

# The Big Stone Gap Post.

VOL. XXVIII

BIG STONE GAP, WISE COUNTY, VA., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1920

No. 49

## One Man Killed at Wise

### When Men Attempt to Storm Jail for Negro Prisoner.

One member of a mob of men was killed and another seriously wounded, perhaps fatally, that went to Wise Saturday night presumably for the purpose of storming the jail and procuring a negro prisoner, who attacked and seriously wounded J. O. Robinette, a prominent merchant at Appalachia the night before, by shots from a guard placed in the jail when it was learned that attempt would be made to lynch the negro. Tate Blondell, of Appalachia, a young man about twenty years old, was killed and John P. Lewis, a railroad man from Andover, was seriously if not fatally wounded. Blondell was killed outright, about ten bullets penetrating his body and neck. Lewis, being seriously wounded, was taken to the hospital at Norton for treatment.

One report has it that the mob stopped a short distance this side of Wise and sent about ten men ahead to make investigations. They approached the jail and demanded the prisoner, but the sheriff flatly refused to meet their demands and warned them to leave as he, having placed a strong guard at the jail, would defend the prisoner and uphold the law no matter how great the sacrifice. The men then attempted to batter the door down and the firing of guns commenced. But the defence of the jail was too strong and the mob seeing two of their comrades shot down gathered them up and immediately dispersed. Another report says that the mob was fired upon no sooner if they entered the jail yard, but did not return the fire.

This occurred about 1:30 o'clock Sunday morning. It is also said that two or three other members of the mob were slightly injured, but this report cannot be verified. Sheriff Cordey was warned early Saturday night that mob violence was threatening in and around Appalachia and that it would be well for him to place a strong guard at the jail. By doing this the sheriff probably prevented a repetition of what occurred last month when a mob took from the jail a negro and lynched him for assaulting a white woman.

The negro, whom the mob was bent on getting, is charged with assaulting J. O. Robinette in his store last Friday night which came very near ending his life, as he is now in a very serious condition and not much hope is entertained for his recovery. The negro entered the store early in the evening and after making a few purchases caught Robinette with his back turned and hit him over the head with a heavy instrument and took what money he had on his person, about \$800, and left. As no one happened to be in the store at the time the negro made his escape before it became known what had happened. Robinette's skull was crushed and physicians say his chances for recovery is very remote. He was taken to a hospital at Louisville Saturday night accompanied by Mrs. Robinette, Dr. W. B. Peters and a nurse.

The negro was captured early

the following morning at Norton near the railroad station by Policemen Fannon and Pritchard, of Appalachia, and lodged in jail at Wise.

It was evident that the people of this section of the county were considerably wrought up over the affair and no surprise was expressed when it was learned that an attempt was made to lynch the negro.

### Gov. Davis Sends Troops.

Governor Davis, after being notified of the situation immediately dispatched a detachment of National Guard by a special train from Roanoke Monday morning which arrived at Wise about noon. After remaining there only a short time they left with the prisoner presumably for Roanoke.

Contrary to expectations no attempt was made to storm the jail Sunday night although rumors had it that six or seven hundred men armed with high powered rifles and dynamite, from this end of the county, were on their way to Wise to take the prisoner. Sheriff Cordey took every precaution though and reinforced his guard at the jail which would probably have been able to have stood off several hundred men had they attempted to force entrance to the jail.

### REPORT OF WORK DONE

#### By Big Stone Gap Public Health Nursing Service of the American Red Cross for Month of November.

226 school children inspected  
72 notices sent to parents  
38 talks in class to school children  
27 hours spent in schools  
5 lessons in hygiene taught by Health Fairy  
2 lessons in hygiene taught by Cho Cho, the Health Clown  
10 classes held for women; 88 attended  
3 oyster suppers assisted with  
3 hours bed side nursing  
Assisted Dr. Staley with throat clinic at L. and N.  
Assisted with Fourth Roll Call  
6 educational pictures shown to school children  
Assisted Appalachia Community League in sending delinquent girl to home.

## Help the Needy

35 naked children, fatherless, motherless or friendless were made comfortable and safe last winter by old clothes given to the Charity Association by the citizens of Big Stone Gap. The chill winds of 1920-21 will be no less cutting than those of last year, the coming snows no less deep, the poor children of this vicinity will be no less miserable. Any one who contributed to the success of the undertaking last year will be happy in helping again, we know, so get your old clothes collected and tied up. The aid societies, of the Methodist, Baptist, Episcopal and Presbyterian churches have agreed to aid in the collecting this year, and some one will call for your bundle the latter part of this week. We can use everything, so don't keep things back because of tears. We try to mend every garment before it is sent on its mission of mercy. We also want clothing for grown people as well as for children.

MRS. R. E. TAGGART,  
1st Vice President.

The churches have one habit which would be commendable if applied to all forms of commercial life, that of payment in advance. We deposit our nickel in the collection box before hearing the sermon.

## For Better Children

### Efforts of Health Board in Child Welfare Might Be Said to Have This Wise Slogan.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 3.—The goal toward which the Child Welfare of the State Board of Health is working is to secure for each child in the public schools of Virginia a competent physical examination which will determine whether he has any remediable defects that are interfering with his development either mental or physical. Last year nearly sixty three thousand children were examined; this year there will be probably twice as many.

It is stated in the report of the director of the bureau, just presented to the health commissioner, that in compliance with the amended West Bill which makes the examination of school children compulsory, five hundred and twenty four teachers have been taught to make examinations and but two, one white and one colored, failed to pass the test.

The white teachers were instructed at the Normal Schools at East Radford, Harrisonburg, Fredericksburg and Farmville, at V. M. I. and at the University of Virginia. The colored teachers were at Hampton, at Virginia Normal.

Less satisfactory showing was made at the summer institutes. Out of fourteen hundred and six students instructed at those sessions, one hundred and thirty six failed to make the required 75 per cent. on their examination papers.

Last year about half the physical examinations were made by school nurses, and it is probable that an appreciable percentage for the present year will be recorded to the nurses' credit; but it is the intention of the school authorities to require a satisfactory degree of proficiency on the part of every teacher who applies for a certificate and it is a matter only of months before all Virginia teachers will be competent to examine for obvious defects.

Follow up figures for last year are lacking. A large majority of the children examined had minor defects that could have been cured. Whether efforts were made to cure them is not on record; but in the future it will be the purpose of the health and school authorities to see that work does not end with examination and that the children of the state shall have, as far as possible, a fair chance of developing their minds and bodies unhandicapped by bad eyes, bad teeth, defective hearing or minor ills.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kilgore and family, who recently came here from Wise, Va. to make their home, have bought property on Lindsay street, which they are now occupying. Mrs. Kilgore is a sister of the late Prof. Sheppe and at one time attended Sullins College. Miss Elizabeth Kilgore had as her guest during Thanksgiving, Miss Virginia Alderson, of Wise.—Bristol Herald Courier.

### Measles Continues.

There are still a large number of cases of measles in town among the smaller children. Among those who have them now, but are getting along very well are: Juniece Knight, Irma Lucile Taylor, C. F. Gilly, Jr., John Marshall Graber, Dorothy and Robert Irvine, Jerry and Junior Cummings, Pat, Jr., and Horton Barron, Betty Horton, Eleanor Crocker.

## School News

(Edited by the Senior Class.)

The fourth, sixth, tenth and eleventh grades were awarded the "invisible medals," for the best orderly lines last week.

School will be taught on Saturday the eighteenth and then school will be dismissed for Christmas holidays. We will return for some real work on January 3, 1921.

Miss McFadden with her fourth grade pupils entertained the students in chapel on Friday morning with a Christmas program. It was typical of children's ideas on Christmas eve.

There was a combined meeting of the teachers of the Richmond and the Big Stone Gap districts at the school building here on Saturday the fourth.

Misses Trula Kennedy and Anna Byrd spent the week end at Dunbar, where they attended the dance given by the boys of Dunbar.

The attendance was greatly improved this week, which shows that the measles epidemic has died out considerably.

There is to be a basket ball court made in the second floor of the old Collier storage building. All pupils who are interested in basket ball will be given an opportunity to organize a good team.

Mrs. Hoff has not paid the school a visit this year. We are always glad to have her with us and we send her a hearty invitation to visit our school and conduct our chapel exercises.

### Death of Mrs. Mary Hunt.

The sad news of the death of Mrs. Mary Hamilton Hunt, who died last Wednesday morning, November 24th at the home of her father, Rev. W. A. Hamilton, in Jonesboro, Tenn., has been received in the Gap.

Mrs. Hunt is well known in the Gap, where she lived several years ago, while her father, Rev. Hamilton, was pastor of the Methodist church. Since then she has visited her sister, Mrs. John S. Hamblen, a number of times in the Gap and only last summer she spent a few weeks here. A few years ago she was married to Mr. Harry Hunt, of Texas, where she lived, but on account of her poor health she had been making her home with her father at Jonesboro.

Mrs. Hunt was a very talented young woman and exceedingly bright. She taught elocution a number of years in Hiwassee College in Hiwassee, Tenn.

She is survived by her husband, her parents, two sisters and one brother and a host of friends. Her remains were taken to Hiwassee, Tenn., where they were buried on Friday, November 26th in the family cemetery near Hiwassee College.

## Demonstration Work

Does Wise county need some sort of an organization through which producers of food and livestock can act together and approach a place where they can set the price for their products?

Our local market is so good that the farmer is inclined to let well enough alone, but the spirit of cooperation is in the air. In one western state the live stock shipping organizations are reported to save the farmers one and a half million dollars a year. Just now with export trade diminished—no matter why—nearly all farm products have taken a decided drop, in some cases below the cost of production. Now if farmers would act together, store their surplus and so hold it off the market for a time, prices would be better.

We have record crops. Virginia crops are reported as 2.2

per cent. above the 10 year average. While 6.9 per cent. is the average for the United States. Such conditions are bound to bring down prices and in all such cases the farmers have found the best protection in some form of cooperation. Let every thoughtful and far-seeing man consider if we in Wise county do not need some sort of an organization to handle our increasing fruit interests and another to promote the growth of more and better livestock. Would an up to date apple storage house to hold 20,000 bushels and owned jointly by those who have apples to store meet a real need?

Would a pure bred sires' association help the small breeder through an exchange of sires and so shorten the reign of the scrub?

In bulletin No. 1117 an important statement is made about fence posts that the average life of a sap pine post is two years, but when treated with creosote the average is 15 years and thus the annual cost is reduced from 10 cents to 2 1/2 cents. I would suggest that every one having much fence to build or repair had best get this bulletin No. 1117.

This is a good season to place a liberal amount of stable manure about the grapevines. The growth of vines can be largely controlled by pruning so one need not fear the excessive growth next season.

In last week's issue, you read a letter from D. C. Carpenter about his soy beans. I will add now a detailed report of the same obtained by a personal visit to the farm. 30 acres were sowed broadcast with Mammoth Yellow soybeans too late for them to mature this season at least 40 bushels of seeds were purchased at \$6.00 a bushel. No fertilizer was used except-

ing Duplex basic phosphate. By the way this or acid phosphate seems to give best results with soy on the general run of land. The crop was mowed and stacked just in season to miss the first killing frost. 6 large and two small stacks were made. The two small ones estimated to equal one of the large ones. These small stacks made 195 baies or 9 3/4 tons. On the basis of these figures, the whole crop was placed at 68 tons, and he is selling at \$2.00 per 100 pounds as fast as he can deliver it. The total cost including rent of land \$7.50 per acre and cost of hauling to market, figures \$1,315.60, the total value \$2,739.00 giving a profit of \$1,414.40 or \$47.14 per acre or an income of 6 per cent on a land valuation of \$785.66 per acre. This same land was bid off at auction, though not sold, last spring at \$65.00 per acre.

Mr. Carpenter rents this land of C. S. Carter, of Big Stone Gap, and both men regard this a better paying crop than corn at 50 bushel per acre. If this be true, what shall be said of the 25, 15 and 10 bushel corn crop? and the 20, 15 and 12 bushel oats crop?

In this connection three other facts must be noted. The feed is worth pound for pound for pound as much as alfalfa hay. Soybeans are as good a soil improver as clover and the seed is very easy to save, but here they should be planted for early ripening gas early as the ground is good warm. Now, Mr. Man, who has been paying good money for timothy and other hay, consider how much feed and at what cost you can raise an excellent substitute for alfalfa and for corn on some plot of ground you may own or rent.

W. S. Goss, County Agent,  
Wise, Virginia.

Charter No. 11765		Reserve District No. 5
REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF		
The First National Bank of Big Stone Gap		
AT BIG STONE GAP		
In the State of Virginia, at the close of business on November 15, 1920.		
<b>RESOURCES</b>		
Loans and discounts, including rediscounts (except those shown in b and c)		\$411,090.29
Overdrafts secured, \$135.93; unsecured, \$143.19		579.12
U. S. Government securities owned:		
Owned and pledged	7,716.17	
Total U. S. Government securities		7,716.17
Other bonds, securities, etc.:		
Stock of Federal Reserve Bank (50 per cent. of subscription)		1,800.00
Equity in banking house	24,200.00	23,200.00
Furniture and fixtures		327.55
Lawful reserve with Federal Reserve Bank		27,850.73
Cash in vault and net amounts due from national banks		107,315.56
Net amounts due from banks, bankers, and trust companies in the United States (other than included in items 11, 12 or 13)		1,939.96
Total of items 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16	108,355.52	
Checks on banks located outside of city or town of reporting bank and other cash items		461.65
Other assets, if any—Notary Stamps		11.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$512,201.99</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Capital stock paid in		450,000.00
Surplus fund		10,000.00
Undivided profits		119,779.89
Less current expenses, interest, and taxes paid	9,949.43	10,130.16
Amount reserved for taxes accrued		327.55
Amount reserved for all interest accrued		1,315.79
Net amounts due to banks, bankers, and trust companies in the United States and foreign countries (other than included in items 28 or 29)		193.79
Certified checks outstanding		180.00
Cashier's checks on own bank outstanding		1,989.51
Total of items 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32	3204.30	
Demand deposits (other than bank deposits) subject to reserve deposits payable within 30 days:		
Individual deposits subject to check		339,700.33
Total of demand deposits (other than bank deposits) subject to reserve, items 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38	339,700.33	
Time deposits subject to reserve (payable after 30 days, or subject to 30 days or more notice, and postal savings):		
Total of time deposits subject to reserve, items 39, 40, 41 and 42	68,423.86	
<b>Total contingent liabilities</b>		<b>\$512,201.99</b>

State of Virginia, County of Wise, ss:  
I, E. T. Carter, President of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.  
E. T. CARTER, President.  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of December, 1920.  
J. B. WAMPLER, Notary Public.  
CORRECT—Attest:  
A. L. WITT,  
J. W. KELLY,  
W. T. GOODLOE,  
Directors.