AS RARE AS RADIUM — A dissatisfied advertiser in The Centreville Observer.

THE CENTREVILLE OBSERVER

"ALL THE NEWS ALL THE TIME"

ESTABLISHED 1864

AS PRECIOUS AS RUBIES—Weekly visits of The Observer into its many homes.

LOCAL NEWS WILL BE FOUND ON EVERY PAGE

VOLUME 53—NO 28 | CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND, SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 6, 1917 | PRICE 2 CENTS

ALFRED GREEN

Cor. Commerce and Water Sts.

CENTREVILLE MARYLAND

Shop Here

Dress Smartly

Save Money

Our Women's and Misses' Suit and Coat Department Now Saves You 1-4 to 1-3

Every garment is of the best style and bears the distinctive marks of expert tailoring, fine finish and excellent fabric.

Black and Colored Dress Goods Suitings and Coatings

These fabrics are fashionable for Suits, Dresses and Skirts, and all are reasonably priced.

Materials are Oak Serge, French Serge, Panama Wool Taffeta, Wool Poplin, Silk Poplin in all colors.

A Large Variety of the Latest Style Furs are still to be had at Surprisingly Low Prices.

Ginghams and Percales

for Wash Dresses and Shirtings are to be found here in every pattern and color.

Nemo Self-Reducing Corsets

Any style can be had in our large stock. The only corset equipped with the famous "Lastikops Webbing," which is guaranteed to outlast any corset of which they are a part.

Just arrived—several new models of ROYAL WORCESTER CORSETS fresh with fashion's very latest touches. Those who already wear these fashionable corsets need no further invitation than this mere announcement.

And to all others we would say that this showing of ROYAL WORCESTER models is a style event well worth visiting.

ALFRED GREEN

Cor. Commerce and Water Sts.

CENTREVILLE MARYLAND

DOUBLE CREEK HAS MYSTERY TO SOLVE

DEAD MAN FOUND SATURDAY

Wounds on Head of Unidentified Man Lead to Belief That he may Have Been Victim of Foul Play. Letters "G. B." Tattooed on His Right Arm. Was Penniless.

With two ugly gashes in his scalp at the back of his head, and with the right side of his face discolored from a blow of some soft, an unknown white man was found by a negro farm hand along the shore of the river, near Crumpton, last Saturday. The initials "G. B." set in a wreath beneath the picture of a woman's head, tattooed on the right forearm of the stranger, are the only marks that at some time may lead to the discovery of his identity. Today he lies sleeping in the quiet little cemetery of Double Creek Church, where the remains were interred with simple obsequies last Sunday morning.

Whether this is the culmination of some tragedy that began in some of the large cities; whether the dead man was the victim of a murderer; whether his death was caused by exposure to the weather while in a demented condition caused by accidental blows on the head, or whether heart failure claimed the stranger for its victim are all theories over which the vicinity of Crumpton is pondering and speculating.

And, while these evidences of foul play were readily apparent, Centreville officers knew nothing of the case until it was called to their attention by the Centreville Observer Thursday afternoon. The Observer's correspondent at Crumpton sent a report of the affair to the county news editor, with the result that the case was immediately communicated to the proper authorities. Sheriff J. W. Yeates was away on official business Thursday, and his deputy, Constable John C. Williamson, was notified. Constable Williamson immediately prepared to make an investigation and yesterday morning went down [illegible] In the event he unearths a clue to the identity of the man and notifies friends or relatives, it will be necessary to exhume the remains of the stranger.

Description of Dead Man

The dead man was apparently about 50 years of age. He was five feet seven inches tall and weighed about 175 pounds. He had brown hair, mixed with gray, and a short, stubby mustache. His face was partly covered by a growth of beard, probably two days old. He was dressed well and those who viewed the remains could find no trace of dissipation in his features. There was nothing about his appearance to indicate whether he had been a quiet, useful citizen unfortunately bereft of his reason by the blows which left their marks on his head or whether death, in ruthlessly closing the life of one who had transgressed upon nature's code, had paused in pity to smooth out the telltale marks that might have been apparent in life.

Held Coroner's Inquest

Dr. J. W. Stack, of Crumpton, was first notified of the colored man's discovery of a dead body. He, in turn, communicated with Coroner Charles Nickerson, who summoned a jury. Spencer Coleman was foreman of the jury and, after an examination, the jury returned a verdict of "death caused by blows upon his head."

A search of the stranger's clothing failed to produce anything that might lead to his identity. He wore no article of jewelry and in his pockets were found only two pocketbooks. One, a folding one, was empty. The other, a snap pocketbook, contained a small pearl-handled knife.

At the inquest, it was learned that one citizen of Crumpton neighborhood had seen the man. This was on Thursday of last week. The stranger stopped at the home of Mr. Squares late Thursday afternoon and asked for a drink of water. Mr. Squares states that the man showed some evidences of acting in a dazed sort of way and having a manner that indicated he might not be well-balanced mentally.

After the inquest the body was removed to a nearby colored home and kept there until the funeral services Sunday morning.

May be a Baltimorean

It is possible that the man may be a Baltimorean and that he may have come to Chestertown on the steamboat and from that point walked into Double Creek neighborhood. Wednesday morning the Baltimore American carried an advertisement offering $100 reward for information leading to the discovery of James H. Sinclair, who mysteriously disappeared in that city on December 19th.

The Observer investigated this and found that the description of the dead man at Crumpton and that of the missing Baltimorean tallied in every detail, with the exception of the tattoo marks. The missing Baltimorean had the initials "J. H. S." tattooed on his arm.

When interviewed by a reporter for The Observer, Dr. J. W. Stack, of Crumpton, who was physician to the coroner, stated that he believed the man had been dead at least a day before being found. The wounds on the man's head and face were not fresh, but probably had been inflicted a week before. The cuts had been washed and all evidence of blood removed. A physician, however, would have cut the hair from about the wounds and probably would have taken several stitches in them. Lack of evidence of medical attention, led Dr. Stack to assume that the stranger himself had bathed the cuts and wandered about in a dazed condition from their effects.

Whether or not the identity of the man ever is learned probably will depend upon whatever clues may be found by Constable Williamson in his investigation.

NEGRO CUT IN FIGHT

Oscar Tilghman Receives Very Serious Wound During New Year's Eve Melee.

In the course of a New Year's eve celebration at a small house on the farm tenanted by Mr. James Carter, on the Wye Mills-Queenstown road, a fight between four negroes resulted in the serious wounding by a knife stab of Oscar Tilghman, about 20 years old. He was removed to Easton hospital and the other three participants, after a midnight foray by Sheriff Yeates and Constable Williamson, were lodged in Centreville jail to await hearings on charges to be preferred when the result of Tilghman's wound is known.

According to information obtained by the officers, Tilghman, Isaac Gibson, Walter Miller and Steve Wilmer, all young negroes, had a disagreement over a woman at a party several weeks ago. They met Sunday night at Mr. Carter's farm and, after all hands had imbibed freely of apple jack, a fight ensued. Gibson, it is alleged, then went outside and, when Tilghman followed him, Miller handed Gibson a large pocket knife and that he, with this weapon, stabbed Tilghman in the small of the back, the wound supposedly penetrating a kidney.

Physician Calls Officers

Tilghman was taken by his friends to the office of Dr. Samuel Price, at Queenstown. After his wound had received emergency dressing, Dr. Price learned that Tilghman and Wilmer had been fighting with Gibson and Miller. He then telephoned Magistrate Robert Coursey, Sheriff Yeates and Constable Williamson at once went to the scene of the melee in an automobile. While the sheriff guarded the rear door of the tenant house, the constable pushed in the front door and located Miller and Gibson standing under a stairway. He handcuffed them and the officers then drove to the home of Tilghman, where they arrested Wilmer. None of the prisoners made any resistance.

The arrests were made between midnight and 1 o'clock Monday morning. In the meantime Dr. Price had diagnosed Tilghman's wound as critical, noses Tilghman's wound as critical and the negro was rushed to the Easton Hospital. At last reports he was reported to be improving and on a fair way to recovery.

POLICE COURT

Among the cases before magistrate Robert Coursey during the week was a disorderly conduct charge against Robert Brown. He was arrested Saturday by Constable Williamson in the store of Mr. W. T. Taylor, where Brown was rehearsing some alleged details of a visit made to Price by Baltimore detectives. At a hearing Tuesday, the negro was fined $25 and costs or 60 days in jail.

Charles Pritchard was arrested last Saturday by Constable Williamson for cruelty to animals. It was charged that, while taking a load of corn to Carville, the team he was driving for Mr. Thompson Turner got stuck in a mud-hole. Pritchard, a negro, is alleged to have beaten the mules from 1 o'clock in the afternoon until 8.30 at night in his efforts to make them drag the wagon out of the mud. Henry Robinson was the principal witness against him at a hearing on Tuesday, when the accused paid a fine of $5 and costs.

Takes Away Prisoners.

Sheriff J. W. Yeates left for Baltimore Wednesday morning with two negro prisoners recently sentenced by Magistrate Robert Coursey. Sam Johnson will serve six months in the House of Correction for killing a horse by cruel treatment and Dick Handy, a boy, will remain in Cheltenham for stealing until he is 16 years old.

CAMERA BATTERY FILMS REALISTIC RAILROAD WRECK NEAR QUEENSTOWN

SPEEDING EXPRESS TRAIN CRASHES INTO BOX-CAR

William A. Brady, Millionaire Theatrical Magnate, Directs Collision Scene for "The Whip." Racing Melodrama to be Shown on Moving Picture Screens. Large Crowd Sees First Fildom Views Ever Taken on Eastern Shore. Irving Cummings Plays Leading Part In Saving Horse.

Under the personal direction of William A. Brady, a New York millionaire theatrical magnate and producer of photo-plays, the famous railroad wreck scene in "The Whip," a racing melodrama filmed by the Paragon Film Co., was taken Thursday afternoon at Queenstown. Fully 500 persons saw the express train crash into a box-car, in which the equine hero of the piece had been stalled and smash it to flinders. The engine left the rails, plunged down an embankment and buried its nose in the bank beside a marshy ravine crossing the old spur main-line track running from Centreville Junction to Queenstown pier.

Under the dreary gloom of a leaden sky, the midnight scene of a thrilling incident in filmdom was taken by a battery of eight cameras, all focused at different angles. On the historic ground where the Queen Annes county militiamen made their stand against the British invaders in August, 1813, were grouped the curious spectators, all of whom had braved cold and mud to catch a glimpse of the delayed wreck scene which had been so much talked about. All preparations for the crash had been made when the engine, drawing a baggage coach, a parlor car and two passenger coaches was started down the track at 2 o'clock.

Leaps Off Tower.

Four pyramidal towers had been erected, one on the north side of the track and three on the south side. Cameras were mounted on three of [illegible] Colonel Cummings [illegible] to the wreck scene when he leaped 16 feet to the ground, apparently in fear that the onrushing train would be derailed and smash into his tower. He had hardly dropped the crank of his machine, however, when his assistant leaped up and began reeling off the film, thereby saving that detail of the picture. This presence of mind was shown by Al. Ansbacher, editor of the Cinema News, of New York.

The wreck was realistic in every detail. A large force of workmen had prepared for the scene. A derailing device was placed beside the rails to make sure that the locomotive, old No. 4, well known to travelers on the M. D. and V., would leave the track and topple into the morass, where its grave had been prepared. The box car, which, like all other railway equipment used, had been carefully painted over to remove any marks of identity, was at a standstill, heavy ties having been placed to block it and make certain that it would be crushed to kindling wood.

Hidden in Bank.

On both sides of the track, cameras had been screened behind board mattresses, one operator being hidden in a niches dug in the side of a wooded hill. Here, behind a heavy bulwark of lumber, a screen designed to save him from being injured by flying iron should the locomotive boiler explode, he operated his camera, set far out on a board runway, by means of a rope and pulley. Two other quick-action artists had their posts on platforms built in the marsh. Grouped over the scene were the active participants, under direction of Mr. Brady, Sam Mayer, general manager of the Paragon Film Co.; Oscar C. Land, director, and Phillip Massi, his assistant. One pyramid was occupied by two artists of the photo-play, Irving Cummings, the hero, and Frank J. Otto, his partner in the exciting scenes, and the representative of The Observer.

Far away on both sides of the track, and across the fields to the north, were stretched the lines of spectators, all beyond the probable danger line should the boiler let go. The train was started on its last run by G. E. Eckstrom, a well-known engineer of the M. D. & V., who, just before he leaped from the cab, sounded a long drawn whistle blast as the swan song of No. 4. A few minutes later, after it had come puffing down the track at a speed of about 35 miles an hour, the engine lay on its side, a battered, torn and twisted heap of scrap metal from which the steam escaped in clouds with a loud hissing.

Scenes of the Wreck.

When the rushing train struck the box car, from which "The Whip" heavily blanketed, had been saved a few moments before by Irving Cummings and his jockey, Leonard Moody, the freight carrier reared high in air, seemed almost to turn a somersault and then crumpled into a pile of splintered, shattered timbers. Its roof was torn off and hurled through a clump of small willows beside the track. The train ran on a few feet, amidst a cloud of smoke and dust, then the engine left the rails, rolled over and gave up its "ghost." The forward end of the baggage-car was torn out and the body lifted from its front trucks. The three rear coaches remained upright, but the roadbed had been torn away from under the forward two and they had ploughed deep into the soft earth. The rails were twisted up almost into knots and the ties were scattered to the four winds, it seemed.

After it became evident that the locomotive was blowing off its steam and would not explode, the eager crowd pressed forward about the camera men, who had rushed up to take the final details of the scene. Several times the spectators were warned back, then the battery of camera eyes was turned on them and the "crowd scene" about the wreckage was filmed. Then it all was over. For 100 feet of film, taking about a minute and a half to show on the screen, Mr. Brady had spent $10,000, besides salaries and incidental expenses, which included $50 paid Will Godwin, a taxicab chauffeur, to bring the party to Centreville from Baltimore on Wednesday. This outlay, however, was due to the fact [illegible] around by the Pennsylvania.

Rush Off on Special.

Immediately after the scene was completed, a special train, driven by Engineer Winfield Roe, made a speedy run of nine minutes to Centreville and the moving picture promoters, artists and camera operators were transferred by auto and caught the afternoon train for New York City, where Mr. Brady had a pressing business engagement Thursday night. Others in the party were Eric Cederberg, Arthur Todd, Maxwell Heid, Jake Badarasco, George Coudert, Walter Arthur, Joe Darrell and Paul McAllister. Arrangements for the wreck scene and for the special train were made by F. M. Fuller, master mechanic of the M. D. & V.

"The Whip," which originally was staged as a melodrama at the Drury Lane Theatre, London, was brought to America by Mr. Brady, one of the leading theatrical promoters of the country, and was put on at the Manhatan theatre, New York, where it had a long and successful run. It is a racing story, woven about a famous track horse and the efforts of a villian, the photo-play part being taken by Mr. McAllister, to disable the animal and thereby prevent him from winning a race at Saratoga. The hero's sweetheart learns of the plot and telephones him, whereupon he makes a mad dash in his racing automobile, outspeeds the express train and saves "The Whip" from the box car which the villian had cut loose from a train and left stranded in the path of the flying express.

Filming of the photo-play was started last June and the scene taken at Queenstown was the final touch to a screen production that, if is ever is shown in Centreville, will be sure to draw a "S. R. O." audience. Most of the scenes were taken under direction of Maurice Tornier, but he was too ill to come to Queen Annes for the wreck effect. Mr. Brady, Mr. Cummings and several others of the party made their headquarters at the Arlington Hotel while awaiting the final preparations for the collision.

Some Movie Gossip.

From those who played a leading part in this drama of the screen, it was learned that Mr. Cummings, who is widely admired for artistic work before the cameras, is to play with Mary Pickford. Their next plays are said to be "The Poor Little Rich Girl" and "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm." It also was gossip that Charlie Chaplin has declined to renew his contract for a salary of $670,000 a year, which expires in April, also that he has refused an annual offer of $1,250,000

(Continued on 8th Page.)

MRS. DUDLEY DIES SUDDENLY IN STORE

FALLS FROM SEAT IN GREEN'S

Wife of Well Known Farmer Near Wye Mills was Awaiting Son After Shopping Trip When Stricken With Heart Disease. Was Formerly Miss Mamie Callahan.

While Green's department store was thronged Tuesday with shoppers, Mrs. Denny Dudley, of near Wye Mills, fell from a stool on which she was sitting and died ere Dr. J. M. Corkran, who was hastily summoned, could render any medical assistance. After being prepared for burial by Mr. R. W. Eddins, Mrs. Dudley's body was removed to the family home. Funeral services were held at 10.30 o'clock yesterday morning, with a mass of requiem, in St. Peter's R. C. Church, near Queenstown, Rev. C. P. McGoldrick, the pastor, conducted the services and interment was in St. Peter's cemetery.

Mrs. Dudley had come to Centreville with her son, Hazel. She had finished her buying, shortly past noon, and was waiting for her son to call for her after paying a visit to a friend on Lawyers Row. Taking a seat on the second stool from the south doorway of the department store, Mrs. Dudley had chatted with several friends during the little while she remained there. Those near her were startled when they heard her groan and saw her topple forward to the floor. Mrs. Dudley fell on her right side. She gasped for breath several times, then relaxed and died without a struggle.

Had Heart Trouble.

Dr. Corkran, after examining the body and ascertaining the circumstances, pronounced Mrs. Dudley's death due to heart failure. She apparently was in the best of health, but was a sufferer from organic heart disease. A large crowd gathered at the department store when it became known that Mrs. Dudley had been stricken. At first, it was believed she had fainted and most of the crowd remained outside to permit her to be revived. All were shocked when Dr. Corkran announced her death.

Mrs. Dudley was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Callahan, of near Wye Mills, and was married to Mr. Dudley 22 years ago. Besides her husband, she is survived by the following children: Hazel, Arthur, Anna, Carroll and George, twins, Virginia and Eugene Dudley, all minors. She was a parishioner of St. Peter's Church and long had been active in Catholic religious affairs. Many relatives and friends mourn her unexpected death.

TELLS SHORE'S GLORIES

SWEPSON EARLE AND PERCY G. SKIRVEN PUBLISH INTERESTING COLONIAL HISTORY.

Fresh from the press, the latest contribution to Maryland's colonial history, in which the Old Line State is so rich, has been published by Swepson Earle, secretary of the Maryland Conservation Commission and a well known citizen of Queen Annes county. He has been assisted in the work by Percy G. Skirven, of Kent, who writes the history of that shire.

The book is dedicated to the author's grandfather, the late Dr. Samuel T. Earle, of "Melfield." The chapter relating to Queen Annes county was written by Mr. DeCourcy W. Thom, of Baltimore and "Blakeford." The famous colonial homesteads treated in this section of "Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore" are the "Hermitage," Readbourne," "Old Point," "Blakeford," "Walnut Grove," "Reed's Creek," "Bloomingdale," "Old Pratt House" now the county almshouse, "Poplar Grove," "Bloomfield," and "Melfield."

A chapter is devoted to each of the nine counties on the Shore and concludes with a short sketch by Mr. Earle on "Simple Life of the Eastern Shore." The book is the first comprehensive history of the colonial homes and public buildings of the Delmarvia Peninsula that ever has been published. The sketches written around these old homes include the history and traditions of the early settlers along the eastern rim of the Chesapeake Bay.

The introduction was written by Judge James Alfred Pearce, of Chestertown. "Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore" is for sale in Centreville by F. H. Feddeman at $2.50 a copy.

Welcome New Year.

With the screeching of Centreville's fire siren and the banging of guns, the birth of 1917 was greeted with noisy acclaim last Sunday night. The New Year came in cold and cloudy and, during the day, spits of snow fell at intervals. The threatening weather put a damper on good spirits and the day passed quietly and uneventfully.