

The Mount Airy News.

ESTABLISHED 1880

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd, 1922.

\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

COAL MINE FIRE IS 62 YEARS OLD

Famous Summit Hill Fire Still Burning; Other Coal Fires Reported

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. —The Summit Hill fire, the "king" of all mine fires, is still burning, but it is well under control, according to a recent announcement by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, on whose property flames have been eating up millions of tons of anthracite coal for the last sixty-two years. While this one has been brought under control, another mine fire, which has been burning nineteen years near Mount Carmel, Pa., in the heart of the lower anthracite fields, is still trying to spread. A third fire, which has been raging for three years, in the Red Ash vein of the Red Ash Coal Company on the Wilkes-Barre mountain, has made it necessary to close the old Giant's Despair road known to many automobilists because of the hill climbing contests that have been held upon it.

The Summit Hill fire in the Panther Creek Valley between Lansford and Condale, was discovered in February, 1859, in an abandoned gangway. The hard coal dips from 20 degrees to about 70 degrees and is about 50 feet thick. The area involved is about one mile long by 1500 feet wide. Now many millions of tons of coal have been consumed has never been accurately ascertained, but it has cost the company more than \$3,000,000 to fight the longburning fire.

In the early sixties an open cut was made in the involved area which seemed to isolate the flames for many years, but eventually the fire travelled past this cut into the coal areas beyond. Many efforts were made to check the flames but to no avail until about 1910 when a concrete and clay barrier, about twelve feet thick, 170 feet deep and 700 feet long, was built. The fire travelled so rapidly that it pressed closely upon the location of the new barrier before the work was completed and the heat became so intense that men could work only in 20 minute relays. The barrier eventually checked the progress of the fire.

In order to insure against a further spread the coal company has been stripping the overburden from the coal west of the barrier. This operation has been in progress nine years and when completed the company officials hope the fire will be certain to be under control. The cost of the stripping operation, involving the removal of 3,500,000 cubic yards of material, it is estimated, will approximate \$2,700,000. It is not known to the present generation of mining men how the fire started.

The nineteen year-old fire is in the abandoned workings of the Sioux mine of the Lehigh Valley Company near Mount Carmel. It originated when hot ashes were dumped into a mine breach and ignited a vein of coal. Every effort to subdue the flames has proved unsuccessful.

Where is Your Money?

The following wholesome advice was handed out editorially by the Concord Tribune recently, which we pass along for the benefit of our readers.

"Recently a woman in Sanford had twelve hundred dollars stolen from her. She had been carrying the money in her stocking, where, as The Monroe Journal points out, 'it was safe until a thug knocked her down and took the money from her.' Just last Saturday a negro's residence in the eastern part of the State was burned, and with the home went his \$600 earnings. If the negro had carried his money to the bank, he would have had enough to build another home.

"The bank is the place for money and valuables. Too many people carry money hidden on their person, or storing it away in some dark corner in their homes. The banks were organized to care for money, and in them your earnings are safe.

"Not only are you liable to lose your money if you carry it around, or hide it in your house, but you are liable to get stopped by some robber, who would not hesitate to use desperate means to get a good sized roll."

Poppies transported from Flanders Fields to dump heaps of Jersey are adjudged a nuisance and a pest to agriculture by the Federal Horticultural Board. They are to be plowed under at once. The seed of the poppies came over in earth ballast, shipped from France by troop transports. The pathologist of the Federal Horticultural Board believes the reason the poppy blooms in Belgium and France is because the farmers cannot get rid of it.

MANKIND ALWAYS HAS LOVED GOLD

Its Glitter one of Compelling Forces of History

New York, Jan. 24.—Gold has been one of the most compelling forces in the molding of human history, says the January Mentor Magazine. In all ages and all languages the word itself has been luring and commanding. In the second chapter of Genesis, the land of Havilah "where there is gold," is mentioned. The ark of the Covenant was extensively ornamented with gold. Solomon's throne was of gold, and when the Queen of Sheba visited him, it was flanked by soldiers bearing "two hundred targets of beaten gold." The Three Wise Men of the East, who followed the Star of Bethlehem, bore golden gifts. In Revelation the Apostle John pictures the Heavenly City as one of golden streets.

Gold has usually been the lure of the venturesome. Jason and his Argonauts set sail from Sicily to the further shore of the Black Sea to "ring back the golden fleece. In later times, Phillip the Good, duke of Burgundy, handed his knights into the famous Order of the Golden Fleece.

Propertius, whose life covered roughly the fifty years preceding the birth of Christ, wrote: "This is indeed the Golden Age. The greatest rewards come from gold: by gold, love is won; by gold, faith is destroyed; by gold, justice is bought. The law follows the track of gold, while modesty will soon follow it, when love is gone."

Marcus Crassus, the Roman general, was so eager for the gold of the Parthians that he led his son and eleven legions into disastrous defeat. As he lay dead the Parthians poured molten gold into his gaping mouth.

No symbol has so prevailed history as the gold ring. The wedding rings of Venice used to toss wedding rings into the sea, thus consecrating the union of Venice and the Adriatic Sea. Wedding rings of the seventeenth century bore the motto, "the wife will be subject to the man." Hannibal ended his life with a poison ring.

When one pope wished to reward a queen for her pious work he presented her with a cluster of roses and buds worked in pure gold.

The Caliph of Bagdad was inaugurated by throwing over his head a golden veil, strongly scented with musk.

The King of Aethiopia on the African West Coast is to this day not "enthroned," but "enstooled" upon a golden stool.

The lure of gold more than the desire for knowledge led to the discovery and conquest of America. Pizarro reduced the native population of Peru from fifteen millions to eight millions in his quest for gold. Montezuma, King of the Aztecs in Mexico, sealed his doom when he let Cortez, the Spanish conqueror, know of a great amount of gold he had.

"In all times the dreams of transmuting baser metals to gold has been a dream of man. Alchemy, a black art that swayed king and commoner alike, only ceased to exist in the eighteenth century when James Price, a distinguished amateur chemist, believed that he had discovered the secret. He presented some of the manufactured gold to George the Third, but when called upon to demonstrate his process to a committee of the scientists, drank laurel water and died almost immediately.

Would Teach Bible in Henderson Schools

Henderson, Jan. 25.—Recently the ministers of Vance county and the Woman's Club have aroused the community on the subject of having some time given to teaching the Bible in the public schools. Three meetings have been held this month by the ministers to discuss the several phases of the matter. And a mass meeting of the people is to be called for Sunday night, January 29, when some of the ideas will be given and the parents encouraged to demand a small part of the school time—at least one hour a week—for teaching the Bible. They approve also the plan to have high school pupils desiring study in their own Sunday schools under proper requirements, and earn the unit of standing towards their admission into State colleges.

One minister is already teaching the Bible once a week in two of the rural schools—one a high school—he having been invited by the principal with the approval of the trustees.

TWO BLIND STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY

They Refuse to Regard it as Handicap, But Plan Useful Careers

Under the title "Boys Who Are Thoroughbred," an article in the current issue of the American Magazine, written by G. B. Robbins, is dedicated to Sam Cathey, of Skyland, and Buford Warham, both of whom are blind, and both students at the University of North Carolina.

The boys refuse to regard blindness as a handicap. Both are law students and stand with the highest in their classes at the university, looking forward to active and useful careers.

In part the article says: "When they were first seen being led over the university campus in the fall of 1919, they were thought of with a great deal of sympathy. But they have shown that their handicap was as nothing. They entered the scholarship race, and are now recognized in their class. Buford is a candidate for the coveted key for high scholarship and Sam is vice-president of one of the leading literary societies of the university, and is class representative on the campus cabinet, an important student organization.

"Sam Cathey was born and spent his early life with two good eyes in Skyland, North Carolina, a few miles from Asheville. His father was a contractor, and one day Sam, with some others, was blasting on a railway grading near his home town. The fuse was lit, but for reason the blast failed to explode at the expected time. As Sam was examining the fuse, the dynamite exploded and blew him down an embankment several feet away. He was 19 years old, and from that day has been unable to see. After he recovered from the shock, he was sent to school for the blind at Raleigh, North Carolina, where he stayed for four years. Then he entered the freshman class at the University of North Carolina in 1919.

"Sam and Buford prepare their lessons by getting somebody to read to them. They have good memories, and after having a lesson read once they can remember it much better than does the average reader. Their written work is prepared on an ordinary typewriter.

"In this way, through lectures in class, through private conferences, and by their attitude toward life, Sam and Buford are making splendid records for themselves, and are gaining many friends in the university."

Three Bitten by Rabid Dog

Danbury Reporter. Mr. Hartman Parks, of Quaker Gap township, who was seen at Walnut Cove Thursday by a Danbury citizen, stated that he was en route to Raleigh where he would undergo treatment for hydrophobia, having been bitten by a rabid dog. The little girl of Mr. Charlie Pyrtle and a colored man, both of Quaker Gap, were also bitten by the same dog, and both are at Raleigh taking the Pasteur treatment.

In relating the incident, Mr. Parks stated that Bud Tilley and himself became engaged in a fight some three weeks since, and while they were engaged in exchanging blows the dog came up and bit him several times. "The colored man, who resides in the same community, was also bitten on the same day, but it was not until one day last week, when the dog bit the little Pyrtle girl, that it was found to be mad. Immediately after his little daughter was bitten Mr. Pyrtle sent the dog's head to Raleigh and when a telegram came back saying it was mad all parties left for Raleigh.

Republicans Still Owe Over \$700,000

Chicago, Jan. 24.—The Republican national committee still owes \$708,161.32 for the campaign of 1920 which resulted in the election of President Warren G. Harding, according to figures made public today by Fred W. Upham, national treasurer.

The outstanding indebtedness includes \$521,250 borrowed from the New York Trust, Empire Trust and Chase National bank of New York; \$125,000 borrowed from the First National and Old Colony Trust company of Boston, and \$14,311.32 borrowed from the Crocker National bank of San Francisco.

At the close of the campaign in November, 1920, the committee was \$1,683,000 in debt, including \$1,405,000 in loans; \$192,000 in unpaid bills and \$68,000 owed to various state committees.

THEATRE DISASTER CAUSES 108 DEATHS

Washington Theatre Roof Collapses Under Weight of Snow

Washington, Jan. 29.—One hundred and eight lives were lost in the Knickerbocker Theatre last night when the roof weighted down by more than two feet of snow, collapsed and buried patrons of the house under a crushing blanket of concrete, plaster and steel, according to unofficial, but carefully checked records.

Ninety-two of the victims had been identified when the force of volunteer workers, twenty-four hours after the disaster, approached the end of their long search of the debris. Nine additional bodies of those who had succumbed to injuries after rescue, lay in city hospitals.

Senator Capper, of Kansas, member of the Senate District of Columbia committee, announced tonight that as soon as the Senate reconvened he would introduce a resolution calling for an investigation of the Knickerbocker Theatre disaster and also of all large building construction in Washington since the beginning of the war.

Senator Capper said reports had come to him that to a more or less degree the building code of the District of Columbia has been violated during the rush of construction following the increase of the city population during the war.

The large majority of the victims, both killed and injured, were residents of the city, although many came recently from other places. Exploration of the ruins went on unchecked after dark, but those in charge believed few additional bodies would be found. Without regard to their own risk, soldiers, Marines, Sailors, police, firemen and citizen volunteers had fought their way beneath the wreckage over practically the whole floor space of the auditorium.

The exact number in the theatre when the steel and concrete span of the roof buckled and fell under its three foot load of snow, probably will never be known. The stories of about a hundred who got out uninjured have been reported. These accounts for a few more than 300 in the audience that was roaring in laughter at a film comedy when the roof fell on them like a blanket, carrying down the front of the wide balcony in its crash.

Normally, the theatre has had every seat filled at that hour and nearly 2,000 persons was its capacity. The same unprecedented snow fall which brought death to the venturesome few, kept the many at home. Street car traffic had been abandoned and street and sidewalks were all but impassable with drifts.

There has been no time as yet for official inquiry as to the cause of the disaster. The ruins themselves disclose, however, that the entire mass of steel-held concrete that formed the roof had come down. The crash swept the supports out from under the balcony, apparently, and this hinged down at an angle of 45 degrees, adding to the tangled mass of wreckage on the floor below.

The whole theatre stood roofless to the sky a moment after the first hissing sound of the breaking roof gave warning above the music of the orchestra. There is only one survivor thus far who has told of having heard that warning and seen the first powdery handful of snow sift down over the head of the orchestra leader in time to make his escape.

From his seat well forward on the main floor, he raced for the door at the back. A great blast of air expelled as the roof came down hurled him out through the doorway to safety.

Most of the bodies were recovered from the floor of the pit beneath the wreckage of the balcony or from the front of the balcony itself. Following the rule of motion picture audiences and with an almost empty house to pick from, those on the main floor had grouped themselves in the rows of seats just below the front of the balcony. They were back far enough to see well and the front and back rows were almost empty.

At the point they had chosen, the danger proved to be just double. Few of those seated there could have escaped. Even if the falling concrete slabs and steel work of the roof missed them, the solid mass of the balcony front came down on the first wreckage with crushing weight. The gleaming brass rail that adorned the balcony front lay spread over the wreckage of the roof fifteen feet be-

LAW ENFORCEMENT DOUBLES ENROLLMENT

One Hundred Forty-Four Additional School Children on Rolls in One School

Raleigh News & Observer. One hundred and forty-four additional school children enrolled in one school by the enforcement of the compulsory attendance law after a three day investigation by the superintendent of public welfare in Cumberland county is the record for successful enforcement, so far as the Bureau of Child Welfare, State Board of Authorities and Public Welfare know.

WOOD ALCOHOL IN ASHE LIQUOR

But Food Chemist Allen Wants it Known He is No Analyst of Contraband

Raleigh News & Observer. Even in Ashe county, where the air and the water and the moonshine have been purer than anywhere else in the world, the manufacturers of ardent waters have been corrupted, and into their products they have compounded the blinding, killing element of wood alcohol.

Faith in this last stronghold of the demon was broken down not many days ago when a citizen came somewhat furtively, and by circuitous paths, to State Chemist Allen with an infinitesimal sample of what purported to be Ashe county corn. Friends had purchased some of it from what was described as one of "the better class of moonshiners" up there. The friends had been almost killed by it. Indeed, they had been partially blinded.

To be certain in their own minds as to what had precipitated this disaster, Mr. Allen was asked to see what was in it. He applied his magic to the liquid, and a potent percentage of wood alcohol was found in it, enough to kill a man had he drunk immoderately. Mr. Allen had no wonderment at the fact that the friends of his visitors had been made sick. He wondered that any were left to tell the story.

Not infrequently does the quiet, retiring analyzer of foods have these visitors who come with a small phial of liquid that a "friend" had acquired, usually through deed of gift, and will Mr. Allen see if it is all right. Sometimes Mr. Allen sees for them, and usually it isn't all right at all. Most of it has wood alcohol in it, in more or less quantity. But fusel oil, that the judges have been inveighing against, there is nothing to it, he says. Fusel oil is nothing but the higher alcohol.

Mr. Allen cannot countenance these analyses. Liquor is not a thing whose existence he recognized by State law, and he feels that he has no business examining stuff that does not exist legally. He is persuaded that most of the liquor on the market is compounded of poisons, but he encourages nobody to submit samples of it to him. He deals with legal foods and medicines and beverages.

Connecting up the Public Schools and Sunday Schools

In a conference with the pastors and Sunday school superintendents of Mount Airy, it was unanimously decided to adopt a Sunday school and Church Record Card which was submitted to them in the regular pastoral meeting Monday morning, January 23.

The purpose of this card is to keep before the school children the importance of Sunday school and church attendance, and to induce them to attend some Sunday school and church service every Sunday.

The plan is simple. The cards are placed in the hands of the public school teachers, and they in turn fill out one for every pupil in school. Then once a week, on Monday morning, they call the roll from the cards and record as to whether or not the pupils in their respective grades attended either Sunday school or church, or both, the previous Sunday. This is all there is to it. The teachers, at this time, do not make any comment about Sunday school or church attendance. The mere calling the pupils' attention to it once a week, immediately after Sunday, ought to be a sufficient reminder, and we believe will bring results.

The number of times each pupil attends both Sunday school and church during the month will be placed on his monthly report card. This will enable the parents to see his Sunday school and church record as well as his public school record. However, it will not affect his public school report one way or another. L. M. Epps, superintendent.

MEMBERS OF LYNCHING PARTY ARE SENTENCED

Five Men Get Life Sentences As Result of Lynching of a Negro

Oklahoma City, Okla., Jan. 24.—(By the Associated Press)—Justice was speedily administered in district court here today when five self-confessed members of the party that lynched Jake Brooks, negro packing house worker, here on the night of January 14, pleaded guilty before Judge James I. Phelps and were sentenced to life imprisonment.

R. F. Wood, assistant attorney general, said today he knew of no case in which the participants of a lynching were tried so speedily and given such heavy sentences.

Judge Phelps told the defendants their conduct warranted the electric chair. He declared it was a question of upholding the law, not of "whether the strikers shall win or lose."

Each defendant told the Judge he did not know whether union officials had any knowledge of the intention of acts of the men in the lynching.

"Getting Jennie Out of the Cornfield"

Asheville Times. "How can I get my 16-year-old daughter Jennie out of the cornfield?"—this was the question that was asked and answered Friday at the Southern group meeting of the American Farm Federation.

Jennie has long been one of the mainstays of small scale farming. Her labor has often spelled for her parents the difference between profit and loss. She has been forced to go into the cornfield and perform hard manual labor because there was no other alternative in the industry.

But the day when Jennie's presence in the cornfield could be defended by the public conscience is rapidly passing. The country is realizing that an industry which sentenced Jennie to such hard labor rests upon insecure foundations and must be overhauled for the good of Jennie and for the promotion of its own security.

Jennie is coming out of the cornfield. She has shocked the nation into a realization of the fact that cheap prices and inadequate marketing arrangements are not fair compensation for her presence in the cornfield. The country now understands that it has paid too dear for its whiffle.