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LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS

GREAT PROGRESS IN ASHEBORO SHOWN BY MANY IMPROVEMENTS DURING LAST FEW MONTHS

During the last six months, the people of the town have not been idle. There are a number of new and attractive dwellings being erected in various parts of the town. Among them are Sheriff J. W. Birkhead's home in South Asheboro, which is commodious and attractive. Mr. Birkhead's family moved into their new home the past week. Two other additions to that end of town are the bungalows now being erected by Mr. Basil F. Brittain, on the lot between Mr. T. J. Hoover and Mr. Walter Frennelli; and that of Mr. J. A. York, between the M. P. church and the residence of Mr. W. D. Stedman. All three of these homes are on South Fayetteville Street. Mr. Joe Betts has started work leveling his lot on Sunset Avenue next to Mr. H. H. Kennedy preparatory to building as soon as possible.

And, of course, we are all justly proud of the new jail which is progressing rapidly. It is to be equipped with all the modern improvements and built throughout with a view to the comfort and sanitation of the inmates. It is situated, very conveniently, to the rear of the court house.

An addition to Depot Street and the town, is almost completed, a garage which is owned by W. D. Stedman & Son.

Among the new enterprises of the town is a new and sanitary bottling plant on Church Street, owned and operated by Capt. A. E. Burns. The reporter's attention was called to the absence of flies and the sanitation of the place throughout. The plant is owned by Capt. Burns and Mr. Dennis Hardin. Dr. Moore has erected a new and attractive store building on the same street, which is operated by Mr. John Turner. George McCain, a respected colored man of Asheboro, is erecting a store building in the extreme northern part of the town.

And while we are on the subject of improvements we must not fail to mention the good work that has been done on the streets for the past ten days. It is splendid as far as it goes, and our main streets are now looking as they should be kept. The people of the town enjoy living in a clean town with attractive streets the year round just the same as during Chautauqua. Why not extend the work to the town limits? Everybody pays tax. Let us suggest that garbage cans be placed on the streets. Let's have a big town meeting after Chautauqua and make some plans, then put them into practice. Everybody seems interested now in the looks of the town and it will be a very opportune time for such a meeting.

GERMAN REPLY SECRET

The nature of the reply which Germany is to make to America is said to be secret even in Berlin yet. The Foreign Office is understood to be working on four different drafts and trying to select one that will reconcile the viewpoints of Germany and the United States.

DEATH OF MR. BINGHAM

Mr. L. G. B. Bingham, aged 79, died of heart trouble, at his home at Flora, June 9 and was buried at Canaan. Revs. Tregdon and Stedman conducting the funeral. He is survived by a wife and nine children. The children are: Messrs. Webb and Thomas Bingham, of Bombay; Green Bingham, of Denton; Mrs. Wiley Welby, of Randleman; Mrs. Nannie Welborn, of Trinity; Mrs. Wesley Mitchell of Bombay; Mrs. N. C. Ridge, and Mrs. C. G. Loflin, Florida; and Mrs. W. N. Morgan, Farmer.

Mr. Bingham was a highly respected citizen and a Christian gentleman. He had served one term in the legislature. He was a member of the M. P. church at Canaan, and will be greatly missed in the church and community.

PIG CLUB BOYS

Seven hundred and fifty boys are enrolled in the Pig Clubs of the State for 1915. Sampson county leads with 119, followed by Johnston with 106. Both counties have supervisors. There are boys from 46 counties. Randolph has 14 boys enrolled.

HUERTA DETAINED

FORMER MEXICAN DICTATOR ARRESTED BY U. S. ED STATES—RELEASED ON \$15,000 BOND

The United States Government has frustrated for the present an attempt on the part of Gen. Victoriano Huerta and his associates to launch from American territory a new revolutionary movement in Mexico.

Detention of the former Mexican dictator with General Crocco and others at El Paso last Sunday followed three months of espionage by government agents. The Department of Justice has instructed United States Attorney Camp of the western district of Texas to take into custody these men, who seemingly were engaged in violation of American neutrality laws which forbid the recruiting of men, purchase of supplies therefor, and the organizing of a military expedition on the soil of the United States to be used in operation against a people with which the country is at peace.

When assistant Attorney General Warren called to the attention of Secretary Lansing the fact that General Huerta and his supporters appeared to be ready to set on foot an armed expedition into Mexico, Mr. Lansing indicated that this was a subject for the Department of Justice to handle, and the arrests ordered.

Later, he was released on \$15,000 bond.

A PROBLEM

Trinity R. F. D., June 29.—On last Thursday evening as Mr. D. K. Myers was walking across Mr. E. C. Cranford's plantation two miles and a half south east of Trinity, he passed by a clump of bushes in which he discovered two holes about six or eight feet deep which showed that they had been dug only a few days. They were on either side of a pine tree which was cut down about six years ago. The tree marked the resting place of some people by the name of Lamar, who were the grandparents of the late Miss Hannah Lamar. Three people had been buried there more than a century. One of the holes was dug before the rain on Friday the 18th; the other after the rain.

Upon investigation of the unearthed dirt, some pieces of pine plank to which was attached some human hair, were found.

The tracks of five men were found passing through Mr. Cranford's cornfield. These tracks were evidently made during the night because several stalks of corn were broken down and at the holes, small pieces of half-burnt pine were found.

Who the diggers were and what they were after is uncertain; although it has been handed down for many generations that the Lamars hid a pot of gold on the place when they owned it. The supposition is that they were after the aforesaid pot of gold.—Subscriber.

950,000,000 BUSHELS WHEAT TO BE HARVESTED

The monthly agricultural report issued for June, estimates the greatest wheat crop the country has ever known, for the coming harvest. The report places the yield at 950,000,000 bushels, which will exceed last year's crop by over 59,000,000 bushels. The area of wheat planted is 59,417,000 acres, compared with 53,541,000 last year. The area of oats planted is 40,100,000 acres, compared with 18,442,000 last year, production estimated at 1,288,000,000 bushels.

COX-McNEILL

Mr. Hobart Cox and Miss Etta McNeill were quietly married last Tuesday, at the residence of the officiating minister, Rev. R. E. Powell. Mr. and Mrs. Cox drove down to the home of the bride's parents at Seagrove for a visit of a few days.

Mr. Cox is a son of Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Cox, of this town; while his bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex. McNeill, of Seagrove. Their friends wish them joy throughout a long life.

Thomas Lawrence, a citizen of Randleman, died Tuesday night at 9 o'clock, of tuberculosis, and was buried at the Holiness church cemetery near Worthville. He is survived by a wife and three small children.

FORESTS PURCHASED

UNITED STATES APPROVES PURCHASE OF 97,888 ACRES, PART OF WHICH IS IN NORTH CAROLINA

The purchase by the Federal Government of 97,888 acres of non-agricultural land in the White mountains of New Hampshire and the Southern Appalachians was approved by the National Forest Reservation Commission, last week, bringing the total area so far approved for national forests in the East up to more than 1,275,000 acres. This latest acquisition will involve an expenditure of \$380,000.

The largest parcel is in the Boone purchase area in North Carolina, a block of 36,386 acres, which the owners have agreed to sell for \$1.90 per acre; the next largest is in New Hampshire, a group of tracts comprising 23,518 acres, the price \$7.21 per acre. There are other smaller tracts in West Virginia, North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia and Tennessee.

The lands have been examined and appraised by the Forest Service and sales contracts will be concluded with the owners by the Secretary of Agriculture as soon as possible. Practically all of the land is mountainous, non-agricultural, and valuable only for forests. Much of it has been culled or cut-over, but several large tracts are comparatively heavy timbered. About half a million dollars now remains available of the money which Congress appropriated for carrying out the Commission's plan to acquire about 5,600,000 acres for watershed protection, timber conservation, recreation and other uses.

10,000 BALES A MONTH

The British Government has announced at its embassy at Washington an agreement with the Swedish Cotton Spinners Association for unrestricted importation into Sweden of 10,000 bales of cotton each month, if consigned to the association.

BENNETT LETTER

Glorious Fourth to be Celebrated in Great Style.

Bennett, June 28.—We have just received news that Uncle Sam and his wife and several children are now at Ore Hill, resting up and drinking Mr. Vernon water. They will spend a few days there and will arrive at Bennett on the early morning train, July 3, in full uniform of 1776. They will spend the entire day, taking part in many of the amusing stunts of the occasion. They will be met at the train by the band and escorted to the grand stand. Those who do not see them will miss a treat. Train arrives at 8:30 in the morning.

The baby show will be at 2:30 in the afternoon.

The mule race for the slowest mile on Raleigh street will be in the afternoon, under the management of Geo. Phillips. It will be one among the amusing stunts of the day. No one allowed to ride his own mule. A two-dollar bribe, the mule's dinner at the livery stable, and one pound of soda crackers will be given the owner as a prize at Pease & Company's Hardware Store.

A. D. Phillips, manager of the old relic museum in the old Union Store Building, expects to have quite a number of old-time curiosities, each labeled with the owner's name and the date made. Everything will be well cared for and promptly returned. A pair of trousers has just been received that belonged to a man who was in the War of 1812, they being his wedding trousers in 1795. They are now 120 years old, but the older a thing is, the better we like it for this occasion.

We congratulate the people of Bennett in being so fortunate as to secure one of North Carolina's noble and worthy speakers J. L. Griffin of Pittsboro, for July 3. We know it is an honor to us and the county of Chatham that we do not have to go or send abroad to get a speaker for the great and glorious Fourth of July. We have them at home.

The potato and bag races and many other amusing stunts with valuable prizes will be announced in the program on July 3. Come early and join the long parade. Arrangements will be made for all picnic baskets to be cared for in a nice room that can be locked up. LONG SHANKS.

THE STATE FAIR

RALEIGH, OCTOBER 18th TO 23rd—BIGGER, BETTER AND MORE INTERESTING THAN EVER

The North Carolina State Fair is to be held at Raleigh October 18th to 23rd, and plans for the biggest, best and most interesting fair the State has ever had are being made. The next State Fair is intended to be the means whereby some of the opportunities of the State are to be made known, and it is a matter in which all are concerned. The State Fair is not a money-making institution, but a great movement for the welfare of the whole State, and it is hoped that every man, woman and child will put forth their best efforts to make this the greatest fair held in the State. The managers can not make it a success without the co-operation of the people, to whom the fair really belongs.

Capt. E. J. Parrish, President of the North Carolina State Fair says among other things:

"Many new features are under consideration. The agricultural features will be in keeping with the plans for a bigger and better fair. We hope the manufacturers of the State will show what they are capable of doing."

"We are expecting not only a great number of county and individual agricultural exhibits, but we must have great exhibits of our vast and varied industrial products from our manufacturers. We already have assurance of some great county agricultural exhibits, also, the promise of many industrial exhibits, and of course we expect many, many more. We are looking to our cotton, tobacco, furniture and scores of other manufacturers to make creditable exhibits of their products, and to show the world what 'made in North Carolina' means. Let us show the world what North Carolina can do."

One new feature this year is that in charge of the Woman's Suffrage Clubs. They have not outlined their plans yet but it is sure they will have something worth while.

Any one wanting to know anything about making exhibits, or anything pertaining to the Fair can get such information by writing Col. J. E. Pogue, Secretary, Raleigh, N. C.

MEXICANS TALK PEACE

The leaders of the two warring factions in Mexico have agreed to discuss peace, perhaps within two weeks, announced Jose Robles, Minister of War in the Cabinet of Eduardo Gutierrez last Tuesday.

DR. WILKERSON TO EGYPT

He and Mrs. Wilkerson to Go as Medical Missionaries to the Far East.

Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Wilkerson and family, of Randleman, will leave in a few days for Egypt, where they will act as medical missionaries. Dr. Wilkerson has been remarkably successful in surgery and medicine and the people not only of Randleman, but of a large part of the county, regret to see him and family leave for such distant lands but wish them success in their worthy undertaking.

Ferree Memorial Hospital at Randleman was founded by Dr. Wilkerson.

BOOZE IN A COFFIN

A recent dispatch from Charleston, West Virginia, says:

"Waiting at a railway station was a bear and one back with three men. When the train pulled in a woman dressed in deep mourning alighted and from the baggage train a child's coffin was unloaded. In moving the casket from the baggage car, however, the bottom fell out and its contents, bottles filled with whiskey, fell with a crash to the floor and broke. The entire party was arrested by agents of State Prohibition Commissioner Blue."

"The plan was to actually bury 'the child,' as the grave had already been dug in the cemetery, and then go out at night and dig it up."

"So stringently are the prohibition laws being enforced here that it is almost impossible to smuggle liquor into the city or to sell it."

DEAD

Thomas Franklin Johnson, aged 10, son of Mr. W. A. Johnson, of Greensboro, and a grandson of T. O. Spencer, of Sophia, died June 11, and was buried at Marlboro the 13th, Rev. Amos Gregson conducting the funeral.

HEARD IN THE COUNTY

WHAT OUR TOWN CORRESPONDENT HEARS AND THINKS—ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTY.

Matrimony has its faults. But it is about the only thing that will cure a girl of giggling.

Of course Col. Roosevelt can have a seat on the Wilson band wagon. But the front seat is amply occupied by the solid and substantial figure of William H. Taft.

There is reliable authority for saying that much building is planned about town which has not been commenced. Carpenters and masons are busy with the outlook for still more work.

All the cussedness is not in the large cities. Every small town has its full share and plenty of it can be found in the country, too. Some people go to the cities to work it off.

Mr. W. T. Ledwell, of Trinity R. 1, is one of our best farmers and a farmer who farms scientifically, using every means to make his crops large.

Mr. Jesse Coletrane, of Randleman R. 1, says he is now over 93 years of age and that he has been taking his county paper ever since it was founded. Mr. Coltrane is one of those men who, though living on "borrowed time", still keeps up the interest in affairs about him and thus remains young in thought and feeling.

Mr. I. J. Fuller, of Fullers, has taken The Courier ever since it was founded and says he couldn't live without it. Mr. Fuller is a mighty good man and knows a good thing when he sees it.

Mr. S. W. Kearns, a prominent citizen, of Farmer, was in town Monday. Sheriff Birkhead and family moved into their new house last week.

Mr. A. S. Pugh, a prosperous farmer and saw mill man, of Millboro Route 1, spent a short while in town last Saturday.

It always makes a good looking man mad when he sees a pretty girl with an ugly man.

The gardens and fruit trees in and around Asheboro are yielding a goodly store of vegetables and fruit. Blackberries, too, are getting ripe and the enjoyable time of the season is approaching.

Mr. W. P. White, a traveling salesman for the Liberty Pickler Stick and Novelty Company, has just returned from a trip to the New England States and reports business good. He has been working these States for six years and says business is the best now that he has ever found it.

Our roller mills are buying a lot of new wheat. Wheat is now bringing \$1.10 per bushel.

Mrs. Tom Y. is very sick at this writing. She lives with her son, Mr. O. R. Yow, of Randleman.

Automobiles are getting to be very thick around us now as many of the people are availing themselves of the opportunity and purchasing same. Yes, say look upward and progress with the times or else you will find yourself way behind. That is the way the pedestrians and the ox-cart find it today with the automobile.

Our attention has been attracted to the rather general blight on the fruit trees, especially apple and pear trees in this county. The leaves of the trees dry up and turn black and in many cases the limb of the tree also become infected and die. It is a peculiar blight and we think the fruit crop will be appreciably affected by it. It is noticed that the blight is much worse among the unsprayed orchards.

Mrs. Catherine Yow is in very feeble health. She lives with her son, Mr. John M. Yow, on Seagrove Route 2.

It is understood that Asheboro is to have another mercantile establishment in the near future, but public announcement is withheld at present. And thus the town goes forward.

Mr. Dan Sharpe, the popular rural mail carrier on Route 3, has only one milk cow and has sold \$153.90 worth of milk since April 1st, 1914.

The worst citizen in any community is the man who violates the law for gain. He ought to be made to wear stripes if nothing else will stop him.

Among the renewals this week is Mr. Eli Freeman, of Ether. Eli says he is about ready to give the Germans a good spanking and bring the war to a close. It may be well, however, for him to wait until a while and let Italy have a little turn in punishing the obstreperous Germans before he essays to administer corrective measures.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

ITEMS OF LIVE NEWS GATHERED FROM OUR EXCHANGES AND CONDENSED IN BRIEF FORM FOR BUSY READERS.

Clifford, the 8 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Tysinger, of Thomasville, is recovering from an attack of typhoid fever.

Twelve kegs of whiskey and six gallons of beer were captured on the premises of Oscar Weavil, nine miles south of Winston-Salem last Saturday. Weavil escaped.

Mr. C. C. Pickett, of the Welcome neighborhood, near Thomasville, lost a valuable horse, burn, some grain, farm implements, etc., by lightning Wednesday of last week. Fortunately the 1915 crop of wheat and oats had not been housed.

Saturday afternoon between 3 and 4 o'clock a prismatic circle was observed around the sun. Some feared it might portend war with Germany at an early date. The Greensboro News pronounces it a corona, caused by the refraction of light by suspended moisture or fog.

Peter Battle, a negro resident of Battleboro, alighted from a train last Friday with twenty quarts of liquor in his grip, and when arrested pled that they were not his at all, that he had one bottle for "mother, father, grandmother, wife, and uncle, two aunts, a sister and 10 of his cousins."

Fire of unknown origin destroyed the home of Frank Furlough, in Edgeville, Greensboro, last Friday night, and all the household property and the family's clothes destroyed. There had been no fire in the house since the afternoon before, and the family had retired only a couple of hours before the fire was discovered.

A meeting attended by a large number of the leading business and professional men of the State was held in Raleigh last Tuesday, to perfect an organization for promoting the interests of all North Carolina, and inaugurating a systematic and thorough campaign of advertising the resources and advantages of the State.

The southern big two-in-one engine which is known as the "Submarine" among railroad men, was given a trial trip Saturday, the first since some changes have been made to its make-up since its trial trip some weeks ago. It pulled 2,750 tons from Spencer to Goldsboro on the Saturday trip. Monday she was put on a regular trip to Monroe, La.

Since the war broke out Great Britain and her allies have lost eight battleships, fourteen cruisers, four gunboats, six destroyers, ten submarines, fourteen boats and six armed merchantmen and auxiliaries. The losses of Germany and her allies consist of one battleship, twenty-three cruisers, fifteen gunboats, thirteen torpedo craft, six submarines and twenty armed merchantmen and auxiliaries.

John M. Slaton retired as Governor of Georgia at noon last Saturday and was succeeded by Nat E. Harris. There had been much demonstration by people who disapproved of his action in commuting the death sentence of Leo M. Frank, and both infantry and cavalry of the Georgia National Guard stood guard at Slaton's country home, where he went after retiring from office.

The deepest well in the world is in the German Empire in upper Silesia. It is a diamond drill hole in a coal field and is 7,950 feet deep. There is a well in the United States which is claimed to go deeper. It is 7,174 feet deep at present. This well is four miles north west of McDonald, Pa. At Derrick City, Pa., there is a well 5,826 feet deep. This is probably the second deepest in the United States.

A terrible "varmint," thought to be a Psorophora, appeared in Greensboro recently and created quite a bit of excitement. It is a cowardly little animal which will not fight in the day, and when attacked always run to cover. It will attack any person, however, at night. It is of the blood-sucking variety, and does a great deal of harm, sometimes bringing on blood poison. They are natural cannibals, and eat each other. This is the first that has ever been seen in Greensboro. The places where it has been seen will be raided.