

The Rocky Mount Record.

VOL. XI., NO. 26

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1908.

Dr P S Hicks

July 5 '04

PRICE 5 CENTS

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY THE ROCKY MOUNT PUBLISHING COMPANY.

"REMINISCES."

Biographical and Historical Sketch by Dr. P. S. Hicks, Treating of Local Persons and Scenes.

After a little I came to the front and explained to the store-keeper my object for dropping in etc., and as the "partner" of mine had disappeared I then passed on through town towards Mayo's Bridge rejoicing. But my joy did not last long. Just as I was in front of an undertakers shop (I think the name of Moore was the proprietor of it) I dropped my tin box or trunk that contained my paints, varnishes, spt. turpentine, etc. The black varnish bottle and spt. turpentine bottle both broke, my paint tubes, varnish and turpentine was all in a loblolly. In two minutes there was crowd enough around me to start a good size auction. I was expecting that I would get the police or the police would get me pretty soon. About that time Mr. Moore came to my relief and kindly asked me in and gave me some rags so I could clean off my things pretty well. I wrapped up my paint tubes in a bundle. Mr. Moore gave me a bottle and I poured my mixture out of the box into it, and then bundling up and thanking him for his kind assistance I started again. I soon came to Mayo's Bridge, where it cost me a cent to walk across. Then I was in the city of Richmond with nine cents in my pocket. But no one knew it but myself. My friend it is best never to tell how much money you have or haven't if you can get along without telling. I went up to the Water Works and found a private boarding house and engaged board and lodging for a week at a dollar a day if I stayed that long. The people were very kind, they never asked me to pay in advance, (lucky for me they didn't.) I got my supper, stayed all night and got my breakfast. By that time the mixed black varnish and turpentine in the bottle settled so I could pour off the turpentine and leave the varnish, so I had it separated again and was ready for business. I then went back over to Manchester that day, and engaged to teach three persons for five dollars each, all at the same time and at the same place. That night I went back to my boarding house, stayed all night and the next day went back to Manchester finished up my job got my fifteen dollars and next morning settled up my boarding bill and left for home.

When I got home I found more trouble awaiting me, but of a different nature, a sad affair. There was a letter awaiting me in the office from Rocky Mount stating the death of Mrs. Lucindia Braswell, my wife's sister, leaving five children, the youngest a baby about three weeks old. My wife insisted that we go at once to Rocky Mount to the relief of her sisters children. Of course I submitted and we were off on the next train. We got there the day after she was buried, and found a dependent and helpless lot of children, of course their father was there but their surroundings were of such a nature that he was of very little benefit to them. So we took all the children with us to Petersburg including their father James Braswell. In a month or so he got tired of Petersburg and went back to Rocky Mount. Well in a month or so more the baby died and was buried in the old Blanford church yard. We had lost a little baby boy awhile before that, they were both buried at the same place. I reckon Blanford is one of the oldest counties in the United States.

I have often thought of the parable about casting bread upon the waters and it applied to my case in taking all of those little helpless and motherless children. And the bread did return after many days. The oldest boy brought it to me in the time of need. I will explain further on. His name was Thomas W. Braswell. He was about eight or nine years old at that time, we called him Tom, and by the way he was a very smart, intelligent boy.

In a few weeks after all this I moved to Manchester, Va., and in a few months my wife went to Rocky Mount on a visit and took all the children back to their father. He distributed them among his people but they remained only a short time with them. I stayed in Manchester about six months and continued to teach my painting. My office was in Richmond on Wall street. While there I would occasionally take a trip in the country. On one occasion I took a trip to the English coal pits, I think some ten or twelve miles west of Richmond. I got there about night, and after looking around a little on the outside I became acquainted with the captain of the pit. He seemed to be a very nice old Englishman, he asked me if I wanted to take a trip down in the

pit. I decided that I would, about that time they were changing hands, the day hands coming out and the night hands going down in the pit.

They told me it was nine hundred feet deep. They used a sixty horse power engine to draw up the coal in a large box on the order of a bucket. I saw several men get in the box at one time with lanterns on their heads, in the place of plumes. That is the way they carry their torch to see how to work in the pit. The signal was given to go down and they went. The captain gave me a rubber overcoat to put on to keep off the coal dust and when the car or bucket got back he took me down and put me in the care of a guide in the pit. He took me about over the pit, we went about one-fourth of a mile up the line. There was a double track of railroad down there, there was a center pulley a large rope worked on it and a coal car at each end of the rope when the loaded one would go up the empty one would go down. Every few feet there was tunnels cut out either side and men at work away back several hundred yards in those tunnels. My guide stopped at one of the tunnels and opened a door and yelled out "is all right up there?" The answer was, "all right." I asked the guide what that meant. He said that sometimes there was loose or dead gas standing about in the cells and if our lamps came in contact with it we would have a bust-up and probably be killed. He said there was gas drivers to keep the gas back out of danger. We went on to where the man was pecking coal. I will never forget his look, as black as pit coal could make him, his eyes and lips red and his teeth white, a big light on his head and he digging away nine hundred feet in the ground and one-half mile from the elevator, by himself. He stopped a few minutes and talked with me. I asked him how much pay he got, he said from about \$1.50 to 2.50 for ten hours, so much by the ton, some days more and some days less. I told him good-by, then left him. I asked my guide what was the danger down there. He said sometimes they were killed by the gas, sometimes by falling coal and various ways. He said there were seventy-five drowned in that very pit sometime before then, that in digging they accidentally struck a tunnel of another old pit that was full of water and that very few men that were in the pit escaped, and that it was several months before the water could be pumped out and the dead bodies found. I reckon I was down there one hour.

We got back to the elevator and came out, and I never want to go back any more. I then talked a little while with a man at work on the out side. He told me I had more grit than he did, that he had been there three years and had never been down there yet.

(To be continued.)

Rocky Mount Tobacco Market.

Sales were again small the past week, amounting to about 200,000 pounds. The quality was a little better than previous weeks, though not as good as the tobacco sold during the fall months, and much inferior to the crop sold last year after the holidays, there being fewer good tobaccos and more of the greenish, nondescript sorts. Prices are full high and in fact higher than any time this season, quality considered.

The buyers are all out in full force and the market shows more animation than for some time past.

Sales of Rocky Mt. Tobacco Market.

Sales for January 1908, 635,515 lbs., average \$10.87.

Sales for January 1907 493,906 lbs., average \$12.30.

Gain in pounds this year 141,609.

Sales for season 1906-7, 6,445,630 lbs., average \$10.95.

Sales for season 1907-8, 6,102,236 lbs., average \$10.54.

Loss in pounds to date 343,400.

Death of Mr. Geo. W. Bulluck.

Mr. Geo. W. Bulluck died suddenly at his home three miles from the city, Edgecombe county, Saturday, of heart disease. He was 52 years old and leaves a family and large number of relatives. Mr. Bulluck was a substantial farmer and well known man. His remains were interred near the home Sunday.

The best investment ever desired for small savings is a well managed Local Building and Loan Association. The Rocky Mount Homestead and Loan Association has stood the test of time. Six years of successful operation without the loss of one dollar is our record. Call on R. L. Huffines, Secretary and Treasurer for full information.

HAPPENINGS IN POLICE COURT.

Comedy and Tragedy of a Week as Enacted in Calamity Hall Before Mayor Thorp.

A notable game of poker was the only offering in the mayor's court Saturday morning and it was fully aired while some of the large number of spectators present enjoyed the humor of it and others, probably, quaked in their boots. It also had its serious side and many felt deeply for the highly esteemed and honored parent whose son was involved. The game was remarkable in that though the participants in it fully believed they were gambling while they were doing it, according to all the evidence they were not, within the meaning of the law, because it turned out that the game was played for worthless checks, and the law says there must be something of value risked. A young man of the city and a stranger were the participants in a game of "stud" poker and each shoved up a check in lieu of money which neither seemed to have. Each knew his check was no good but thought the other fellow's was, until the winner tried to cash the check he had won and then the music began. It was in evidence that the young man who gave the worthless check had had money in the bank on which it was drawn, but had checked it all out. That saved him for that. It was a case where intent was clearly proven, and even admitted, and yet no violation of the law was done, and Mayor Thorp had to dismiss the case.

Monday morning only two cases were tried. Claud Jordan, for using profanity on the street was fined \$7.50, and John Clark, a visitor to the city, who had partaken too freely of the ardent fluid and behaved very ugly in the opera house Saturday night, was fined \$25.

Tuesday morning a case of attempted criminal assault monopolized the session. George Davis, a negro boy about 14 years old was the defendant and the intended victim of his alleged act, was an eight-year-old colored girl named Bessie Ricks. The evidence was not conclusive as to the act or identity, but probable cause was shown. Before Judge Thorp rendered his decision counsel for the boy offered to submit his client for simple assault, and upon the prayer of the girl's mother for this, and because of the youth of the boy the pleading was allowed and Davis was given 30 days on the roads.

Miller Wilson and Bill Wells, colored, were fined \$5 each for disorderly at the Wednesday morning session of the mayor's court, and James Battle, colored, was assessed \$10 for having a row with his better half.

Mr. Corinth Presented Silver Service.

The Wilmington Messenger of Saturday has the following:

"An exceedingly pretty and interesting incident occurred yesterday afternoon in the machine shops at the A. C. L. yards in this city, when A. B. Corinth, the popular assistant superintendent of motive power of the A. C. L., who has been transferred to Rocky Mount, where he will go on Monday, was presented by the machinists, painters, carpenters and other employees of that department over which he has been in charge, a handsome and valuable set of flat silver, complete in every particular, containing knives, forks, table and teaspoons, dessert-spoons and carving set. The silverware was in three handsome mahogany cases and it was a splendid tribute to the retiring official, showing the high regard in which he is held by the more than 300 men under him, while always working for the interests of the company."

Mr. Corinth arrived in Rocky Mount Monday and will make his headquarters here.

Harry K. Thaw Acquitted.

Harry K. Thaw was acquitted by the jury in New York Saturday, after they had deliberated on the case 25 hours. Their verdict was that Thaw was insane when he shot Stanford White June 25, 1906. Judge Dowling, who sat at the trial, immediately ordered Thaw to the asylum for criminal insane, where he will remain for life unless released by a lunacy commission declaring him sane. Thaw resisted the order of the court and only after some very plain talk from his counsel would consent to go to the mad house, insisting on a habeas corpus to try as to his sanity at once.

One horse built each month for the past six years is the record of Rocky Mount Homestead and Loan Association. Subscribers to the 12th series of stock due and payable February 1st, 1908. R. L. Huffines, Secretary & Treasurer.

THE SPECIAL SESSION ADJOURNS.

Compromise Passenger Rate Bill Passed and Other Important Legislation None.

The special session of the legislature called together by Gov. Glenn to consider the passenger rate matter adjourned Saturday afternoon, having accomplished its work. Besides quite a number of local and minor bills passed, a State prohibition bill, to be ratified by the people at an election to be held May 26th, and a compromise passenger bill in accord with the agreement entered into between the governor and the railroads was passed. The bill provides for a two and a half cent rate of passenger fare in this state and relies upon the railroad companies to fulfill their promise in letters to the government to 2 1/4 cent inter-state rate; of mileage books of 2,000 miles to firms, heads of families and four other members, a two cents 1,000-mile book at 2 cents a mile to individuals and of interstate mileage books of 500 miles at 2 1/4 cents for heads of families and dependent members not to exceed four.

It repeals the 2 1/4 cent flat rate and increases this to 2 1/2 cents, requires only first class fare and exempts from liability or indictment in civil or criminal suits instituted or hereafter to be instituted against any railroad company, agent or employee for any violation of the 2 1/4 cent rate.

This bill is to go into effect the first of April and it provides for a flat 2 1/2 cent intra-state rate. It is specifically set out that the North Carolina corporation commission is to have nothing to do in any way with the enforcing of the act or any penalties this to avoid any injunction of them by the federal court.

Railroad companies violating any provisions of the act, or counseling, ordering, or directing any agent or employee to do so shall be guilty of a misdemeanor with a penalty of from \$50 to \$500, agents, servants or employees violating the act to be fined or imprisoned or both in the discretion of the court.

Persons who are not entitled to accept free transportation are to be fined or imprisoned or both in the discretion of the court, railroad or employees giving this to be fined from \$500 to \$2,000 for each offense.

Prohibition Election May 26.

The special session of the legislature finally agreed upon May 26th as the date for holding the election on the State prohibition bill, the senate's amendment to that date being concurred in by the house. The bill as passed provides no limit to the manufacture of cider by any man, out of fruit grown on his own lands. Provision is also made in the bill for the manufacture of wine from grapes and berries grown on a man's own land and the sale of it in packages of not less than 2 1/2 gallons, not to be drunk on the premises. The main features of the bill are substantially as published in last week's issue of The Record.

By an act of the legislature it was made a misdemeanor for a drummer for liquor firms outside the State to solicit trade in North Carolina except from people legally authorized to sell liquor. If the prohibition bill is carried in the election it will be effective Jan. 1, 1909.

A. C. L. Operator Murdered.

Barney McGee, telegraph operator for the A. C. L. at Collier, Va., was murdered Friday by a negro named William Mack, who escaped but was captured Saturday near Emporia, and confessed to the shooting. Young McGee, who was operator at the block signal station at Collier, together with a friend who had stopped at the station, returning from a hunt, were walking up the track checking cars and saw the negro building a fire too near the cars.

He ordered him not to do so, and the three started back to the station, the matter apparently settled, when Mack pulled a pistol and shot McGee, in the back of the head. He then fired at McGee's companion, but did not hit him and ran.

Superintendent W. H. Newell offered a reward of \$100 for the negro's capture, and this amount will be paid to the captor of Mack.

King and Crown Prince Murdered.

Lisbon, Feb. 1.—King Carlos, of Portugal, and the Crown Prince Luiz Philippe, were assassinated today and the city is in a state of uproar. The King's second son, the Infanta Manuel, was slightly wounded, but Queen Amelie,

who strove to save the Crown Prince's life by throwing herself upon him, was unhurt.

A band of men, waiting at the corner of the Braco Do Comercio and the Rua Do Arsenal, suddenly sprang toward the open carriage, in which the family were driven to the palace, and leveling carbines which they had concealed upon them, fired. The King and the Crown Prince, upon whom the attack was directed, were each shot three times, and they lived only long enough to be carried to the Marine Hospital nearby, where they expired.

Almost at the first shot the King fell back on the cushions dying, and at the same moment the Crown Prince, who seemed to feel arise and then sink back on the seat. Queen Amelie jumped up and threw herself toward the Crown Prince in an apparent effort to save his life at the cost of her own, but the Prince had received, his death wound. The police guard fired upon the assassins and killed three of them.

Two of Two Men Same Day.

A Durham dispatch says Mrs. Newton, nee Miss Nannie Ellis, now Mrs. Noah A. Smith, has the distinction of having been the bride of one man, his divorced wife and then the wife of another man all the same day. During the recent term of court, which came down and on account of the indisposition of Judge Webb, there was a divorce suit on docket, this Mrs. Nannie Newton against her husband.

The hearing of the case came up in the morning, the divorce was granted, as the husband is now serving a term in the penitentiary, and that evening she was united in marriage to Mr. Noah A. Smith. Prior to the first marriage the bride was Miss Nannie Ellis, daughter of Benjamin Ellis, who lives in the northern part of this county. Her husband got into trouble and the divorce suit followed.

Mr. Robert Herring Dies Suddenly.

Mr. Robert S. Herring died rather suddenly at the Wilson sanitorium Monday night. He had been in failing health for some time and was taken to the hospital at Wilson by his brother, Dr. Ben Herring, of that place. Monday he suffered a stroke of paralysis and succumbed to it that night. The remains were brought to his home in this city and buried in Pine View cemetery Wednesday at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Herring was a well known business man of this city, being engaged for some years in the coal and ice business on a large scale. He was a genial, generous hearted young man, he was only 37 years old, whose warmest friends were those who knew him best. He leaves a wife and five small children, three boys and two girls.

Sudden Death.

(Tarboro Southerner 30th.)

In the midst of life we are in death was illustrated last evening when almost without a warning John O. Oates became a corpse.

Soon after supper he had walked to Mrs. W. R. Mercer's to see her on business. He was in a very pleasant mood. He asked for water and drank three glasses after brief intervals and jocularly remarked about his thirst. A few minutes later he said something was the matter with him and his head fell back. Mrs. Oates and two other ladies who were with her rubbed his temples and applied camphor, but he never spoke nor struggled again. A physician was quickly summoned, who came at once only to find every vestige of life gone.

Death of Mrs. Sam Jenkins.

Mrs. Samuel Jenkins died at her home on Franklin street last Thursday morning as a result of an apoplectic stroke she suffered on Monday morning. The funeral service was conducted at her late residence Friday morning by Rev. R. B. Owens, rector of the Episcopal church, of which Mrs. Jenkins was a devout member, and the remains were laid to rest in Pine View cemetery.

Mrs. Jenkins was a most excellent woman, and was beloved, esteemed and respected by all who knew her. To the four children who survive her she was a mother in the truest sense of the word, and to the husband a helpmeet companion and counselor.

Seventy five families in Rocky Mount are now owning their own homes, who would otherwise be paying rent but for assistance afforded by Rocky Mount Homestead and Loan Association. The 12th series of stock will be due and payable on and after February 1st, 1908. Call on R. L. Huffines, Secretary and Treasurer for full information.

YOUNG MEN'S READING ROOM.

Movement Started at Ministers Conference to Provide Cozy Club Room For Young Men of the City.

At the Rocky Mount Ministers Conference, held in Rev. D. H. Tuttle's study Monday morning, a movement was launched to provide a free reading room for the use of the young men of the town. The movement is entirely non-denominational.

The plan is to secure a convenient room, centrally located, where the young men of the town may spend their evenings in social intercourse, play innocent games, and store their minds with the best things of the best correct literature. A cozy, comfortable uniting place of this kind would be a safeguard to young men, and the movement to provide such a place is an opportunity for those who have money to do some real substantial good.

Ye olde Tyne Fiddlers' Convention.