

# Lightning Kills Youth, Injures 5

Family of J. E. Beam Struck in Gaston County; Jacob, 12, Dead

GASTONIA—A bolt of lightning killed one member of a family of six and knocked all the other members unconscious yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock while they chopped cotton in the field near their home in the Paveseur section of Gaston County.

Jacob Harold Beam, 12, was killed, apparently instantly.

His father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Beam, farmers, and his three brothers, Clarence, Ervin, Robert and James Beam, were all knocked unconscious, according to reports received from the Beam family and neighbors in the community today by the Gastonia Gazette.

Telling the story of the tragedy, Clarence Beam, eldest of the children, said that he seemed to "wake up" and found himself lying on the ground. He soon discovered that all the members of his family were lying on the ground. He went to each one, shaking and calling, and succeeded in arousing each member of the family except his brother Jacob Harold. All efforts to revive him failed.

Clarence said although the storm, a local thunderstorm, had been threatening for some time, he did not realize it was so close and kept on working. Rain from the storm however never did fall on the Beam farm.

Funeral services for the dead youth will be held tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock at Landers Chapel. Burial will be at St. Mark's Lutheran Church at Har-din.

The Mount Evans highway in Colorado, which rises to an altitude of 14,000 feet, is the highest automobile road in the United States.

THE CHARLOTTE (N. C.) NEWS—The Largest Afternoon Newspaper in The Two Carolinas—FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 1943

Mr. 2 x 3

NOTE—Charlotte's Billy Arthur, no stranger to the headlines, is featured this week in an article by Kyle Critchton in Collier's, the National Weekly. The editor of Collier's has granted The News permission to reprint Mr. Critchton's article in full. Here it is:

BY KYLE CRITCHTON

In Collier's, the original purpose of this inquiry was to discover what went on in the mind of a man who stands exactly 41 inches high. Billy Arthur, editor and publisher of The News, is 41 inches high. Billy Views, is 41 inches high. Billy Views, is 41 inches high.

This is small, even for a newspaper editor, and it might be assumed that he had not noticed the world as seen from such a lowly vantage point. In addition, he is a native of Gaston County in the North Carolina Legislature, his fingers in every pie in Jacksonville, practically harasses the Kiwanis Club with ideas, and is a Mason, an Elk and a member of the Methodist Sunday School.

"Mr. Arthur," we asked, "have you any message to give the American people about how man can surmount even the wrong kind of obstacles in this difficult world?"

Billy sat on the opened right-hand top drawer of his desk and reflected.

"No," he said finally. "The world seems to be that while Mr. Arthur is undeniably tiny, he long ago made up his mind that he wasn't going to be a freak. He is neither a dwarf, a midget, a侏儒 nor a pigmy; he is simply a man who never grew. His head is normal-sized and quite handsome; his body is diminutive and sturdy."

ANYBODY who entertains false notions about the little man's capabilities has only to see him at work on his paper which is a four-page affair appearing twice a week. It is written, edited and proof-read entirely by two people—Mr. Arthur and Mary Lily Blake, his assistant. In addition, Billy sells all the advertising and runs the commercial job-printing plant that goes with the newspaper. Also, he sells all the advertising for The News River Pioneer, weekly newspaper of the New River Mariner, whose hundred-mile-square camp practically surrounds Jacksonville.

In view of all this, we tried again.

"Don't you think that a man who has made a success despite handicaps has a lesson for more fortunate people who think life is treating them badly?"

Billy had the distressed air of one who seeks diligently to be full to an interviewer but can't quite make it. He said, "I've never thought about it."

ILL WHILE YOUNG

His parents were normal-sized and the first theory about him was that he had rickets. There were also suggestions that it might be a thyroid condition. His legs were

broken at the age of two for the purpose of straightening them, but his left leg is still bowed and as a consequence he has a permanent limp. He had an attack of pneumonia at the time his legs were being treated and he was under the age of ten but, since then, his health has been perfect.

"I can't remember a long name for why I didn't grow any longer," he says, "but I can remember it as though he weren't being fair with the world in not knowing more about his case. The doctor's name for it is 'achondroplasia,' a congenital something or other of the long bones between the joints."

As a kid around Charlotte, N. C., where he was born, he was mascot for the high school football team of the South Atlantic League. He also developed a pretty fair voice and appeared in school plays and at clubs around town as a monologist and singer. That brought him to WEP radio station where he sang to the piano accompaniment of Miss Clemmie Reid.

At the station of Fun they called that program. That was "me."

He says this with a slight wince because him, and when he worked out a deal to print the Mariner's paper for free of charge in return for the privilege of selling the advertising, he had no trouble at all except foot trouble. He has to race around town at great clip to keep up with business. He crosses a street, hurries himself over the curb onto the sidewalk and careens along.

SMALL-TOWN EXECUTIVE

In the office, he bangs his typewriter, handles printing business, answers the phone, confers with constituents wanting political favors and tries to keep peace between the Mariner and the townspeople, the latter not being too keen on having their once leisurely life upset by the appearance of the Devil Dogs.

The woods are gone, the use of New River is gone, a beautiful stream five miles wide at one point, and strangers are buying out the old merchants with fabulous offers and transforming the town.

In view of all he does, it is difficult to convince Billy that his stature has been a handicap for him. He is an entirely normal young man, with an attractive personality and friends by the thousands. At first, one is inclined to be embarrassed at meeting him, for fear of showing pity, but that feeling disappears almost immediately.

When curious people ask him his reaction to being tiny, he says, "I suppose I could go around sermonizing fortitude and bravery but I'm too busy to bother. I'm no hero. I'm just healthy. Look at those legs! Strong as a bull. I'm agile, too."

His attitude toward himself is exactly right. When the draft board called him up for classified him, a young lady filled out his questionnaire. He stood by the table with his nose barely sticking over the edge. She was writing down the answers as fast as he gave them.

"Height? . . . Billy told her. 'Weight? . . . He told her. 'Age? . . . He told her. 'Any distinguishing marks or characteristics?' she asked. 'I got a scar over the right eye,' said Billy.

Justice Denny Visits Gaston

GASTONIA—Associate Justice E. B. Denny of the North Carolina Supreme Court and his family, former Gastonians, will return to Raleigh at the end of this week after a visit here of about two weeks.

During their stay here the Denny's have been entertained by many friends.

Appointed to the Supreme Court some time ago by Governor Broughton, whose campaign he managed in 1940, Justice Denny was for many years a resident of Gastonia.

Will Present Music Program

Soloists to be presented tonight in a concert given by the Queens-Davidson Music Camp are Ann Blisset, harpist; Jane Greer, cellist; Rodney Whitman, clarinetist; and Austin C. Lovelace, accompanist.

The concert will begin at 8:15 o'clock at the Nimitz Auditorium, Queens College. This is the first of a series of concerts to be presented by the Music Camp.

Negro Death "Unavoidable"

A coroner's jury decided late yesterday that Clyde Hudson, court-appointed Negro, who was fatally injured in an "unavoidable accident" while his bicycle collided with a car driven by Robert J. Strunc of Selwyn Ave.

The accident occurred last Saturday on Sharon Rd. near the Park Rd. intersection and Hudson was said to have been racing with another boy on a bicycle at the time.

Temple Beth-El Holds Sabbath Service Tonight

Temple Beth-El, the Reform Jewish congregation in Charlotte, will hold its regular Sabbath service tonight at 8:30 o'clock at the Hotel Charlotte. Rabbi Philip Frankel will speak on "If I Am

Gen. Forrest Missing After Kiel Battle; May Have Parachuted Down

LONDON—Eight parachutes were seen to open from the bomber in which Brig.-Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest was riding as an observer when it was shot down in air battle over Kiel, Germany, on June 13, U. S. Eighth Air Force Headquarters announced today.

The Americans lost 24 bombers over Kiel. The 38-year-old great-grandson of the famous Confederate leader of the same name was in the lead bomber and other fliers saw his damaged plane drop out of a returning formation and spiral toward earth.

None saw the big plane hit the ground, however, and the headquarters announcement was the first evidence that at least some of the crew might have parachuted to earth. The plane and

its crew had been listed simply as "missing."

Zeebent, Calif., pilot on a P-51 flying directly behind Forrest's plane, said he saw the number 4 of the general's craft at the German coast.

Despite a smoking engine, however, "he flew on and led us over the bomb run," Gossard said. "As we turned off the target the general's ship again was attacked. I saw it slow down, drop out of formation. We pulled up and took over the leader's position."

Other fliers saw one German plane in the tail section of Forrest's plane.

Forrest was the first American of his rank to become a combat casualty in the European theater of operations. The number 4 of American generals and admirals listed as missing or killed in the war, around this world was raised to fifteen by his failure to return.

A native of Memphis, General Forrest was a graduate of West Point and an executive officer of the second bomber command at Fort George Wright, Wash., was credit with an important part in the development and expansion of the heavy bombardment program.

Thornwell Orphanage Chooses New Head

CLINTON, S. C.—(AP)—W. W. Harris, editor of the News of the Clinton Chronicle, has been named acting president and treasurer of the Thornwell Orphanage here.

Dr. L. Ross Lynn, who has served as president of the institution for 25 years, will retire in July.

Music For These Times!

Ivey's RECORD ALBUMS

Spirit of '43 1-4 work a plenty! Then relax at home with records of sweetest leisure. Albums and hit tunes at Ivey's!

JOHANN STRAUSS WALTZES, by Andre Kostelanetz and Orchestra. \$3.68.

MY FAVORITES by Fritz Kreisler. \$2.58.

Tchaikovsky's MANFRED SYMPHONY, by Indianapolis Symphony. \$1.58.

EDDY DUCHIN AT THE PIANO. \$2.63.

MUSICAL SHOW HITS, with Gladys Swarthout. \$3.68.

HM TUNES 53c

IT'S ALWAYS YOU: IN THE BLUE OF THE EVENING, Tommy Dorsey with Frank Sinatra.

COMING IN ON A WING AND A PRAYER: JOHNNY ZERO, Song Spinners.

EAST OF THE ROCKIES: WHEN JOHNNY COMES MARCHING HOME AGAIN, Andrews Sisters.

YOU'D BE SO NICE TO COME HOME TO: MANHATTAN SERENADE, Dinah Shore.

FOR ME AND MY GAL: WHEN YOU WORE A KILIP, Judy Garland, Gene Kelly.

RECORD SHOP FOURTH FLOOR

WE'LL PAY YOU FOR OLD RECORDS!

Old records you needed to make new ones! Bring your records to Ivey's. We'll pay you 60 per cent. (No cardboard).

RECORD SHOP FOURTH FLOOR

Wash Your "Undies" In CORSENE 25c Pk.

Ivey's easy-to-use, non-shrinking, odorless cleaner for corsets, brassieres, and lingerie! Your undergarments will stay fresher, last longer. Large package, 25c.

MAIL AND PHONE ORDERS FILLED

CONSET SHOP—THIRD FLOOR

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