

## Town and County Schools To Close Friday; Open Jan 2

**Pupils In Lexington And Districts Will Get Same Vacation**

According to Prof. Harrington Waddell, Lexington's public schools will discontinue classes Friday, when pupils of the graded school and students in the high school will begin their Christmas vacation. They will return to class Wednesday, January 2.

R. Bruce Morrison, chairman of the county school board, announces that the county schools will close for the same duration.

Closing and reopening dates at the Virginia Military Institute and Washington and Lee are announced on page seven.

## Fairfield - Timber Ridge Club Holds Meet on Thursday

**Club Members Witness Demonstrations on Candy By Agent**

The Fairfield - Timber Ridge Home Demonstration club met at the Fairfield school house Thursday, December 13th, with 42 women present. Miss Carmichael demonstrated the making of Christmas candies: chocolate fudge, fondant, Persian sweets, peanut brittle and candied fruit peel. Miss Carmichael suggested using homemade containers for Christmas sweets and showed attractively-painted coffee and baking powder tins. The most attractive container was made of the rind of half of a grapefruit candied and filled with homemade candies and tied in cellophane.

The next meeting will be held at the Timber Ridge community house January 10th. The demonstration

## Early Sunday Morning Fires Cause Heavy Damage Here

**Total Loss Estimated At Approximately \$115,000; Origin of Law Building Flame Still Remains An Unsolved Mystery**

## Children Enjoy A Christmas Party Here Last Night

**Business and Professional Women Stage Affair At VPS Building**

The Business and Professional Women's club gave a party to the less fortunate children of Lexington in the room of the Virginia Public Service company last night.

There were forty children present and they sang songs and several of the children gave recitations. Mrs. Oscar Smith told them a Christmas story entitled, "The big house on the hill."

The children circled around the beautiful Christmas tree and Santa arrived and delivered to the children Christmas packages.

Refreshments were served.

## Classes In Adult Education Cease During Holidays

**Will Close Saturday And Resume On December Thirty-First**

Classes in Adult Education in Rockbridge county will close for the Christmas holidays after the night classes on the twenty-second of December and will resume work on the afternoon and night of the thirty-first of December.

**University Plans to Rebuild Soon; Higgins & Irvine Undecided About Future**

Striking suddenly and with certain destruction, fire broke out early Sunday morning in the planing mill and lumber yard owned by Higgins and Irvine here, and after firemen and other volunteers had fought for about two hours, finally subdued the flames, another conflagration burst forth in another section of the town and consumed the law building at Washington and Lee university while fighters, already weary from the first encounter, battled vainly to save the structure, but succeeded in keeping the flames from other buildings.

**Lumber Yard First**

The lumber yard was the first of the properties to catch and an alarm was turned in on this fire at 1:50 a. m. The fire company of Lexington arrived on the scene at about 2:15. Difficulty was experienced at first due to lack of hose and to the inconvenient location of fire hydrants. The fire fighters were also handicapped as their pumper broke down, a connecting rod having burned out. To assist them to bring the fire under control the hose of the Washington and Lee University was borrowed and turned to good account.

**Prevent Spread**

Most of the energy of the firemen was turned to the prevention of the spread of the fire to adjoining properties which it repeatedly threatened to do. A large number of sparks were thrown into the air by the fire and these con-

The next meeting will be held at the Timber Ridge community house January 10th. The demonstration will be "Yeast Bread and its Variations."

Miss Carmichael announced that the extension committee would meet on Monday night, December 7th, to plan the 1935 year's program.

The extension committee for Fairfield Home Demonstration club met Monday night at the home of Mrs. Janet Alexander with six members present. The meeting was opened at 7:30 by Miss Carmichael and the monthly calendar made out with the list of demonstrations to be given for each month through December, 1935. Goals were set up for the community. The committee decides when and how these goals should be done.

## Retiring President To Talk to Kiwanians

The meeting of the Kiwanis club tomorrow night will probably be the last this year, although it will be decided at the meeting whether or not another will be held during Christmas week. This week's program will be in charge of the retiring president, Col. H. M. "Son" Read, who will likely give a review of the club during the past year.

An unusually large meeting of Kiwanians, ex-Kiwanians and ladies was held last week at the Baptist church.

## BELL IS ORDERED TO ASYLUM AFTER DEADLOCK

The jury trying Edward C. Bell, of Fredericksburg, Baptist deacon and accused wife-poisoner, failed last night to reach a verdict after six and a half hours of deliberation but Judge Frederick W. Coleman at once committed the defendant to the Southwestern State hospital at Marion.

Bell remained impassive as first the jury's report and then the judge's order was read to a crowded but orderly courtroom.

By the order Judge Coleman, acting in his judicial capacity, sent Bell to Marion for "care and observation" and directed that the hospital make reports to the court from time to time on the mental condition of the defendant in effect

night classes on the twenty-second of December and will resume work on the afternoon and night of the thirty-first of December.

Some of the six weeks units have closed. Some interesting new classes in Vocational Work and General Adult Education will begin the first of January. The work in Adult Education is primarily to give employment to the two thousand and more teachers in the state reported by the State Board of Education who have been unable to secure employment during the emergency. Classes in General Adult Education are open to all.

## Announce Schedule of Demonstration Agent

Wednesday, December 19.—The Kerrs Creek Home Demonstration club will hold its regular meeting at the Highland Belle School House. The demonstration will be Christmas Candies.

Thursday, December 20.—The Rockbridge Baths Home Demonstration club will hold its regular meeting at Riverside school. The demonstration will be Christmas Cookies.

Friday, December 21.—The Natural Bridge Clothing club will meet at the Natural Bridge School house at 11:00.

The Natural Bridge Home Demonstration club will meet at the home of Mrs. Hugh Stoner at 2:00 o'clock instead of at Mrs. L. M. Padgett's as planned. The demonstration will be Christmas Cookies.

No Home Demonstration clubs or 4-H club meetings will be held during the last week in December. The agent will be out of the county from December 22 until January 7. She will spend the first week in January attending the State Farm and Home Demonstration meeting held at Blacksburg.

## URGE LOCAL RESIDENTS TO DECORATE HOMES

The mayor and council of the town of Lexington have arranged an interesting contest to encourage the decoration of the exterior of homes in Lexington for the Christmas season.

Attractive prizes have been offered by the local merchants for the best decorated homes. The prizes

edly threatened to do. A large number of sparks were thrown into the air by the fire and these constituted a grave menace to nearby homes. The fire also generated an intense heat which was so great as to set power line poles across the street on fire and which also caused the paint on fronts of houses facing the fire to burn. Great help was rendered the firemen in checking the spread of the fire by householders who wet down their property with garden hose. Several narrow escapes were occasioned when these who were working from their roofs, had difficulty due to the late snow which still remained in some places

### Near Tragedy

A note of near tragedy was introduced when a Mrs. Harris who was suffering from pneumonia was carried to her daughter's home nearby when her own residence was smoking because of the heat of the close fire. However, later in the day she was reported as having suffered no ill effects from her exposure.

As the fire was being brought under control one of the fighters noticed a blaze in the direction of the university. Upon investigation this proved to be in the law building. The fire here had evidently originated in the hallway of the building and it was blazing furiously at the time of discovery, entrance being impossible either at the front or the back. Very shortly the fire went up the steps in the rear of the building and blew out the windows on the landing, thereby creating a draft for itself.

Officials of Higgins and Irvine say they are undecided as to plans for rebuilding.

### Equipment Delayed

About a half hour elapsed between the reporting of the fire and the arrival of equipment since all hose and material had to be reassembled and brought to the university. At this time help was asked of the Staunton and Buena Vista Fire Departments, since no satisfactory progress could be made without a pump. These departments responded in double quick time, the Staunton outfit being on the scene with lines laid in exactly an hour after they had been notified, even after the delay entailed in removing wet weather

## Obituary

### JOHN P. WELSH

John P. Welsh, a life-long resident of Rockbridge county, died at his home a mile south of Lexington Friday night at 9 o'clock. He had been in ill health for about six months.

Mr. Welsh was a son of Captain John Welsh and Rebecca Snider Welsh and was born and reared in the Alone community. He was 81 years old.

Mr. Welsh served for twelve years as supervisor of Central district. He was also game warden for a number of years. Mr. Welsh assisted in organizing the first fire department in Lexington.

There survive him a wife and two daughters, Mrs. William A. Adair and Mrs. Nancy Scott, of Lexington, and a brother, Daniel Welsh of the county.

Funeral services were held from the residence at 2:30 Sunday afternoon in charge of Rev. R. T. Troutman, pastor of Bethany Lutheran church, who was assisted by Dr. James J. Murray, pastor of Lexington Presbyterian church. Members of the Lexington Fire Department were pallbearers.

### MRS. MATTIE McCORMICK

Mrs. Mattie Mines McCormick, 81, died Friday morning at 7:45 following a stroke of paralysis received on Tuesday. She was the widow of W. T. McCormick, who died March 28, 1918. Mrs. McCormick was a native of Augusta county.

She is survived by nine children as follows: J. O. McCormick, Columbus, Ohio; J. I. McCormick, Roanoke, Va.; Mrs. Annie Glenn, Los Angeles, Calif.; Joe McCormick, Mrs. Susie Wills Entsminger, Baxter McCormick, Charles McCormick, Edgar McCormick, Arthur McCormick, all of Lexington. Twenty-six grandchildren, thirteen great grandchildren and one nephew, Benjamin Hayslett also survive.

Funeral services were held from the home Saturday at 3:30 o'clock by Rev. David T. Lauderdale, her pastor. Interment was in the Lexington cemetery.

### MRS. NANNIE GARRETT

## EARLY SUNDAY MORNING FIRES CAUSE HEAVY DAMAGE HERE

(Continued from page one)

two lines on the fire in 12 minutes. Hardy Gibson is chief of the Buena Vista department, while E. H. Dabney heads the Staunton organization. Buena Vista was called about 3:40 a. m., and had eighteen men. Staunton had 7 men and the city manager.

The fire had gained such headway that again all attention had to be focused on the saving of the main building and the home of Dr. Howe which are located in immediate proximity to the Law Building.

### Commandant Notified

Col. Magruder, VMI, was notified of the fire by General Lejeune and immediately he had the First Class report to the vicinity of the fire, fearful lest the officers' homes be ignited by some of the great volume of sparks thrown out by the fire and also with the hope that some assistance might be offered to the hard pressed fire fighters. This was no idle worry since the flames were spurting fully two hundred feet into the air and casting such a tremendous number of sparks into the air that there was danger to all neighboring buildings.

### Not Extinguished

Fully a hundred of the cadets of the First Class reported for duty and were put to work in patrolling the threatened areas on the lookout for any sparks which might reach the ground or buildings and thereby become the starting point for other fires. These men were also held ready to move out the furnishings of any home which might catch. That of Dr. Howe was the most seriously threatened.

The fire itself was never extinguished completely but all nearby homes and buildings were held safe from its encroaches.

The fires did a disheartening amount of damage, both in monetary value and in the value that accrues to a building through its

Wesley Chapel neighborhood, died suddenly Monday morning. Surviving are three children, Robert W. Garrett and Henry Garrett, of Rockbridge county, and Mrs. Ernest

continued use in productive enterprise, but in effort applied to their building up and in sentiment attached.

### \$30,000 Loss

The planing mill of Higgins and Irvine suffered a loss of \$30,000 of which about ten thousand dollars was covered by insurance. The plant also suffered the loss of many valuable supplies which had been but recently acquired. A large order of cabinet doors for V. M. I. had just been completed and were ready for delivery on Monday morning. The lot was a complete loss. Three cars of California Redwood had been received during the past week and this also was a loss. Large lots of cement, lime and turpentine were rendered worthless by the flames.

Theories of incendiarism have been advanced concerning the origin of the fire since when the firemen arrived the blaze was apparently equally strong in three places, making the fire practically hopeless to control.

### No Robbery Motive

A motive of robbery was dispelled when the office safe was found not to have been tampered with as was originally supposed. The records were safe and intact except for the covers which had been charred by the intense heat.

The Washington and Lee University suffered a monetary loss of \$30,000 in the blaze which consumed their Law Building. The building itself was valued at \$50,000 of which \$20,000 was covered by insurance. The Library was covered to the extent of \$10,000 and was valued at \$35,000. A large amount of this damage can never be replaced as books were present, as well as various paintings, which cannot be replaced.

A bust of John Randolph Tucker was also destroyed by the flames. An extremely valuable set of books which had been loaned to the library by Captain Letcher and which had considerable historic value were also lost.

### Manuscript Lost

Not the least of the losses suffered was that of Professor Johnson's. The manuscript of a book upon which he has been working for the past five years and of which advance notices have appeared,

grandchildren and one nephew, Benjamin Hayslett also survive. Funeral services were held from the home Saturday at 3:30 o'clock by Rev. David T. Lauderdale, her pastor. Interment was in the Lexington cemetery.

**MRS. NANNIE GARRETT**  
Mrs. Nannie Garrett, 76, of the

was organized and has been open twenty-one Saturdays since July 7. There are eighteen women who are selling on this market and helping to increase the cash income in their families by turning surplus products into saleable commodities. During these twenty-one Saturdays the total sales have amounted to \$1,566.04, making an average of \$74.04 per week. The women seem to be much pleased with this project.

In October the permanent organization for Home Demonstration work was organized. This organization will function as the Advisory Board for Home Demonstration work; helping the agent make plans for the various projects to be carried out in Rockbridge County.

The following is a personal report summary showing in figures the work that has been done by the Home Demonstration Agent:

No. days spent in the field	159 1/2
No. days spent in the office	62 1/2
No. letters written	458
No. news articles published	261
No. bulletins distributed	1,200
No. home visits made	251
No. meetings held	341
Total attendance	4,538
No. miles traveled	6,985
No. communities in which home demonstration agent has given some phase of home demonstration work	16
No. women reached through the home demonstration club meetings	507
No. 4-H club members enrolled in some economic project	222
No. canning demonstrations held	38
No. food selection and preparation demonstrations held	19
No. pounds of cheese made by women getting information from home demonstration agent	584
No. pounds soap made	170
No. organized home demonstration clubs in Rockbridge County	10
No. organized 4-H clubs in Rockbridge county	11

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Wesley Chapel neighborhood, died suddenly Monday morning. Surviving are three children, Robert W. Garrett and Henry Garrett, of Rockbridge county, and Mrs. Ernest Fix, Buena Vista. Funeral services were held today at 11 a. m., at the home, conducted by the Rev. E. B. Cook, with burial at Green Hill cemetery.

**WILLIAM A. SCHAT**

William A. Schart, 68, a native of Columbus, Ohio, died at his home in Buena Vista Monday. Surviving are his wife, one son, William, and a sister, Mrs. Hiram Vest. Funeral services will be held at the home, Wednesday at 3 o'clock, conducted by the Rev. J. W. Vaughan, of the Pentecostal Holiness church.

**MRS. D. C. HEYWARD**

Mrs. D. C. Heyward, wife of ex-Governor Heyward, of South Carolina, died of a heart attack at her home in Columbia S. C., last Wednesday.

Mrs. Heyward was Miss Mary Elizabeth Campbell, of Rockbridge county, Va., before her marriage to Governor Heyward in 1886.

**DAVID E. BOLSER**

The funeral of David E. Bolser, World War veteran, in ill health for 17 years, and seriously afflicted for six months, who died Monday of last week, was held Wednesday afternoon at New Providence church, conducted by the Rev. David G. Glover, assisted by the Rev. C. Morton Hanna. Mr. Bolser served in France with Company B, 317 infantry, 80th division.

**MANLY MEMORIAL**

**BAPTIST CHURCH**

Carlton S. Prickett, Minister

"Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace among men in whom He is well pleased."—(Luke 2:14).

9:45 Sunday School. Lesson: "The Christian Home."  
11:00 Morning Worship. Sermon: "The Child in the Midst."  
8:00 Evening Worship. Sermon: "The Inn-Keeper of Bethlehem."  
8:00 Friday evening, the children of the Sunday School will present

had considerable interest also lost.

**Manuscript Lost**

Not the least of the losses suffered was that of Professor Johnson's. The manuscript of a book upon which he has been working for the past five years and of which advance notices have appeared, since it was to go to the printers in the near future, was consumed. However, the files of Professor McDowell were saved. These files embodied the records of the Law School up to the present session and are of very great value. These files were the only things saved from the entire fire and this was only made possible by the fact that they were kept in a rear room to which the fire had not had time to penetrate due to the confining influence of the walls of the hall.

**New Building**

The Law Building was built in 1898 of native limestone and it is extremely doubtful if these walls, which yet remain standing, can be utilized for rebuilding since the heat of the fire will undoubtedly have burnt them to lime to some extent. This will render them worthless as building material and even dangerous if used since the lime would swell as it accumulated moisture from the air. It is expected that a building more in line with the architecture of the main building will be erected.

Plans are already under way for a new building as evidenced by the statement of Mr. Penick, Treasurer of the University, who says:

"We will have a new Law Building by September."

**Origin Doubtful**

The origin of this fire is also doubtful, if not suspicious. The building is heated by hot water from a central plant, thereby removing furnace risks. The power in the building had been shut off at midnight by the night watchman as he has been in the habit of doing regularly. The starting of the fire by a cigarette is also extremely doubtful since the floors throughout are of maple and unless there were an accumulation of trash where the cigarette were thrown no ignition would occur. Also, the fact that the fire was discovered raging throughout the entire hall with equal intensity in all parts points to incendiarism.

**Police Interviewed**

Police when interviewed

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### COLLIERSTOWN CLOTHING CLUB HAS MEETING

met December 4th with eighteen members present. After the roll was called and the minutes of the last meeting were read, the meeting was turned over to Miss Carmichael and the club leader, Miss Doretta Armstrong. The five boxes were examined by all the members of the club, and the five cushions, admired by all there, were made by the members out of wood. It is hoped more can be brought to the next meeting in January. We hope you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
 Reporter, Dorothy Patterson

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8:00 Friday evening, the children of the Sunday School will present a playlet entitled "The Christmas Story Hour." At this service white gifts for the orphanage will be brought.

"God so loved the world that he gave His only Begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."—(John 3:16).

### CLEMENTS, CLINE

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Cline, of Timber Ridge, announced the marriage of their daughter, Louise Liaro Cline, to Robert Walker Clements, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Clements, of Midvale, Va. The wedding took place May 16, at Lexington.

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### Police Interviewed

The Chief of Police, when interviewed, admitted no definite or active leads but indicated that his men were on the alert for any happenings or facts which might throw light on the perpetrators of the fires. He also indicated that if any person were implicated in the night's happenings, it would go extremely hard with him.

This theory is all the more tenable since one was not set until the other was well under way with all available equipment concentrated at the lumber yard. It might also be pointed out here that these fires might very well be a continuation of a series of minor blazes which have occurred lately.