

THE CITY

LOCAL PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE

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A TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR FIRE.

Lightning Struck Eagle Lake Irrigation Company's Barn Causing Destructive Fire.

During the severe electrical and wind storm about half past three o'clock yesterday morning lightning struck the large 40x100 feet barn of the Eagle Lake Rice and Irrigation company, and in five minutes' time the whole building, together with a large adjoining shed, was enveloped in flames. The falling rain seemed to have no effect whatever on the fire and the building with its contents, including two rice separators, six rice blenders, a cross-hatch saw, and a large amount of lumber, were destroyed. Among the things lost were Mr. Rager's double buggy and Mrs. Rager's fine rubber tire phaeton, were destroyed in the fire. Many other articles in the way of rice farm machinery, plows, scrapers, harness, gear etc. were destroyed. All of Mrs. Rager's chickens, including twenty setting hens, perished in the flames. By heroic efforts of those who were first to reach the fire the horses and mules were rescued from the burning building. The Eagle Lake Rice and Irrigation company had been carrying insurance on the thousand sacks of rice but the insurance expired just five days ago and same had not been renewed at time of fire. The loss is estimated at about \$10,000.

W. M. Williamson, Esq., returned this week from San Antonio where he closed a deal to handle a large real estate proposition, which if put through, will be a big thing for Eagle Lake. The Frank Allen Co., wholesale real estate brokers of San Antonio, one of the largest firms of its kind in the State, owns about 2000 acres of land just north of town, beyond the school house. Ninety acres of this land is within the corporate limits of the city, and Mr. Williamson tells us that they propose to lay out a town-site on this ninety acres, make nice gravel streets and sidewalks, extend the waterworks to this property and erect a number of neat cottages which will be put on the market for rent or for sale. Mr. Williamson says that after these improvements are completed, the company will put this property on the market at prices that will surely appeal to the people. Should this proposed scheme be carried out, it will mean a great deal for our town.

The Houston business men in their special train came in from the west over the Arkansas Pass yesterday afternoon at 4:40 o'clock and remained here forty minutes, leaving over the Cane Belt for Wharton. The excursion train was met at the station by the Eagle Cornet Band and the excursionists were escorted to the park where they were entertained by a band concert and where refreshments of sandwiches, beer, soda water and cigars were served them. They spent their time here very pleasantly chatting and getting acquainted with our local business men. The Houstonians were well pleased with our town and spoke in very complimentary terms of our little city. Another excursion of Dallas business men will arrive here at 5 o'clock this afternoon over the Arkansas Pass from the same direction. They will be entertained in practically the same manner as the Houston men were yesterday afternoon.

If you need Long Silk Lisle or Kid Gloves go to Mrs. O. W. Westmoreland's.

JOHN ARMSTRONG HANGED.

Paid Penalty on Gallows at County Farm Yesterday for Wife Murder.

The HEADLIGHT received the following special telephone message from Columbus relative to the hanging of John Armstrong at 2:45 o'clock at the county farm yesterday afternoon shortly after the execution. "Quite a crowd assembled in Columbus today to witness the hanging of John Armstrong, whose crime was that of cutting his wife, Kathryn Armstrong, to death in a negro restaurant on Main Street in Eagle Lake during the month of August, 1906. Armstrong made his escape immediately after the murder but was captured late next afternoon in the bottoms below East Bernard by Deputy Sheriff Vineyard and City Marshal Beakes. He said he did not know the woman was dead until he was told so by the officers when they arrested him; said that he did not intend to kill her, just meant to cut her."

Mr. W. A. Baar, representing the Eagle Lake Headlight and the Galveston News called at the jail shortly before the prisoner was taken to the county farm for an interview. Armstrong is a medium size negro, twenty-eight years of age, copper colored and a fairly good talker.

He was tried in the district court at Columbus in October, 1906, found guilty of the crime charged against him, and his punishment assessed at death on the gallows. The death sentence was pronounced by Judge Kenon and the date of his execution set for 2:30 o'clock Friday afternoon, April 26th, 1907.

In talking with the HEADLIGHT's reporter just before the execution, John Armstrong, the condemned negro, said that he loved his wife and would not accuse the wife of his bosom with things that grieved him to desperation. He said that he was raised by a sainted mother and a noble father, both of whom enjoyed a good reputation among the white people. Said that whiskey and women had brought him his ruin, but that he had made his peace with God and that he was perfectly resigned to his fate. He thanked Sheriff Bridge and the other officers of the jail for the very kind treatment he had received at their hands during his confinement in jail.

As a final resort, his attorneys, Messrs. Wooten and Grobe, got up a petition to the governor to commute his sentence from death to a life imprisonment in the penitentiary. The petition was more or less numerously signed and personally presented for his consideration, but the executive refused to interfere.

Promptly at 2:45 the condemned man ascended the gallows with a firm tread. He was accompanied by Sheriff Bridge of Colorado county and Sheriff Robt. Koehl of Wharton county. Deputy H. S. Vineyard of Eagle Lake, Marshal H. J. Insall and W. A. Baar of Weimar. By special request of the condemned man, six Price and Will Norworen on the gallows.

A song was led by Armstrong, "Have Mercy to All," after which Rev. D. J. Thomas led a fervent prayer.

From the scaffold Armstrong made a talk. At first he denied the crime, then confessed, saying "But I won't say why I committed the act." He claimed he did not get justice on account of the witnesses, not wanting him, but stated that he would get justice "over yonder," and that death was only a dream. Exactly 12 minutes after the trap door was sprung which hurled the condemned negro's soul into eternity, Drs. J. W. Harrison of Columbus and R. H. Harrison of Alherton pronounced him dead and that his neck was broken.

A few days before the day of his execution Armstrong wrote the following note which was reproduced verbatim in this week's issue of the Colorado Citizen: "Publish this please and oblige me, J. W. Harrison, 4-24, 1907, to the Victim."

Lodge. I humbly beg to be excused, for my long delay, of not giving you the account of my sentence, thanks, and feel obligated to tell you that you all was simply conscientious towards my feelings. When I take to be men of science, men of culture, and men of intellect, which has showed me has feeling for human being and thanks shall never be forgotten, and if so I will like more, at my departure, Mr. Armstrong.

Armstrong's mother was present at the execution and took the body in charge, preparing same for shipment to Hungersford for burial.

Judge J. J. Mansfield, our efficient and popular county judge, was in the city Wednesday and Thursday greeting his many friends.

Mrs. Melton and daughter, Miss Jennie, left Wednesday afternoon for their home in Ramsey's Point, after spending several days here with relatives.

Mr. Ira Lacey of Rock Island spent a couple of days in the city last week, having come over for an x-ray examination and treatment by Drs. Robinson & Foote.

Miss Ethel Davis returned at noon Wednesday from a visit to Houston and Austin. At the latter place she was stenographer during the session of the Daughters of the Republic.

Dr. J. S. Bruce who made a trip through the Bonus and Faber country on professional business Tuesday, tells us that the crops in that section are looking fine and that they did not show the least effects of the cold weather.

Mr. H. W. Lott, a prominent contractor of Minneapolis, Minn., spent several days in the city this week with Real Estate Agent George Westcott. Mr. Lott was here looking at lands with a view to purchasing both town property and farm lands.

The members of the Baptist church of this place have called Rev. Oscar Ferrell of Victoria as their regular pastor. His preaching appointments will be the second and fourth Sundays in each month. Bro. Ferrell is a very pleasant and agreeable gentleman and a fine preacher.

Mrs. Dora E. Johnson will meet all who are interested in china and water color painting in the parlors of the Drummer's Home, Wednesday May 1st, between 2 and 4 o'clock p. m., arrange for classes in same. Specimens of her work may be seen at Calvert's drug store.

The linen shower at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. F. O. Norris last Tuesday night for the benefit of the Baptist sanitarium at Dallas was a very pleasant and successful affair. Quite a large crowd was present and many linen gifts were received, also \$15.00 in money. The Eagle Cornet Band, ever ready and willing for such entertainments, was present and rendered some fine music. Elegant refreshments of hot chocolate with whipped cream, gelatin and cake were served.

The Law Compels a man to Wear Clothes. . . . Then Why Not Wear the Best?

HART, SCHAFFNER & MARX Suits are without an equal. They are honestly Tailored and perfectly fitting and every garment guaranteed to be all wool. Grays and Blues are the prevailing colors for this season. We have the grays in all shades and patterns. Suits from \$10. to \$20.

Special Prices in Ladies' Lawn Waists for Monday.
LOT 1. 50 White Lawn Waists, three-quarter length sleeves, open front or back, embroidery and lace trimmed. Large assortment of styles to select from. Special price for Monday \$1.00
LOT 2. 75 White Lawn Waists, all styles, extra quality lawn, cheap at \$1.75, our special price for Monday \$1.45

Leaders in Ladies' and Gent's Furnishings.

J. NATHAN & SON, Eagle Lake.



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Double Wedding at Christian Church.

(From Thursday's S. A. Express.)

A brilliant event of the week was the double nuptials of Miss Camille Gordon and Theodore Frederich and Miss Nell Shannon and Charles M. Conover, which were solemnized Wednesday evening in the Central Christian church.

The edifice had been beautifully decorated by the Ladies Aid Society of the church. A profusion of cut flowers and palms were used in its adornment and a color plan of white and green prevailed. Mrs. J. A. Harvin of Eagle Pass presided at the organ, and Mendelssohn's wedding march heralded the approach of the parties. The Shannon-Conover attendants advanced up one aisle and the Gordon-Frederich attendants up the other, meeting at the altar, where the double ceremony was performed by Dr. J. B. Cleaver.

Miss Gordon was beautifully gowned in white silk chiffon trimmed in rich silk lace in rose design with the roses appliqued over the bodice and skirt. A diamond brooch was worn with the long bridal veil.

Miss Fannie Frederich, Miss Gordon's maid of honor, wore a dainty costume of French cord and lace betrimmed. Little Miss Gladys Harvin of Eagle Pass was flower girl, and in a dainty frock of white messaline scattered valley lilies from a beribboned basket.

John Darrell attended Mr. Frederich as best man and Richard Durrett and Mr. Johnson were ushers.

Miss Shannon's costume was a dainty creation of silk chiffon and lace, fashioned in princess style. A wedding veil was worn and her hair was under construction on church Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Mrs. Melton and daughter, Miss Jennie, left Wednesday afternoon for their home in Ramsey's Point, after spending several days here with relatives.

Mr. Ira Lacey of Rock Island spent a couple of days in the city last week, having come over for an x-ray examination and treatment by Drs. Robinson & Foote.

only ornament was a handsome diamond brooch, a gift of the bridegroom. Both brides carried shower bouquets of lilies of the valley and white carnations. Miss Marguerite Pfeuffer attended as Miss Shannon's honor maid and wore a pretty princess gown of Paris muslin, with white picture hat trimmed in ostrich plumes. Both honor maids carried pink carnations.

Little Miss Elsie Carr, daintily dressed in white, was Miss Shannon's flower girl and carried a floral basket of valley lilies.

Lawrence Breeding attended Mr. Conover as best man and George West and Mr. Peters were ushers.

During the ceremony Mr. Van Houten Reeve, cousin of Miss Gordon, sang "All For You."

An elaborate reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Eldridge followed the ceremony. The favored motif of green and white was observed in all the appointments. Southern jessamines exclusively were used in the floral adornment.

In the receiving line were the two bridal parties, Mrs. W. T. Eldridge, Mrs. J. P. Shannon, Mrs. T. M. Conover, Mrs. Frederich, Mrs. N. K. Tracy, Mrs. J. A. Harvin of Eagle Pass, Miss Janie Wilson of Austin and Mrs. Van Houten of Eagle Pass.

The large wedding cake was designed in three-leaf clover form. Ices were served in moulds of pink roses.

Mr. and Mrs. Conover and Mr. and Mrs. Frederich left for Monterey, Mexico, for a brief stay. Upon their return Mr. and Mrs. Conover will be at home at 116 Fannin street and Mr. and Mrs. Frederich will occupy their new home now under construction on church Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

West Laurel street.

Miss Shannon's going-away gown was of light blue rajah silk. Miss Gordon wore a coat suit of green voile with shaded green trimmings.

Many handsome presents were received. Among Miss Shannon's gifts was a silver water set from the Knights of Pythias, a silver tea urn from Unity Lodge and two handsome pictures from Mr. Conover's former co-workers at Mayerick-Clarke's. Miss Gordon's gifts were numerous and handsome and came from all over the State.

Charley's Aunt.

"Charley's Aunt," the funniest of all farce comedies, will be presented at Frazer's opera house next Friday night, May 3rd, for the benefit of the Lake-side cemetery association, by a cast made up from our best local talent under the direction of Mr. J. P. Curran. The comedy is in three acts, full of side-splitting button-busting humor. The laughter evoked by the first act begins with a ripple and closes with a roar at the termination of the last act. This is a play you will never forget. Secure your seats early as a big house is almost an assurance. Popular prices, 25c, 35c and 50c. Friday, May 3rd. Tickets on sale at Calvert's drug store.

A Missionary Tea will be given Tuesday evening, May 20th beginning at 8 p. m., at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Paul Gordon, under the direction of the W. H. M. Society. A short, spicy program will be rendered, after which refreshments will be served. A good time socially is promised all who attend. Remember the date and be sure and come.

Mrs. Yates, President. Mrs. MOHLE, Secretary.

Decoration Day Exercises.

Following is the program for the Decoration Day exercises to be rendered at the Methodist church Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

1. Invocation, Mr. Woodward.

2. Vocal duet, Mr. and Mrs. Ives.

3. Address, Dr. F. O. Norris.

4. "My Faith Looks up to Thee," Choir.

5. Violin solo, Miss Jacquelin Bruce.

6. Address, Mr. P. P. Putney.

7. Solo, Mr. Walter Brown.

8. Benediction.

All are invited to be present and bring flowers, and an especial invitation is extended to the Confederate veterans.

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1. Invocation, Mr. Woodward.

2. Andante and Waltz—"Season of Gaily.".....Orchestra.

3. Violin and Piano Duet—"Il Trovatore.".....Prof. and Miss Leonore Viano.

4. Vocal Duet.....Misses Olivia Peine and Dora March.

5. Overture, Tchaik. Eagle Band.

6. Violin and Piano Duet, "Lido-bella.".....Prof. Henry Moebes and Miss Peine.

7. March—Our Captain.....Orchestra.

8. Piano Solo—Twilight; Reverie.

9. Miss Lena Paskowitz.

10. Trombone Duet—Nolay Billi March.....Messrs. Arthur Moebes and Koch.

11. Adoration, Violin and Piano.....Prof. and Miss Leonore Viano.

12. Baritone and Bass Duet—Asleep in the Deep.....Bowman Brothers.

13. Tandom Gallop.....Orchestra.

14. Other selections.

15. "Home, Sweet Home".....Band.

Remember the date, Thursday, May 2nd. Come out and tell your friends to come.

THE COMMITTEE.

List of Immortals.

The HEADLIGHT acknowledges with thanks subscription payments since last report as follows:

Chris Lass (per Albert Hahn), Chas. Davis, W. M. Atkinson, A. F. Harbert, Mrs. Jack Wiggins, Jos. Burtschell, G. B. Merriweather, Lee Carney, P. D. Carney (per Lee Carney), Ed. Ory, J. P. Anderson, Mrs. G. H. Northington, J. H. Dennis, Mrs. Lee Norris (per J. A. Norris), S. S. Neblett, John A. Norris, Jas. McGee, Chas. Boedeker, Mrs. Emma Conner.

Mr. J. C. Townley was in the city from Chesterville on business Thursday and paid our office a pleasant call. Mr. Townley stated that the piping in the deep well being put down at that place was listed of which caused some delay in the drilling, but he said things were in shape and drilling was again under way this morning.