

The Mount Airy News

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Pupils Overflowing Mount Airy Schools Present Situation Creates a Problem Demanding Early Solution

Large Numbers of Children Asking for Admission into the City Schools—Situation Now a Bar to the Further Schooling of Many Children

Packed like sardines in a box Mount Airy's 1383 school children are getting the best education possible in the three buildings provided by the town. These three buildings have a normal capacity of only 961 pupils, and Superintendent of Schools Hurst is wedging 1383 pupils into space provided for only 961 is a feat that only an expert "packer" is able to accomplish. This congested condition of the Mount Airy schools challenges at once the interest and co-operation of all Mount Airy citizens.

Last year the crowded condition of the primary grades was such that a large number of the children of certain grades are kept in school only part time and were allowed to roam the streets the rest of the time. This year, however, Superintendent Hurst has squeezed the high school pupils down stairs into the auditorium of the high school building for a study room and given over the upper floor to the sixth and seventh grades. In sardine fashion he is keeping the pupils off the streets but a casual look will convince the most skeptical that the pupils of Mount Airy schools are so crowded that they can not possibly get the most out of their school work. "Let me show you the situation in the high school building," said Professor Hurst to a News representative. And we visited room after room which were supposed to house teacher and 35 pupils but so great are the demands for housing space that extra desks had been placed in the aisles, teachers' desks removed to one corner of the room and every available inch of space packed with desks. Several of these rooms had from ten to a dozen more pupils in a room than could be advantageously accommodated. In this hallway a high school teacher was instructing a class, down in the basement is housed the commercial department, and in another room of the basement is the chemical laboratory and in the chemical laboratory is another classroom. These basement rooms will not be comfortable when winter time sets in and they will have to be abandoned. The writer happened to notice a davenport in one of the hallways and was told by the Superintendent that this was the only place he had to put a pupil who happened to faint or get sick during school hours.

The auditorium of the high school building seats normally 226 persons. The school has enrolled 240 pupils. Last year there were enrolled 226 pupils in the high school and all the class rooms were filled to capacity. Can you imagine how the condition is today with 157 grade pupils in the same building? To accommodate the influx of pupils the library has been torn from its room and strewn around the auditorium walls; the Superintendent's office and the teachers' rest room thrown together for a class room, and even the little six by six foot dressing rooms at each side of the stage have now become recitation rooms. Mount Airy has never had a domestic science class room there is no room for it. The Superintendent and the Principal lack decent offices, where they can keep records so they may be readily accessible. The school has no gymnasium, than which nothing is more needed in Mount Airy. The Southern Association of Colleges and High Schools demand that an accredited school shall have a library and a reading room and in both respects the school is deficient, says Professor Hurst.

Superintendent Hurst explained that the school board has available from a previous bond issue some \$40,000 with which they intend to erect an addition to the high school, work upon it to begin early in the new year. This building will have eight classrooms. "But if I had those rooms available tomorrow, I could fill them the day following with the overflow of pupils we now have," declared the professor. The crowded situation in the town's two primary buildings is similar to

that found in the high school building. Here are enrolled 966 pupils while the buildings are adequate to accommodate only 735. In the North Main building three teachers have to use two recitation rooms, the 3rd one taking her pupils to the basement or herding them about the corridors till she can obtain a room for their recitations. The excellence of Mount Airy's schools is known and appreciated throughout the state, but it must be confessed that the larger portion of that excellence is due to our superb teaching force, who, under the greatest of handicaps, are still able to impart knowledge to our youth. Mount Airy's 39 teachers are a credit to the teaching profession and given adequate school buildings and equipment this city educationally would be the peer of any in the South.

But right here intrudes another phase of the school situation which can not be overlooked. The surrounding country has come to appreciate the advantages that Mount Airy has to offer in education. The town has grown beyond the corporate limits, so much that probably 400 children of school age reside within a radius of three miles from the town. The parents of many of these children work in Mount Airy and desire to send their children to town for the school term, that their children may have the advantages of the longer term and the superior instruction found here. Many of them are frank to say that their children who have attended school here for a term learned more than they did in the little one-room schoolhouse out in the country during two, three, or more terms. They say that steam heated rooms, comfortable desks and college trained teachers somehow bring better results than can be had in the country, with poor accommodations and often poorly prepared teachers. But it costs more to conduct such a school as Mount Airy has, and for this reason parents of pupils residing outside of Mount Airy are required to pay tuition not alone for the extra three months term in the town's school but also the difference between the cost of schooling a pupil here and in the county schools.

By a careful comparison of cost it has been found that to school a pupil in the elementary grades in Mount Airy for six months costs \$30.45, while in the rest of the county it costs \$7.43 less. In the high school grades it costs per pupil for six months \$52.81, while anywhere else in the county the cost is \$18.69 less. Nevertheless scores of parents over the county, and more particularly on the outskirts of town, are beseeching the school authorities here to take their children into our schools at any price. Of course in some instances, and particularly in the high school the county pays the larger portion of the tuition of these outside pupils for a six months term. But in no event is the town of Mount Airy out a cent for tuition or for accommodations for such outside pupils as may be attending the schools here, save only for the school building which houses them. And right here we rub elbows again with the great school problem confronting the town.

With Mount Airy's schools already crowded to the bursting point, with 50 outside pupils in the high school and 150 in the grades and Superintendent Hurst refusing admission to country children daily what will Mount Airy business men and taxpayers do about it. Sometimes a problem intelligently and fairly stated is half solved. This is a matter for the earnest consideration of the various clubs of the town; for a consideration free from heat, narrowness or prejudice. The News representative put this problem up to some of our townsmen. Here is what they say:

Professor Hurst, Superintendent of Mount Airy schools, said: "The only thing to do is to buy ground and erect a modern high school building to accommodate 800 pupils, at a cost of \$250,000. Then use the present high school building as a Junior high school for the fifth, sixth, and seventh grades. Such a building would not be outgrown for eight or ten years. Mount Airy would not in the long run

lose a penny by so doing. Country people who bring their children here Monday morning for school and come for them Friday night will leave their money with our business men, and my observation has been that people who send their children to town to school sooner or later move to town."

Miss Bettie Anderson, principal of the high school, said: "Mount Airy can not afford either to cramp her own children by inadequate accommodations, nor dare she turn a deaf ear to the pleadings of the children just outside her gates. The town can not afford to have a ring of ignorant youth grow up all around us. Every cent spent for the education of these children will come back to the taxpayers in a larger town, better and bigger business and in enhanced property values."

J. B. Sparger, chairman of the School Board, said: "We are going to build that addition to the high school this spring. We can only hope for that to tide us over for one year. By that time we must be ready to build for the years immediately ahead of us. It is nothing but good business for us to provide the best of accommodations for the youth of the town and immediate vicinity."

Mrs. E. H. Leonard, member of the School Board, said: "I consider it a crime to refuse any child an education. Money spent by Mount Airy citizens in providing better accommodations for the children will be money well invested. We must bestir ourselves immediately to build for a bigger and better town."

James Lovill, member of the School Board, said: "I have the utmost confidence in the ability of Professor Hurst and consider him a peer among the educators of the country. He says we must have more school buildings and a casual glance at any of the schoolrooms will convince anyone that he is right. The proposed annex to the high school can at best tide us over for only a year or such matter. If Mount Airy is to grow (and it will grow), we must provide more room for the school children."

Here follows what some of Mount Airy's neighboring towns are doing to meet their school housing problems. Reidsville, with a smaller number of teachers than Mount Airy, is now putting over a bond issue of \$250,000. Hickory is making a \$250,000 addition to their high school. Morganton is in the midst of a \$200,000 program. Kinston is erecting \$1,000,000 worth of school buildings. Newton has just completed a \$125,000 high school.

It costs money to educate children, but it costs infinitely more to allow them to grow up in ignorance. Will Mount Airy rise to meet the obligation and the opportunity, or will it trail along behind the advancing age? Citizens of Mount Airy are invited to visit their school buildings and see for themselves whether conditions there justify the statements made in this article.

Olin Jones Dies at His Home in Winston

Winston-Salem, Oct. 31.—Olin W. Jones aged 59 years, one of the best known citizens of Winston-Salem, died suddenly in the yard at his home 114 North Green street, this morning at about 10 o'clock. He was engaged in moving some wood when the sudden summons came. Death is said to have been caused by an attack of apoplexy.

Mr. Jones was known throughout North Carolina and parts of other states as a successful real estate auctioneer.

Czar's Murderer Haunted by Bad Dreams

Berlin, Oct. 31.—The leader of the band which murdered the late czar of Russia and his family is at present in Berlin, according to the Lokal Anzeiger. The man is under medical treatment in a nursing home suffering from hallucinations which have haunted him since the day of the murder.

The soviet embassy in Berlin, which is said to be looking after the man, has provided him with money and put a motorcar at his disposal.

Professor—If a person in good health, but who imagined himself sick should send for you, what would you do?

Medical Student—Give him something to make him sick and then administer an antidote.

Professor—Don't waste any more time here. Hang out your shingle.—Boston Transcript.

WILSON'S TALK TO BE HEARD ALL OVER LAND

Elaborate Arrangements For Broadcasting His Armistice Night Address

Washington, Nov. 2.—Woodrow Wilson will address the American people on the night of November 10 on "The Significance of Armistice Day."

He will speak from his "S" street home here and his message will be carried to every section of the country by radio. It will be the first time his voice has been heard outside of Washington since he was stricken in the west in September, 1919, while carrying to the country his fight for the league of nations.

The former President had promised to speak for 10 minutes and his friends believe he will devote much of his address to the subject closest to his heart—American participation in the establishment of the peace of the world. They would not be surprised if he should touch upon the present international situation.

Mr. Wilson's message probably will be heard by millions, not only by owners of home radio sets, but also by crowds at public gatherings for which his friends in many cities are expected to arrange.

Under present plans the former President will begin to speak at 8 o'clock, talking into a microphone. His message will be carried over a telephone wire to an input speech apparatus mounted on a truck stationed in the yard of the "S" street home. Amplified by this apparatus it will be carried on telephone wires to the WCAP broadcasting station here and on another set of wires to the WEAF station in New York, where it will be amplified again before being broadcast on a different wave length from that used by WCAP.

This message by Mr. Wilson will be quite apart from any he may deliver to the crowds that will make a third visit to his home on Armistice day. Arrangements for this demonstration are now being made by a committee headed by Huston Thompson, of the federal trade commission.

More Trouble About That Dollar

Mr. Auto Owner who sent in his dollar fifty to pay for having his auto registered so thieves could not steal it, is likely to have a glorious time getting his dollar refunded. The papers last week announced that a ruling of the Attorney General was to the effect that a dollar of the fee collected would be returned, as the Secretary of State had no right under the statute to collect but 50 cents. Since that announcement the daily papers report that the whole matter is to be reviewed in the state Supreme Court, and this will mean that the dollar refund will be sometime showing up. Following is an explanation of the muddled affair.

Raleigh, Oct. 30.—Test case of the automobile title registration law by which Secretary W. N. Everett may be safe from prosecution for failure to use the great seal of the state, was being planned this afternoon by Senator Charles U. Harris so that an agreed case may go up immediately to the Supreme court.

Attorney General Manning's letter given out last night from his office reversed an earlier ruling as to the \$1.50 registration fee. In that letter the state's counsel holds that the seal of the state is not required by the statute, but a special seal for this work. He therefore advises that the registration fees be reduced to 50 cents and that the dollar excess paid by 70,000-odd automobile owners, be returned.

However, the secretary of state will not send this money back until the Supreme court has interpreted the law. Senator Harris, who always thought the registration fee was meant to be 50 cents, is getting Manly Pennington, owner of a car, to make the test case. There will be no dispute whatever as to the facts. Mr. Harris will then carry the matter before the court, argue the law and the facts and ask for a judgment. Should the court then hold that the \$1 extra is illegal all moneys collected above the 50 cents, will be returned.

"I suppose to educate your daughter in music cost a great deal of money?"

"Yes, but she's brought it all back to me."

"Indeed!"

"Yes; I've been trying to buy out my next door neighbor for years, and could never bring him to terms until she came home."—Buffalo Express.

MUCH TOBACCO NOW ON HAND

Census Bureau of U. S. Puts the Figures at 1,562,225,132 Pounds

Washington, Oct. 30.—Leaf tobacco held by manufacturers and dealers on October 1 aggregated 1,562,225,132 pounds, compared with 1,457,439,314 a year ago and 1,697,844,645, on July 1 this year, the census bureau announced today.

Chewing, smoking, snuff and export types totaled 1,066,965,464 pounds, compared with 993,398,177 a year ago, and 1,195,495,964 on July 1 this year.

Cigar types totaled 393,488,788 pounds, compared with 382,565,932 a year ago and 425,000,721 on July 1 this year.

Import types totaled 81,750,880 pounds, compared with 81,455,175 a year ago and 78,388,290 on July 1 this year.

The Glib Tongued Canvasser Is With Us Again

Raleigh, Oct. 29.—Farm folks of North Carolina have reason to be thankful for the good crops of cotton tobacco and other produce and to be pleased with the prices which have been received for these commodities to date; but, as always, the traveling agent, the glib tongued canvasser, the parasite who follows where money is in circulation, is with us again this fall. Reports received at Director B. W. Kilgore's office at the State college indicate that these gentry are more numerous than ever in rural districts this fall. They are on hand to sell every kind of thing both necessary and unnecessary to the farmer.

Because of this, Dr. Kilgore has written a letter to all the field workers of the State College and Department asking them to use their influence in the right way to guide their cooperative farmers in the purchase of necessary supplies and equipment and in the use of surplus money for the purchase of those things which will add to the comforts of the farm home, to pay back debts and to improve conditions for better farming next year.

Indications are that there is a regular campaign on to get as much of the farmers' money as possible thru the use of agent canvassers. Generally, it is found by workers of the Extension service that such things as the farmer will need for his farm and home equipment or for his convenience and home beautification can be purchased best through the regular channels rather than from some traveling agent or canvasser. The business men of the home town are those who pay the taxes, support the public institutions, advertise in the newspapers, and keep things going in the home community. The integrity of these men is known. An unsatisfactory article may be returned to them and settlement made; but, with the canvassers—once he gets the money—the farmer may or may not get the article purchased, or he may or may not be satisfied with it should he get it.

"Let the traveling agent alone. Purchase from your home merchants and invest your surplus money wisely," is a warning Dr. Kilgore issues at this time.

President Joins Church

Heretofore President Coolidge has not been a church member but he has been recently received in membership by the First Congregational church of Washington where he has attended since he first entered on his duties of vice-president. The National Council of Congregational churches, meeting at Springfield, Mass., elected the president honorary moderator. Dr. J. N. Pierce, pastor of the Washington church, asked Mr. Coolidge's permission to enroll him as a member of the church without the customary formality of baptism. The president accepted the invitation and his name was entered on the rolls of the congregation. The membership will date from August 5, the time when Mr. Coolidge first attended the church after President Harding's death.

Asks \$10,000 For Murder of Pastor By Garretts

Richmond, Va., Oct. 31.—The administrator of the estate of the late Rev. E. S. Pierce, of Cumberland, who was shot and killed in his own yard in June last by R. O. Garrett, and Larkin G. Garrett, has retained Richard H. Mann, of Petersburg, and Richard E. Byrd of this city, to bring suit against the accused men in the sum of \$10,000 for the killing.

STATE SPENDING \$2,000,000 MONTH FOR ROADS

Gets Back Each Month \$300,000 in Gas Tax. State Has Car For Every 12.4 Persons.

Raleigh, Oct. 31.—Over \$2,000,000 per month has been spent by the state highway commission during the months of June, July, August and September, according to figures made public here tonight in a review of the general road situation. Of this amount more than \$300,000 per month has been paid back into the state treasury through the collection of the gasoline tax of three cents per gallon.

The construction has been divided over the entire state and no effort has been spared to make the roads which have been completed the most modern of their kind and they are built to stand the traffic of many years to come, provided proper maintenance is continued.

For every mile in the state road system there are 27.6 automobiles and to each of these cars there are 12.4 persons. That is there are one-eighth as many automobiles in North Carolina as there are people.

Through the license tax in the state varies for each type and model of car, according to the figures of the commission, the average fee for the first 229,400 automobiles registered this year is \$14.84.

Over every square mile of territory in the state, if the state were to be apportioned off to its auto owners, there would be four automobiles to operate.

An answer to the employment question in North Carolina has been given by the commission during the past two years when the labor surplus was to a large extent being utilized in road building. At the present time there are 13,000 men engaged in construction throughout North Carolina.

Though the license tax in the state in the state has been high since the present commission got well underway, it is now operating at a maximum speed in completing roads. During the months June, July and August, 80 miles of hard surfaced roads were completed each month. In addition to this work there has been an average of two miles of top-soil and sand clay roads completed each day so that the approximate monthly average of completed roads ready for the public to use has been 140 miles a month.

Roads completed are being kept up by the state which has a completely organized maintenance system. The highways are inspected by patrolmen at regular intervals and places which need repairing are cared for at once. The maintenance system, which has been organized from the time the new system of building roads became effective, is counted as one of the most important divisions of the commission and is performing a most valuable work.

Another Submarine Goes to Bottom

Washington, Oct. 28.—The United States submarine O-5 was sunk in Limond Bay, Canal zone after a collision early today with the United Fruit company's vessel Abangares the navy department was notified by radio. Five members of the submarine's crew were reported missing.

The Abangares was undamaged. In the belief that the five men missing went down with the submarine, divers immediately began efforts to recover their bodies.

At the time of the accident, officials familiar with operations in canal waters said the tropical sun would have been well up and it was improbable that a collision would have occurred in the perfectly charted bay under ordinary conditions. If the O-5 was running submerged or "swash," regulations require that extreme caution be taken in selection of the place of such maneuvers in order that other craft may be avoided.

Predicts Ford's Nomination

The chairman of the Prohibition national committee, Virgil Honahaw, predicts that Henry Ford will be nominated for president by the Prohibition party. He expects the nomination to be made at the conference of the party which will meet at Los Angeles in December.

"The shortest and most pointed sermon that I ever heard of," a subscriber says, "was delivered at the funeral of a colored man who was not all that he should have been. It was this: 'We all hope that Branded Eph is in what we think he ain't.'"