

“Tiring of Wife’s Nagging, Man Leaps from Auto”
And other weird news of Limestone County 1925

By Rebekah Davis

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It all started with the apocalyptic egg of 1925.

The egg made a front page headline in *The Alabama Courier*, June 18, 1925. The wife of farmer Bunion Butler, who lived near Bethel School south of Ardmore, had brought eggs into N. U. Johnson’s store on what is now AL Highway 251 to sell, and it was there that “in counting the eggs the merchant discovered one that was rough and he began to inspect it and discovered one that was rough and he began to inspect it and discovered that it had raised letters on it almost covering the egg and when carried to better light it was easily read, and the six words found on the egg in large and bold letters said: LORD WILL SOON BE AT HAND.”

Word got out, and soon the egg was in the *Courier* office, where the editor determined there had been “no chemical action on the egg,” and it was just as Mrs. Butler had discovered. He wrote this about it:

“It is up to you to make such suggestions and arrive at just such conclusion as you may, but we saw the egg. We know that the writing and wording were as plain as if printed by a bold writer on paper or parchment. This hen may not have known what she was saying to the wide, wide world in her cackle, but this egg bore a message of great importance that the world may heed.”

In the course of searching for this article, I, as usual, got distracted by other headlines. Among those:

- **“Tiring of Wife’s Nagging, Man Leaps from Auto: Lingers Near Death For Hours Before Regaining Consciousness.”** This is the story of Coxey-area farmer R.L. Shockley, who got into such a heated argument with his wife one morning that he “had stood about all that he could and to get relief from the storm that was pending,” and took a “flying jump” out of the car she was driving down Clinton Street in Athens. His head hit the curb so hard that witnesses figured he was a goner, and the doctor who arrived on the scene said he might well be. Then “after about two hours the man began to sober up and it was discovered that he was suffering as much from an overdose of white mule [*euphemism for whiskey*] as he was from the result of his untimely leap for liberty.” Shockley came up swinging, but “after the man had given evidence he was not going to pass from this terrestrial globe,” his family took him home. Once again, the editor, Jerry-Springer-like, offered his commentary on the situation:

“At least he contributed to break the monotony of the Sabbath morning by his flying leap and while he met with no greater resistance than concreted gutter and curb, he yet lives to tell of the wonderful acrobatic feat with few men could take without the aid of a parachute and remain able to speak of the matter afterwards.”
- **Eleventh Son Born Eleventh Hour and on Eleventh Day:** “On the 11th day of this month at the 11th hour, the 11th child, a son, was born into the loving care and keeping of Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Shannon of Cartwright.” – Aug. 27, 1925
- **Hot Rock Falls From Clear Skies:** Brad Bibb was standing in front of his business house in Belle Mina when a small rock, “twice the size of a man’s thumb,” fell at his feet and bounced up almost to his waist. When he picked it up, it was red hot. “Upon examination there was nothing unusual about it, save that it had fallen from the air and

when it landed it was red hot. Where it came from and what produced the heat is unknown. It is one of those strange freaks which no man can account for.” – May 18, 1925

And of course, no celebration of Weird 1925 would be complete without sharing an ad, pictured here, for Munyon’s Paw Paw Tonic. Every issue of the *Courier* included a Paw Paw Tonic ad, and to read those ads, you would think this was the very water of life itself!

For more news of the weird, come to the Archives to check out our newspapers on microfilm anytime. You never know what you might find!

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Established: 1980

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