Elkin
Gateway to Roaring Gap and the Blue Ridge

THE ELKIN TRIBUNE

Elkin
"The Best Little Town in North Carolina"

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LIME PLAYS MAJOR PART

History Is Given; What It Did for Guilford County Farmer and Family

GIVES MIRACLE RESULT

S. C. Byrd, who lives about six miles from High Point, Guilford county, N. C., has, because of his change of methods in farming, tremendously improved conditions about his place.

Six years ago, Mr. Byrd h only 42 acres of pitifully poo land which was covered with a mortgage for more than the farm would have brought at auction. His very meager equipment was of poor quality, he had few tools, no cow and only two hogs and two small mules. His wife had pellagra, and his two sons had positive tuberculin reaction. His buildings were in need of repair and all of his land was unprofitably productive. Tobacco growing was practically his sole dependence and it took large quantities of commercial fertilizer to produce tobacco on his poor sandy soils.

The picture was not a cheerful one, but Mr. Byrd, aged 34, was a brave man and not afraid of work, and his even more courageous wife, while under the handicap of pellagra, stuck heroically at the noble duty of caring for the family and keeping the household going.

When it was suggested by his physician that Mr. Byrd should buy a cow for the family, he replied that he did not see how he could buy a cow. Then, when reminded that cows were cheaper than funerals, he replied that even if someone were to give him a cow he could not feed her on that farm. His doctor told him if he would get the cow he would show him how to feed a number of cows on even that sorry little place. This statement from his family physician was mildly resented, as he reasoned that doctors should know nothing except mysterious and hidden secrets regarding diseases, drugs, vaccines, knives, needles, etc., and it sort of satisfied him a little when his doctor admitted that he did not know a lot about farming, only a few principles of the vast science of agriculture; that he had observed how farming was carried on in Cuba; in the eastern part of the United States and Canada, and most certainly could help him with his problem of feeding cows.

When one cow was purchased, it was suggested that one acre be sown to crimson clover, but Mr. Byrd said that his was not clover land and to sow it would be simp a waste of seed. But with a ttle insistence he finally sowed e acre of land to crimson clover and a good stand went through the Winter. In February, it was pointed out to him that 4,000 pounds of limestone should be spread upon his acre of crimson clover. To this he replied — and he spoke the convictions born of his years of experience in handling his problems—"I will not put lime on my land. It doesn't need it and I have never had to put lime on it. What my land needs is stable manure. I cannot waste what little money I have fooling with lime that nobody uses or knows anything about. I have to make a living and it is no play business on this farm, and I tell you I will not put lime on my land." The way his big chin was fixed it was plain to see that argument was useless. His being so positive and so plainly sincere made his friend uncertain about even suggesting a proposition to give him the 4,000 pounds of lime if he would use it on his clover which was growing on "acid land" and therefore not "clover land" until lime should be applied to neutralize the acids and sweeten the soil, and thus release the acid-locked soil contents so clover could grow, and the bacteria which fix in the soil nitrogen from the air, could live on the roots of leguminous plants like clover, and thus store up wealth for the farmer.

Knowing that the economic destiny of this man and his family was positively hinged upon his understanding and application of different and better methods upon his acres, the giving of the lime was proposed. Faith in his friend, and not belief in the usefulness of lime, caused him to accept the offer and spread the lime on his crimson clover. That very act marked the turning point in his life and then began the making of brighter history in the existence of his family.

When investigating his crimson clover eight to ten weeks later, many plants were found to be more than 20 inches high and to have 100 branches per plant, while a corner left for control produced no clover plants over 3 inches high or with more than 4 branches.

Mr. Byrd is an intelligent man and cheerfully accepts a proven fact. He is a fighting Democrat, but I believe he would follow his convictions anywhere, even into the Republican party, if it could be proven to him that the Republican party was the better party. Therefore, 75 tons of limestone have been spread upon his small farm.

Mr. Byrd now keeps as many as nine cows through a winter; kills as much as a ton of pork; has 3 magnificent mules, one pair worth over $700.00; has enlarged his home, painted it and installed upholstered furniture, electric lights, radio, running water, electric churn, electric washing machine; has hay rakes, mowing machine, reaper and binder; has sent his oldest child through college; has purchased 4 other small tracts of land, paying cash for them; grows splendid gardens; has planted fruit trees, grapevines, nut trees and flowers; has a beautiful lawn, and has more than doubled the number of outbuildings. He produces far more and much better tobacco and at greatly reduced cost each year; grows great quantities of fine, clean alfalfa hay; 60 to 70 bushels of oats and corn per acre and tons of lespedeza. Pellagra has so definitely disappeared from his family that the two fine baby boys who have arrived during the past four years are most happy, healthy and welcome guests and there is no fear of tuberculosis in that family. Mr. Byrd has over a thousand dollars in the bank and owns a new automobile.

Lime, subsoiling, phosphates and legumes constitute the explanation of this transformation on a farm, from a pitiful abode of poverty and disease, when hopes and aspirations of a citizen and his family must have waned and perished had it not been for the first 2 tons of lime. Without lime there is no way possible to repeat this miracle on the unproductive farms of North Carolina. With lime it may be duplicated anywhere in this great State.

SCHOOL CLINICS START IN SURRY

To Examine Children Planning to Start to School at Next Session

HERE ON APRIL 24th

The Surry county health department opened its annual series of pre-school clinics Monday, March 27, and health officials will be busy for the next month with examinations of Surry children who are to enter the public schools next fall.

The clinics were announced by Dr. R. B. Franklin, recently appointed health officer for Surry county, who urged the parents of all pre-school children to co-operate in sending or bringing their children to the clinics. Dr. Franklin announced the complete schedule of clinics. The schedule follows, all clinics being at white schools unless Negro schools are indicated:

Thursday, March 30, Red Bush Negro school at 10 o'clock; North Elkin school at 1 o'clock.

Friday, March 31, Pilot Mountain high school at 9:30 o'clock; Pilot Mountain Negro school at 1 o'clock.

Monday, April 3, Lowgap high school at 9:30 o'clock; Mount Airy Negro school at 1 o'clock.

Tuesday, April 4, Copeland high school at 9 o'clock; Rockford school at 11 o'clock; Rockford Negro school at 2 o'clock.

Thursday, April 6, Little Richmond school at 11 o'clock; Little Richmond Negro school at 12 o'clock.

Friday, April 7, Westfield high school at 9 o'clock; Westfield Negro school at 11:30 o'clock; Cooke school at 1 o'clock.

Thursday, April 13, White Plains high school at 9 o'clock.

Friday, April 14, Dobson high school at 9 o'clock.

Monday, April 17, Bannertown school at 9 o'clock; Sheltontown school at 1 o'clock; Chestnut Ridge Negro school at 1:45 o'clock.

Friday, April 21, Franklin high school at 9 o'clock.

Monday, April 24, Elkin high school at 9:30 o'clock.

Tuesday, April 25, Ararat Negro school at 9 o'clock; Sandy Level Negro school at 10 o'clock; Holly Springs school at 1 o'clock.

Friday, April 28, North Main school in Mount Airy at 9 o'clock.

Monday, May 1, Rockford Street school in Mt. Airy at 9 o'clock.

Tuesday, May 2, Eldora school at 9 o'clock; Mountain Park high school at 1 o'clock.

Thursday, May 4, Elkin Negro school at 1 o'clock.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Rev. J. L. Powers filled his regular appointment at Mountain View Baptist church Sunday and Sunday night. A large crowd attended both services.

Mr. A. E. Shore is confined to his home with flu.

Mrs. J. K. Blevins, of Welch, W. Va., is spending some time here with her sister, Mrs. R. P. Riley. Other week-end guests of Mrs. Riley were sisters from Tennessee.

Rev. and Mrs. W. V. Brown were visitors in this section Sunday.

The many friends of Miss Nancy Shore will be sorry to know she is shut in with a case of measles.

Rev. J. L. Powers was the dinner guest Sunday of Mr. Clarence Riley.

Mr. and Mrs. Beecher Stokes, of Winston-Salem, were the week-end guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Stokes.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Van Hoy, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Snow were visitors in Winston-Salem Sunday afternoon.

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Hard Work

A man charged with murder bribed a friend on the jury to hold out for a verdict of manslaughter. The jurymen were out for a long time. At last they brought in a verdict of manslaughter.

The prisoner rushed up to his friend and said, "I'm much obliged to you. Was it hard work?"

"Very," said the juror. "The other eleven wanted to acquit you."

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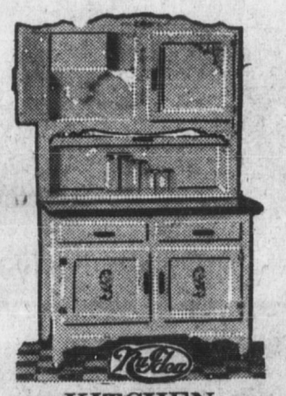

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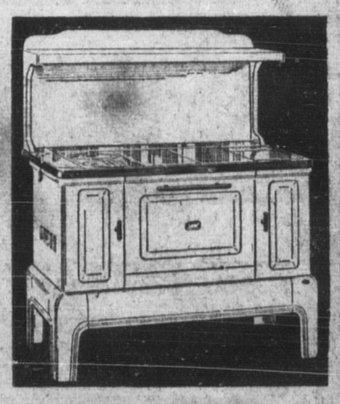

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