

C. B. FITTS

Carolina Coal Mine.

A RARE BIRTHDAY

SILER CITY NEWS

MONCURE NOTES

GOLDSTON NOTES

Account of His Funeral and a Sketch of His Life

Bear Creek, Nov. 20.—Mr. Charles Brantley Fitts, one of the leading citizens of Chatham county, died suddenly at the home of his son-in-law, Mr. D. T. Brooks, Sunday afternoon at four o'clock. Except for a few slight attacks of severe pain in his chest and left side there had been nothing to indicate that he was not in his usual health until about thirty minutes before the end. About 3:30 P. M. Mr. Fitts was suddenly taken ill. Mr. Howard, of Bonlee, was hastily summoned, but arrived only ten minutes before death claimed his patient. Mr. Fitts was born January 2, 1868, was a son of the late Mr. George Fitts, of near Siler City, was married to Miss Cora Coggins on October 8, 1893. He leaves one child, a daughter, Mrs. D. T. Brooks, and is also survived by his faithful wife, two brothers and a sister and one grandson, Charles E. Brooks.

The funeral was at Bear Creek, near his home, at 4:00 P. M. and was conducted by his former pastor, Rev. O. A. Keller, now of Benson, N. C., who read Scriptures from Psalm 23, John 14 and 2nd Cor. 5, and paid deserved tribute to his life work and usefulness in his community and county. An estimated crowd of one thousand people stood in the biting cold with sorrowing hearts, bowed heads and tear-dimmed eyes while his body was laid to rest beside his little daughter, Clara, who died with Spanish Influenza, January 16, 1919. The grave was covered with beautiful flowers. The Chatham county bar gave a lovely wreath, as did the board of County Commissioners, of which he was a very efficient and honored member, being Chairman of the Board at the time of his death. He served his county in this capacity for over seven years, having been elected last fall for the fourth time. For more than thirty years he had been engaged in merchandising in the little village of Bear Creek, having built up one of the largest and most successful general merchandise stores in the county. Until a few years ago this business was known as Coggins, Fitts and Company, but for at least four years had been run in the name of C. B. Fitts.

Fitts was a devoted husband and father, a helpful neighbor and a faithful and loyal friend to the rich and poor, having helped many people in time of need. He joined Sandy Branch Baptist church in 1911 and later moved his membership to Bonlee church on the organization of the latter in 1912 or 1913. He was ever thoughtful of his church and devoted to its interests. He was known and loved throughout this section of the State. The people of Chatham county reckoned him almost indispensable in the conduct of county affairs. The sincere sympathy of the entire county and of large parts of the adjoining counties goes out to his widow and daughter and other relatives. The sorrow of his multitude of friends is sincere and deep.

Twenty ladies, members of her S. S. class, were floral bearers at the funeral, and the grave was completely covered with those silent tributes of love and respect. The funeral services were conducted by her pastor Rev. C. M. Lance. Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved husband and children and the aged parents.

Tom Tarheel says his idea of a big dinner is to have among other things a well baked ham and that is why he takes so much trouble in curing out his meat properly.

All Settlements Made for Loss of Life in Explosion—Bion Butler Tells of Prospects of Field.

In last week's Sanford Banner, Bion H. Butler, after telling of the unusual course of the Carolina Coal Company in looking up claimants for damage—by the death of relatives in the explosion last spring—writes interestingly of the achievements of his company and of the future of coal mining in the Deep River field, as follows: "The Carolina Coal Company has one of the highest pay rolls in this section. For a few days after the explosion the directors of the company were not certain what course they would pursue. They did not know the physical damage that had been done to the mine nor to what extent the damage would involve the company financially. Fortunately the explosion was not as severe as was at first thought. Only one of the smaller entries was completely wrecked. And most of the machinery underground was left in condition that permitted repair. The comparative mildness of the explosion permitted the fan to run without a stop. Within two or three days the pumps were in operation again and a force of men were set to work at once to restore the mine. In a short time coal began to come out again in small quantities and operations have been continuous ever since. The production has not yet reached the figure that the mine was doing before the accident but it has been moving upwards steadily with every prospect of reaching and surpassing any previous output. At the time of the explosion the company had reached a pay roll of about a hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year and was about to install some heavier machinery to take care of the increasing amount of coal that was exposed in the extending entries. Several thousand dollars had been appropriated for this purpose and an order given for new equipment. Unfortunately the order had to be cancelled. The affairs of the company had reached a promising stage with a reasonable margin of earnings and prospects unusually bright. The explosion necessarily affected conditions but it is believed now that the output will before long reach a tonnage that will bring a revenue that will permit the installing of new equipment and allow the plans to be carried out according to the schedule arranged before the accident. Much has been said about the cause of the explosion and for a time it was in doubt. But when the mine officials together with the United States representatives of the Bureau of Mines dug out the charge of dynamite in the entry where the trouble occurred and found that it had fired from the electric wire used to set off shots but had failed to burn and explode, the cause of the explosion was perfectly clear. The defective dynamite did not do its work of blowing the coal down and put the burden on a companion shot two or three feet away which was not strong enough to blast off the body of the coal. That shot blew out of the hole with a load of dust and a stream of fire. And that was the explosion that did the damage. The Carolina coal company has had a long struggle in developing its mines and largely because the stock holders did not at the beginning realize the size of the job they were undertaking. The coal deposits of the Deep river are of such character and magnitude that they can not be operated on a small scale, like many soft coal mines in other districts, therefore as the mine progressed it was found that the original plans had to be changed to suit the bigger operations. The mine was therefore constantly growing and at the time of the accident had many thousand feet of underground working reaching into the coal faces, with air ways, cross cuts, tracks, hoisting, pumping and ventilating machinery all for the type of a mine for which the Carolina mine has grown to be. The company now has the property in good physical condition with the exception of some heavier hoisting machinery as above referred to. The coal it is producing ranks with the best soft coal of the United States. It is a high volatile coal, with a heating value of fourteen thousand British thermal units, which is equalled only by a few coal fields in the United States.

Little Miss Sarah Williamson Norris, of Raleigh, celebrated her ninth birthday here on Sunday, November 15, and enjoyed the rare privilege of being the special guest of her great grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Burns.

She was accompanied by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Burns Norris and four little sisters, Emma Burns Norris, Mary Ransom Norris, Flora Creech Norris, and Elizabeth Edmunds Norris. Her grandmother, Mrs. Herbert E. Norris, being already here where she has been for several weeks. Sarah was made very happy when she was invited into the dining room where a well spread table of tempting viands greeted her. The centerpiece of Ivory lace over pink (made by her great grandmother) was surmounted by the beautiful birthday cake filled with sugar plums and frosted with white icing and cocoanut, which looked as if a light snow had fallen on it. On it was placed nine pink candles in form of the S—it was surrounded with decorations of trailing lace ferns, pink chrysanthemums and pink rose buds. The table was lighted with tall pink wax candles in crystal holders. At her plate, she found a number of pleasant remembrances. On this occasion only the members of the family were present. Sarah is a dear little girl, a great favorite here and at her home. It is quite sure that she will never forget her ninth birthday, when she was entertained by real ancestors, her great grand parents, who have arrived at the ages of eighty-two and ninety years. Here's wishing the little lady many returns of the day.

Farmers of North Carolina ordered about one-half million pounds of pyrotol, the cheap government explosive, last year. Indications are that at least a million pounds will be used in the State this year. States. The opinion has prevailed in some quarters that the Deep river coal is of inferior quality, but that is entirely wrong. This misconception came about because in the earlier operation years ago coal from the outcrop was market. Outcrop coal is always inferior. As the mines get further into the main seam its excellence was easily established. And it now has a high rating wherever it is known. This community is more fortunate than it is aware in having the coal of the Deep river as a source of power. For not only are the mines of the Carolina company and the Ramsay company paying out big sums of money every month in wages, but they are providing a fuel reserve on which the prosperity of the region will turn more and more every day. The big resource of this territory from an industrial view point is its shales. And to burn clay products requires coal. E. O. Kane, of one of the most prominent clay working companies of Pennsylvania who has experience with every fuel known in their brick and tile works said recently in Sanford if he could have Deep river coal for use in their factories he would take it in preference to any he could find. Ultimately the clay plants will call for a large tonnage of Deep river coal. Other fuel consumers will take all that can be produced. While I am on this subject it may not be out of place to refer to the extent of the coal field. How much coal is in the Deep river I don't know and neither does anybody else. A few weeks ago in Washington I had a lengthy talk with Dr. M. R. Campbell, who made a survey of this field a few years ago concerning the Deep river field, which is that the Ramsay and the Carolina mines have opened several thousand acres of excellent coal, that probably a further large acreage exists, but that before any conclusions are reached through prospecting with the pick is absolutely necessary which must be followed by thorough drilling of every tract considered as coal producing before any operations are planned. Many faults and dykes and other disturbances are encountered on the outcrop of the field. Their extent nobody knows. An example was the operation commenced above Gulf a couple of years ago which resulted in disaster, and without leaving any real information as to conditions there.

Mrs. Frank Pike Dies—M. E. Pastor Preaches Farewell Sermon—Personal Items

Siler City, Nov. 21.—Following an illness of less than 36 hours from pneumonia, Mrs. Frank Pike, who was before her marriage, Miss Cora Marsh, died at her home 4 miles north of this place this morning at 6 o'clock. Surviving are her husband, two sons, Sam and Dan Marsh Pike; three brothers, Chas. H. Marsh of Siler City R. 3, John, of Greensboro and Ed Marsh, of Siler City R. 1; three sisters, Miss Sallie Marsh of Mt. Vernon Springs, Miss Stannie Marsh, of Siler City R. 1, and Mrs. Lizzie Thomas, of Siler City R. 3; four step sons, Henry, Allie, Gurney and Ben Pike; and seven step-daughters, Mesdames J. C. Cheek, Rob Smith, John Culbertson, John Dunlap, G. D. Lowder and John Robert Browning, all of whom live in this community except the last two named these being residents of Albermarle, N. C., and Meridan, Mississippi, respectively. The funeral service will be held at Loves Creek church, Monday afternoon at 1 o'clock and will be conducted by Rev. Richard S. Fountain. Rev. O. I. Hinson will fill the pulpit here tomorrow evening at 7:30 o'clock, this being his last service as pastor of the local Methodist church, he having been assigned to the Jonesboro circuit at the recent annual conference. During the coming week, he and Mrs. Hinson will move to their new home following which Rev. W. L. Maness the new minister for this charge will arrive with his family from their former pastorate at Fayetteville. Members of the Epworth League, assisted by Mesdames John Ellis, P. H. Elkins, Junius Wrenn and T. D. Bynum will serve an oyster supper in the basement of the Methodist church next Monday evening beginning at 5 o'clock. Mrs. M. M. Fox and daughters, Misses Jenny Lind and Mary Newlin Fox, are spending the week-end in Raleigh with relatives. H. E. Stout of Greensboro arrived this afternoon to spend Sunday with his mother, Mrs. Herbert Tysor. Miss Nell Spence has gone to Lillington for a short visit to friends. Miss Ina Scotten of Coleridge is visiting her sister, Mrs. Hattie Stout. A. D. Dorsett has returned from several days stay in Charlotte where he went to receive some of the higher degrees in the Masonic Lodge.

A Number of Personal News Items About Thanksgiving Day

The faculty of Moncure school attended the teachers' meeting at Pittsboro last Saturday, November 21. Miss Olivia Harmon, one of the high school teachers of Moncure school, spent last week-end at Roxboro with her sister who lives there. The brick work of the Kennedy-Hackney-Thomas Co.'s building is now about complete. They are planning to have the wood-work and everything ready to move into by the first of the year. The first story will be the store and the second story contains a hall for the lodge and Junior Order meetings and at the front are office rooms. Moncure needs a lawyer, dentist, and a station preacher. Mr. and Mrs. Chas. A. Taft, who have been boarding with Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Wicker, have secured a house at the Carolina Power and Light Co. plant and will move there one day this week. Mr. Taft is an electrical and construction engineer. Mr. J. H. McNeary, another electrician of the Power plant, who has been boarding for the past five or six weeks at Hilliard Hotel, left one day last week for his home in New Jersey. Born to Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Creswell November 19th, a girl. Born to Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Utley, November 22nd, a girl. November is a wonderful month and the weather has been lovely. As we observe the national holiday our minds will run back to the year 1620, when the Pilgrim fathers landed on American soil, after they planted and made a crop and gathered it, then the skilled sportsman went in quest of fowls and venison. Wild birds, wild turkeys, and other game were brought back by these hunters and then the first Thanksgiving turkey was roasted and eaten, while for three whole days the hardy Puritans feasted and made merry, entertaining as their guest King Massasoit and ninety Indian warriors. At this season of the year, amidst our feasting, we should share our many blessings with the less fortunate than ourselves, and we should thank God for His abundant blessings to us. Moncure high school students will give a play "Always in Trouble" at the school auditorium next Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock. Everybody is invited. Thursday and Friday will be given as holidays at Moncure school. The Epworth League met last Sunday evening at 7 o'clock with the president, Miss Amey Womble, in the chair. The song, "Yield Not to Temptation" was sung by all. Next, roll call by the secretary, Miss Pauline Ray and the minutes of the last meeting read and approved. Scripture lesson was then read by the president and prayer by Mrs. Stedman. The subject for the evening was "How Shall We Invest our Lives?" was taken up by the following and discussed:— Different Dividends—Mrs. J. E. Moore. Can I Invest My Life in Such Vocations?—Miss Annie Lambeth. A Cash Investment—Mr. H. G. Self. Finding My Place in God's Program—Miss Marcia Foust. Song, "Onward Christian Soldiers." Closing prayer by the president, Miss Amey Womble. Dr. J. E. Cathell will leave next Sunday evening for St. Petersburg, Fla., to attend the Surgical Association which convenes there December 1 to 3.

Rev. Mr. Womble Goes to Lillington—Mr. Briggs to Come—Mr. Witten Superannuated—Basketball

The evangelistic club met at the usual time last Wednesday evening. The leaders were Mr. Jake Dixon, Mr. W. H. Garner, Mrs. Olive and Miss Edna Marley. Each of them made splendid talks. "Service" seemed to be the center thought of each talk. Rev. C. F. Womble, one of the members of the evangelistic club, was present and was called on for a talk, which all enjoyed. Mr. Womble left Tuesday for Lillington where he will take charge of the Lillington circuit for the coming year. Mr. Womble has been in Goldston for several months and will be missed here. We congratulate him in receiving such a good appointment, only three churches. We wish him much success in this honorable work. Mr. Herbert Watson is president of the evangelistic club. He is deeply interested in this work and he makes a very fine president. We feel that this club is doing a great work and accomplishing much good. Miss Broma Garter spent the week-end with Miss Pearl Johnson at Bynum. Prof. and Mrs. C. L. Parker, Misses Mary Hammond, Ola Harmon, Pearl Johnson, Brona Carter and Dessie Roberts attended the teachers meeting at Pittsboro last Saturday. We had a very interesting meeting. Miss Nannie Cox, the music teacher here, spent the week-end in Greensboro. The ladies of the Methodist church will give a bazaar for the purpose of making money to buy furnishings for the parsonage. We hope all will remember this date and be present. It will be a good time to buy Christmas presents. Refreshments will be served. Rev. Mr. Biggs will be the new preacher here this year. He has not yet moved, but we are expecting him soon. Rev. N. L. Witten the former pastor here has resigned and will not hold pastoral work at present. Mr. Witten was a good preacher and a number of people here regret his departure. Mrs. Carl Phillips, of Wake Forest, spent last week with Mrs. B. N. Gilmore. Mrs. Eugene Ramsey and little daughter Eugenia, of Winston-Salem, is here and will spend two weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Burke. The Busy Bee Society gave a very enjoyable Thanksgiving program last Friday afternoon. The Young Men's Literary Society and the young ladies' Betsy Ross Society met together last Friday afternoon and enjoyed some dramatization, reproducing parts of Silas Marner. Miss Hammond was dinner guest of Misses Roberts and Harmon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. O. Barber last Sunday. Thanksgiving Day is here again and we have so many things to be thankful for. We have lots more things to be thankful for than our Pilgrim fathers had in 1620, who celebrated the first Thanksgiving Day. I wonder if we will have the real thankful spirit and gratitude to God as the Pilgrims had with their little crop of corn and game. Mrs. J. J. Harris spent the most of last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds, near Carthage. The Pittsboro High School boys played Goldston High School boys on the Goldston court last Wednesday afternoon. The score was 18 and 55 in favor of Goldston. The line-up of the game is the following: Goldston Goals Hurlley Cheek, R. F. 26 Samuel Cheek, L. F. 16 Ernest Alexander, C. 10 Edgar Alexander, L. G. 1 Harward Oldham, R. G. 2 Total 55 Pittsboro Goals Sam Beard, R. F. 7 Joe Hammock, L. F. 0 Bruce Griffin, C. 4 Brooks Snipes, L. G. 3 Rowland Goldston, R. G. 4 Total 19 Mr. Moore, one of the teachers at Siler City, refereed the game. He made an excellent referee. He was fair. No other kind should be allowed to referee a game.

UPPER CAPE FEAR NEWS

Pie Party Quite a Success—Delegates to Christian Conference New Hill, R. 2, Nov. 23.—The pie party at Gardner schoolhouse Saturday night was a success in every respect. We had a large crowd and everybody was interested. There were thirteen pies which totaled \$30.18 and a cake for the most popular lady and ugliest boy. The lucky girl was Miss Leona Holt, and unlucky Eugene Johnson. The total amount raised, clear of expense was \$46.30. Mr. J. R. Matthews sold the pies and we are confident he would make a good auctioneer. First, Mr. Matthews made a very good talk about our church, New Elam, he, himself is a Methodist. Next, he lead in a word of prayer—one of the best prayers we ever heard. We highly appreciated the interest he manifested. The proceeds will go toward paint for the new addition of New Elam church. Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Mann were in Raleigh last week visiting Mr. and Mrs. Tom Johnson. Misses Blanche and Dora Holt, Messrs. Edgar and E. H. Holt, and K. B. Riddle were in Raleigh last week on business. Messrs. W. H. and W. L. Beckwith were in Raleigh last week. Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Goodwin, Wilma, Francis and Ima Jean Goodwin spent Sunday in Sanford with Mr. and Mrs. Junie Womble. Misses Rose Sturdivant, Janice Carr and Mary Webster expect to leave Tuesday for Henderson, where they will represent New Elam Christian church at the Eastern Carolina Christian Conference. We are glad to learn Mr. K. B. Riddle has improved sufficiently to be at church Sunday. We hope he will soon be completely well. Rev. Walter Farrar will deliver a

FOUR HUNTERS, BROTHERS AVERAGE 75 YEARS

Four Brothers, Ranging in Age from 68 to 83, Enjoy Hunt It is doubtful if the incident can be paralleled—four brothers, ages 68, 74, 76, and 83, go bird hunting and get the game too. Some one sends in the item from Moncure, but fails to name the brothers. The writer of the item, however, says their wives had a job picking rabbits and all had a big dinner the next day, thankful for their good fortune. They are to go fox hunting soon, to show the youngsters how. W. P. Horton, Att'y. sermon at Ebenezer Methodist church next Sunday morning. Mr. Farrar is a young minister and a nephew of Mr. Ruffin Farrar.

Mrs. Walter Henderson Dead

Mrs. Walter Henderson, who has been afflicted for several months and has spent considerable time in hospitals, seeking alleviation of her troubles, died at the Carolina Hospital, Sanford, last Sunday, and was buried at Brown's Chapel Monday. She was a daughter of Mr. Henry C. Clegg, Sr., and was a most worthy and likable woman. She leaves her husband, seven children, father and mother, three brothers and three sisters.