildings in the expectation of being reimbursed by the county out of the proceeds of the bond issue. They have carried these debts now for several months and in some cases suits are being threatened by laborers and material men.

are on the ground to begin the school at Culleoka. Mt. Pleasant wants to go to work immediately on additions that are badly needed, but nothing can be done until after the bonds are issued and sold. Delegations from several schools were before the board at the meeting this morning insisting that action be taken at once so that the building program could be carried forward. All that the board desires is a statement from the legislative delegation that the annexation bill will or will not be passed. The board can then make its plans and proceed with the long delayed program of school improvement.

FEWER TENANTS IN COUNTY THAN REPORTED 1910

PROPORTION OF FARMS OPERATED BY THE OWNERS SHOWS SMALL GAIN IN DECADE.

ONLY SINGLE FOREIGN TENANT

Others Are All Either Native White or Colored, Former Being About Three Times As Numerous As the Latter—Other Facts.

(From Wednesday's Daily Herald.) Contrary to the general impression there was actually a decrease in tenants in Maury county between the time of taking the census in 1910, and that of 1920. In the past year's census there were 1,351 tenant farmers reported. In that year tenants operated 663 per cent of all the farms of the county. In 1910 there were tenants operating 1,553 farms, showing that 199 fewer farms were operated by renters in 1920 than ten years previously.

There was a reduction also in the number of farms in the county operated by owners because there are 300 less farms in the county than there were ten years ago, due to the increased acreage of farms a tendency that is general over the country. In 1910 there were 2,348 farms operated by their owners; ten years before there were 2,458 operated by their owners in the county.

Sixty-three per cent of the farms of the county were operated by owners. There were twenty-six farms in the county last year operated by managers or tw o less than the number operated ten years before. The various kinds of tenants in the county are designated by the census as follows: Share tenants, 704; croppers, 248; share cash tenants, 34; cash tenants, 216; unspecified renters, 51. There were 1,098 native white tenants in the county; one foreign born white tenant, and 245 negro tenants. Farms operated by the tenants had a value in land and buildings of \$7,340,441. Farms operated by the owners had a value in land and buildings of \$18,556,350. Farms operated by managers in the county had a value in land and buildings of \$905,300.

ELECTION ROAD CHIEF AT APRIL TERM DISCUSSED

PRESENCE HERE OF FRANK A. BUTLER CAUSES BOOM ON PART OF HIS FRIENDS.

WILKES HAS SUPPORTERS TOO

One or Two Others Are Being Mentioned in Connection With the Place and Size of Salary is Also Live Topic.

(From Wednesday's Daily Herald.) Who will be the first superintendent of roads under the new law? That is a question that is engaging a good deal of attention and the presence here Monday of Frank A. Butler, former superintendent under the old system, gave rise to the report that he would be entered as a candidate by his friends before the April session of the court. It is said that Mr. Butler, while not an active candidate, would accept the place if the court fixes the compensation at a figure where he feels that he would be justified in so doing.

There are a number of the members of the court who hold Mr. Butler in very high esteem and believe that he would be better qualified than any other engineer by reason of his long experience with the roads of the county and his familiarity with conditions here. On the other hand there are several justices who think highly of the work and qualifications of the present superintendent, F. Burke Wilkes, and who are advocating his retention by the county court. Although he has had little opportunity to show what he can do Mr. Wilkes has made a decidedly favorable impression on the public since he first took charge of the roads.

It is argued in behalf of Mr. Wilkes that he could be obtained for a very much less salary than the county could secure the services of a graduate civil engineer and that for all practical purposes he would be just as satisfactory. On the other hand it is insisted that he could not qualify under the provisions of the act, but this is answered by the contention that the county court is in fact made the judge of the qualifications and if the court elects no one will challenge its action.

In addition to the two mentioned above the names of one or two other road experts have been connected

with the office of superintendent. Likewise the question of the salary to be paid that official is the subject of considerable discussion. While the court has the authority to fix the salary up to \$3,500 with all expenses, there are several members of the court who will insist that the compensation bear some relation to that provided for other salaried officials of the county, like the county judge and county superintendent of public instruction. There will likely be quite a discussion of the proposed salary when the question comes up at the April term.

BELL TELEPHONE IN COUNCIL ROOMS

COUNTY AGENT OR AGRICULTURAL SECRETARY MAY NOW BE REACHED BY BOTH PHONES.

(From Tuesday's Daily Herald.) At last the county council of agriculture has a Bell telephone. The county court ordered this phone placed in the council at the January term, but because of the scarcity of phones the company was unable to furnish one. However, a phone has been secured and it was installed today and given the number 189. Hereafter when citizens of the county who have the Bell telephone want to call the agent or get any information from the county council they should simply call Bell phone 189. This will be a very great convenience to the farmers of the county many of whom have only the Bell telephone. The council has had a Citizens phone for several months.

Back Tax Probe Continues Today; Serious Charges

(From Tuesday's Daily Herald.) Special To The Herald. NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 8.—The comptroller should fire Roy Johnston, back tax attorney for the revenue agent in East Tennessee and employ counsel to recover from Johnston, Judge G. M. Trotter, of Knoxville, told the Durham back tax investigating committee today.

Judge Trotter told of some of Johnston's work in East Tennessee, and said he had never furnished reports on his operations.

Herald Cheap Column Ads Pay.

CULLEOKA CRUSHES LAWRENCEBURG TEAM

MAURY COUNTY LASSIES TAKE GAME BY ONE-SIDED SCORE THIRTEEN TO FOUR.

(From Saturday's Daily Herald.)

Culleoka's basketball team on Friday administered a crushing defeat to the Lawrenceburg school. The score was thirteen to four, but that alone does not tell the whole story of the excellent playing of the Culleoka lassies. Every member of the team starred and soon after play started the superiority of the visitors over the home team was demonstrated. They have been ably coached by Mrs. Grace Wilkes Martin, who is naturally very proud of her achievements.

The lineup of the Culleoka team follows: Forwards, Little Foster and Ernestine Osborne; center, Alva Holt, and guards, Grace McKibbin and Ruth Graves. A game with the team of the Columbia High School at an early date is not improvable.

Why Your City Is Prosperous

A PROSPEROUS town is a mighty good place to live in—it means sure growth. But with growth there will come also the greater business opportunities and the need for additional money in your business. Now is the time to make your banking connection—play extra safe and choose a Member Bank of the Federal Reserve System.

Maury National Bank

Columbia, Tenn.