

A. G. Hendren Is Making Good With Farmers of Wilkes County

Ten Years Ago Wilkes Was a Backward County, But Today It is a Little Empire In Itself Notwithstanding the Fact That It is a Mountainous County—Examples of Service Cited.

(Special to Daily News.)
 North Wilkesboro, Dec. 18.—Ten years ago A. G. Hendren was appointed county agent in Wilkes county. He had previously had no special training, but he had succeeded on his own farm, and after taking up the work he attended two short courses at the college. He has from the start been a close student and observer of farm conditions. He is now a well informed and practical county agent. He is a man of high character, and is so earnest and enthusiastic in bettering the conditions for the farmers of Wilkes county that he has the confidence of the farmers to a remarkable degree.

Ten years ago Wilkes county was one of the backward counties of the state. It is a little empire in itself, and is very rugged and mountainous. Notwithstanding this fact, there is a large amount of fertile valleys and table lands in the county. The Yadkin river crosses the county from west to east and the valleys of this historic river and its tributaries are very fertile. The Brushy mountains, a broken range from the southern border of the county from east to west. These mountains are the home of the famous Limbertwig apples, and here and there among these mountains are located up-to-date commercial orchards, but until recently practically the only fruit grown in this famous apple belt was the old mountain Limbertwig and a few seedlings. The farmers would grow their little crops, and during the winter would haul their apples to Statesville, Charlotte, Concord and other towns in their farm wagons. They knew nothing about pruning and spraying, and did not care to know. The ways of their fathers were good enough for them. The farmers throughout the county followed a similar primitive method. The growing of crops for marketing purposes or to make money was almost unknown. Such

Hendren has induced many of his farmers to use ground limestone on their wheat land to be followed by clover or clover and grass, and these demonstrations have almost wrought miracles in the county. Many an old field that was hardly worth cultivating has been made productive by the use of lime, phosphoric acid and legumes.

When Mr. Hendren began work there lived in the western part of the county one John Lewis, a gentleman about 60 years of age, and at one of Mr. Hendren's schoolhouse meetings his little son joined the corn club. With the encouragement of his father, who had very limited education, and using purebred seed corn, he grew an acre of corn which attracted the attention of the neighbors all round. Ten ears of this corn were exhibited at the county fair and won a prize. The success of the boy so enthused the father that he immediately bought a little farm and began to give his attention to growing corn. Through the aid of Mr. Hendren he became expert in the selection of show corn, and began to win prizes not only in the county fairs, but at the state fairs also and carried some of his corn to the national corn show at Columbia and won prizes there amounting to \$225. Lewis had several boys and one after another as they became old enough joined the corn club. Lewis himself became a substantial citizen and was respected by the people of the county. Some three or four years ago he sold out and moved to Maryland, and since that time I have not been able to keep up with him.

Another citizen, W. M. R. Church, also living in the western part of the county, has been one of Mr. Hendren's strong supporters. He is now about 60 years of age, but he knows how to grow corn. He had been prior to the time Mr. Hendren began work a local leader in his community, and at one of Mr. Hendren's meetings he joined the Farmers' Corn-club and was furnished some purebred seed corn. From that time to the present Mr. Church has uniformly throughout the years won the county prize for the largest yield of corn per acre. My recollection is that he has not failed in ten years to grow the largest number of bushels of corn on his demonstration acre, and each year as Mr. Hendren turns in his high yields I confidently look for Mr. Church to stand at the head of the list. He selected his seed corn in the field very carefully, and many farmers throughout the county go to Mr. Church for their seed corn, saying that they rather have corn selected by him

than by themselves. Mr. Church not only grows successfully, but he grows crimson clover successfully and his big yields of corn are usually grown on crimson clover sod. He is also an enthusiastic grower of red clover and grasses.

Another enthusiastic demonstrator is N. N. Jennings who lives in the hilly country north of Wilkesboro. His land was poor, and while he tried to grow corn for the demonstration club, he stood a poor showing among the other members of the club. He saw at once that he would have to improve his land. So he asked Mr. Hendren what he would do to bring his land up to a more productive state. Mr. Hendren told him that good plowing, lime, phosphoric acid and legumes would turn the trick. He followed the county agent's instructions on a small plot of his land, and was so pleased with the result that he has been improving a few acres each year now for several years. He has become a red clover crank, and many of his neighbors have followed his example. Now when I go to the county to visit some real clover demonstrations the county agent carries me to this community. Mr. Jennings runs a little country store, and he is so enthusiastic about clover that he allows his neighbors to club with him and he buys clover seed for them all, and lets them have the seed at cost.

There are many other individuals in the county who have followed the example set by Messrs. Lewis, Church and Jennings. The work of the county agent and the superintendent of schools has wrought a revolution in the county. The entire citizenship has improved to a remarkable degree. The boys taught in school and the clubs during the last ten years are fast becoming the leading farmers of the county, and the influence that this teaching has had upon the older people is making better citizens of them. The small orchardists of ten years ago have planted larger orchards of commercial varieties, have learned to spray and prune their trees and fruits, and they have formed a co-operative apple growers' association. The county is building better roads, better schools, and is rapidly filling up with an industrious, progressive, law-abiding citizenship. Other influences of course have had something to do with this remarkable change, but the two leading spirits of old Wilkes are County Agent A. G. Hendren and Superintendent C. C. Wright.

MEETINGS, CLUBS, AND PARTIES FILL THE WEEK

Trinity Musicians Entertained At Hickory—Mrs. Grimes Heads Auxiliary.

MRS. BOST IS RE-ELECTED
 (Special to Daily News.)
 Hickory, Dec. 18.—The members of the Trinity College Musical club were tendered a delightful reception Monday evening immediately after the concert in the auditorium by Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Ivey. Quite a number of guests were present for the occasion. Music and conversational constituted the program. Ice cream and cake were served.

Mrs. A. A. Shuford is spending some time at Alexandria, Va., and Washington, D. C., prior to the Christmas holidays.

Miss Virginia Sellers went to Cheraw, S. C., Wednesday to spend several days with Mrs. J. E. Pendergrass.

Mrs. Charles Gettner was hostess on Monday afternoon to the Woman's Missionary society of Corinth Reformed church. Mrs. Carl Marshall, of Johnson City, Tenn., was the special visitor. After the usual routine of business officers for the year were elected and reports from the departmental secretaries were heard with interest, Mrs. C. C. Bost was elected president and at the close of the present year will have rounded out her 22d year as president of the society. Mrs. C. H. Gettner was elected vice-president, Mrs. G. H. Gettner treasurer and Mrs. F. Allen secretary. The program was given by Mrs. R. A. Grimes and Mrs. H. J. Holbrook. Chicken pie, doughnuts and hot coffee was served after adjournment.

Mrs. O. H. Heater entertained the Do As You Please club at a charming meeting Saturday afternoon with Mrs. Walter Taylor as a special guest. The regular routine of business was followed, after which the meeting was turned into a social hour. A salad course was served, after which the club adjourned until the Christmas meeting with Miss Virginia Sellers.

J. C. Miller was host at a turkey dinner Saturday evening at his home on Tenth avenue. Christmas decorations were much in evidence, holly, mistletoe and red candles being cleverly arranged. A large bowl of mistletoe adorned the center of the table and small candles gleamed beside each plate. From the chandelier red satin streamers were suspended to the candles. After dinner the streamers were pulled and revealed attractive mottoes. The guests read the mottoes aloud and donned the caps, repairing to the living room, where several tables were made up for bridge. Five couples were present. Misses Mabel and Onetta Miller assisted their brothers in entertaining.

Officers were elected and other matters of importance were transacted at the meeting of the Auxiliary of the American legion in the clubroom Friday afternoon. Mrs. J. H. Shuford, the present incumbent, was again nominated for the presidency after the report of the past year was given, but declined the place on account of other numerous duties. Mrs. A. A. Grimes received the nomination for president, and Mrs. C. C. Bost was again elected vice-president. Mrs. Lawrence Cline was elected secretary-treasurer to succeed herself, as was Miss Mabel Miller, publicity officer. The retiring president was given a rising vote of thanks for her untiring interest and activity during the past year. The auxiliary has until the adjournment.

There was a most interesting meeting of the Travelers' club on Thursday afternoon with Mrs. Mary Gettner, the president, as hostess. Mrs. J. L. Murphy, a former member, and Mrs. W. C. Tyree were special guests for the afternoon. American humorists was the topic for the day and papers treating on this subject were read by Mrs. J. H. Shuford and Miss Josie Person. After adjournment the hostess served a three-course luncheon. Little Miss Mary Elizabeth Gettner, niece of the hostess, was a guest for the social hour, and received much flattering attention.

On Wednesday afternoon Mrs. W. E. Goshold entertained the New Era club at the last meeting of the series of 1921. After discussing her book and the author the hostess gave a splendid criticism of the plot. Kipling was the poet for the afternoon, and bright thoughts from his works were given by each member. Mrs. B. M. Spratt, Jr., gave a clever reading of one of his poems. Delightful refreshments emphasizing the Christmas colors were served after adjournment.

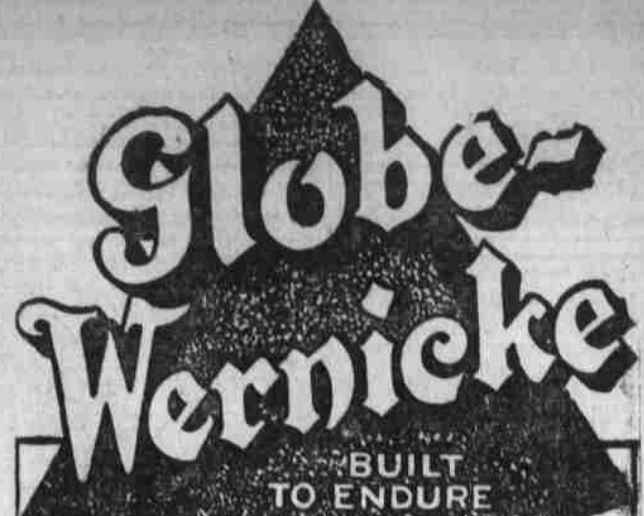
The final meeting of the Round Dose club for the current year was held Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. J. B. Gibbs. After roll call and the usual procedure of business the hostess introduced her book, giving a brief review and touched upon some of the most important events in the life of the author, Joseph Lincoln. It was of interest to the club when Mrs. J. W. Blackwelder read some criticisms on Lincoln, which were given in the year 1906, when he was the author of her book. Mrs. C. C. Bost read a short story. Current events were exchanged while the hostess, assisted by Miss Josephine Lyerly, served refreshments.

With three tables attractively arranged for bridge, Mrs. J. O. Hull entertained at cards Tuesday afternoon. The high score prize, a deck of cards, was won by Miss Edith Frank. Mrs. Hazel Aiken cut the consolation prize, a handkerchief. A two-course luncheon was served.

There was a delightful meeting of the Wednesday Afternoon Book club on its name day with Mrs. Ruth Haddock as hostess at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Shuford. The regular discussion of the hostess' book was omitted and the time given over to a social period. A beautiful luncheon in three courses was served in the dining room, which was attractively decorated with cut flowers.

The Cosmos Book club was entertained Wednesday afternoon by Mrs. H. P. Ciley. Mrs. A. S. Abernethy and Mrs. T. W. Clay were guests for the meeting. Mrs. Walker Lyerly gave a criticism of the hostess' book and told some interesting facts in the life of its author. A two-course luncheon was served in small tables arranged about the living room.

On last Friday afternoon Miss Louise McComb entertained the members of the Up-to-Date club and several guests. After the business session of the club, after the business session of an interesting program, consisting of a piano selection by Miss Elizabeth Moretz, a contest and the exchange of current events was carried out. Miss Sarah Bost assisted the hostess in serving luncheon.



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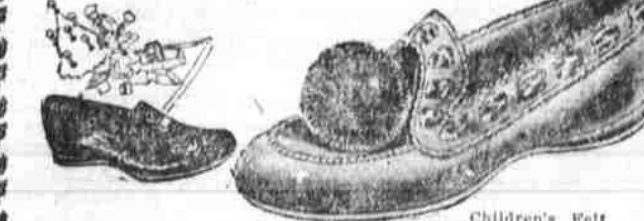
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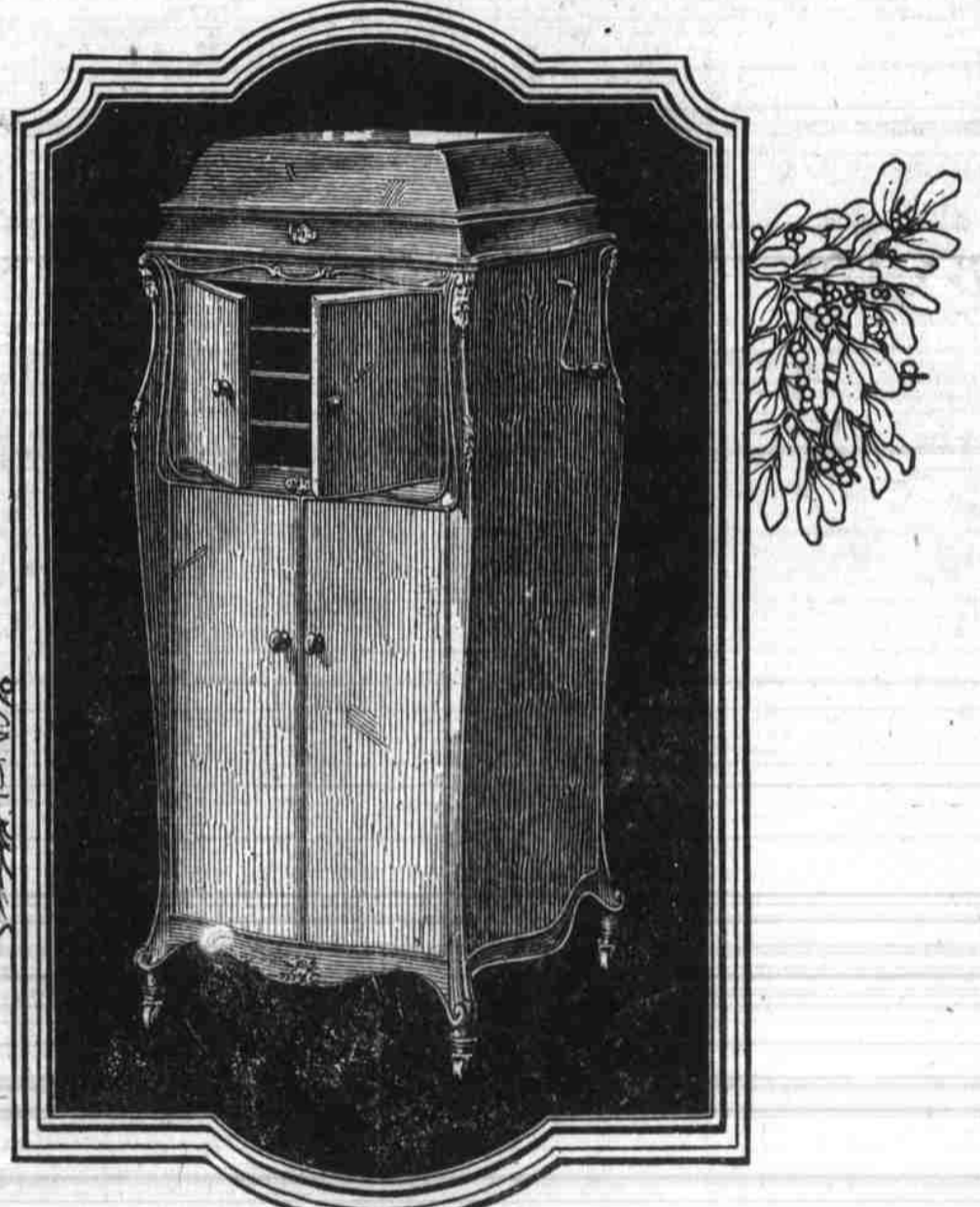
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Mother Finally Gets Child

(Special to Daily News.)
 Winston, Dec. 18.—A long search for James S. Howard, two years of age, alleged to have been taken away from his mother, Mrs. Hattie Howard, by her husband, from whom she was separated, last August, has ended. Lenoir county authorities today announced that the child had been located in Onslow county and returned to the mother. Howard, it was stated, had previously been brought back from Georgia with children of the family he had taken to that state.

CARD OF THANKS.

We wish to thank our friends and neighbors for their kindness during the sickness and death of our beloved sister, May God bless them everyone.
 F. S. WHITEHEART AND SISTER.
 (Adv.)

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