

PHENOMENAL GROWTH ENJOYED BY FOREST CITY RECENTLY

Largest Town in Rutherford County Has Taken Many Progressive Steps, Including Construction Homes, Churches and Business Houses—New Mill Under Construction and \$100,000 School House to Be Completed by October.

(B. G. Leiper in Asheville Citizen.)

Having experienced within the past three years a really phenomenal growth, Forest City, the largest town in Rutherford county, is now taking steps toward added improvement and expansion that will include new manufacturing plants, new dwellings and a modern school building that is to be ready by the first part of October.

Situated as perhaps no other town of similar size in all Western North Carolina with regard to railroad facilities, Forest City enjoys three different railroad connections these being the Southern, Seaboard and the C. C. & O.

Fully one-third of the business houses one sees adorning the central section of the town, flanking an attractive city square that speaks volumes for the local Betterment League, were constructed within the last three years, as were many attractive homes.

Among the larger projects now in full swing is the modern two-story brick graded school which will be completed and furnished at a cost of something around \$100,000 and will accommodate about 600 of the 740 or more school children. The school enrollment has actually doubled within the past three years.

Energetic School Board in Forest City

Composing an energetic school board are the following citizens: C. S. Hemphill, J. F. Alexander, R. E. Biggerstaff, Dr. G. P. Reid and R. L. Reinhardt. The overflow from the new school will be handled in the old building until it is possible to construct a high school in the future. There are 21 teachers in the system headed by Superintendent B. L. Smith.

Ground is now being broken for a new enterprise to be known as the Forest City Oil Company, making use of cotton seed produced in the county as well as outside, extracting the oil and shipping it in the crude state to refining plants where it is prepared for use in cooking oils and as a base for lard compounds. The new plant, to cost around \$75,000, it is estimated, will be located advantageously between the Southern and Seaboard tracks toward the west end of the town. Local capital is developing this enterprise, for the most part.

The N. J. James Company are to complete within 30 days a two-story brick building centrally located which will be used for offices and storage rooms and will likewise serve as a shipping and manufacturing point for quill stands used in large numbers at cotton mills.

Forest City has several of the 15 mills operating in Rutherford county and using approximately 75,000 bales of cotton each year. In this way a large and steady pay roll is enjoyed by the town. It is estimated that the population ranges close to 3,000, although the last census recorded but 2,312.

The largest mill in the town is the Florence, producing a high grade of outing that is shipped directly to the commission house in New York which operates this plant. With 400 operatives employed and working for the most part in night and day shifts, the factory produces 45,000 pounds of outing each week, or 122,500 yards the yearly output, therefore, being 6370,000 yards of outing. The plant is one of the largest of its type in all the south, and has been in operation for 22 years, using 5,000 bales of cotton annually, about half this amount being raised in Rutherford county.

County Produces 13,000 Bales of Cotton

In this connection it is of interest to note that the county is able to produce but 13,000 bales each year as against the 75,000 bales used in all of its mills. The Florence plant houses its operatives in a neat mill village close to the central part of town. I. B. Covington, in charge of the big plant, was also selected to head the Forest City Chamber of Commerce. Located not far from Forest City

and considered really a suburb thereof, is the Alexander cotton mill named after J. F. Alexander, of Forest City, who is also the owner of the Alexander Hotel at St. Petersburg, Fla., as well as much real estate in that winter resort. A model ice plant is operated at Alexander Mill and supplies a large section of the county. A knitting mill in the heart of Forest City, employing 60 operatives, brings the total number of workers in mills up to around 700 for the section. At Alexander Mill an unusually attractive mill village is found, with a wide variety in architectural types and abundant flower gardens to add color to the scene.

One of the newer enterprises is located between Forest City and Alexander Mill, this being the Morris Bakery operated by two brothers, former service men, whose product enjoys wide distribution. The model automobile salesrooms of B. B. Doggett and of the Forest City Motor Company are also attractive additions of more recent years. Two modern bottling plants are to be found doing a thriving business.

While there has been considerable talk of a C. C. & O. station to serve Forest City, nothing definite has yet been outlined, although leading citizens feel confident this improvement will come in time. A new overhead bridge upon the National highway, just on the outskirts of the thriving Rutherford county town, will soon do away with the present dangerous grade crossing. The construction of a large number of dwelling houses has been pushed of recent years, and many are to be seen springing up on all sides.

The town and community mills in the Forest City Courier, published by C. E. and J. C. Alcock, a hustling newspaper that is rapidly gaining in circulation and gives indication of a steady future growth.

Town Is Well Supplied With Churches

Forest City is well supplied with churches, but there is a movement on foot to establish a second Baptist church since the congregation of that denomination is steadily growing. Both the Methodists and Baptist have attractive modern structures, and recently the Wesleyan denomination was made the recipient of a complete chapel through the generosity of Dr. Tom McBrayer.

Among the more pretentious dwelling houses planned in the immediate future is that of J. H. Thomas, to cost approximately \$10,000.

While the present highway from Forest City to Rutherfordton, the county seat, is well adapted to all-year travel, plans are formulated for the construction of a hard surfaced highway covering this six-mile stretch which is a link of the Wildcat Highway connecting Asheville with Charlotte, by way of Chimney Rock.

While in some quarters considerable alarm is being experienced by cotton growers over the advance of the boll weevil, of recent times making its initial appearance in Rutherford county, progressive growers find that by hard work in picking up and destroying the infested squares that drop from the plants each day they will make it possible for the cotton plants to produce a satisfactory crop in spite of this dreaded pest.

FOREST CITY AWAKENING

The above write-up of Forest City in last Sunday's edition of the Asheville Citizen is greatly appreciated by this paper and the residents of our little city. The Citizen has inaugurated a subscription campaign that is taking well here, since one of our most popular ladies, Mrs. F. I. Barber, is a leading contestant, and seems assured of winning an automobile as a prize. She has been a hard worker in every movement and always ready to give of her time and talent for the welfare of the

town and county. Her friends should get solidly behind her in her present work of striving for a prize and see that she is returned a winner.

Forest City has, indeed, shown a wonderful growth the past year and seems destined to grow on and on in keeping with the many advantages she has to offer. For climate, location and railroad facilities, Forest City is unexcelled by any city in the state. The outside world is just beginning to take cognizance of this fact.

A number of new enterprises and building activities not enumerated in the Citizen article are either under way or in contemplation. Greatest among those is the new water plant and sewerage work, which is now assured. When this project goes through, Forest City will have the best water work plant of any small city in the state.

New dwellings are going up at a rapid rate and the people seem to now be awake to the great possibilities of the city.

BIG ADDITION TO ALEXANDER'S MILL

Another indication of prosperity in this section is the building of a big addition to the Alexander Mfg. Co. plant at Alexander. A new wing is under way on the north side of the main building, which is 116 by 52 feet, two stories in height. Work is progressing rapidly and they hope to have it ready by Nov. 1st.

The new addition will increase the output of the plant very materially and call for a number of additional employees. The number of spindles will be almost doubled, increasing to 15,000. The capacity of the plant is 40,000 pounds of yarn a week and this will be increased to 60,000 pounds when the addition is completed. The mill makes knitting yarn, which is used by Eastern manufacturers in making underwear.

Alexander's Mill is one of the most ideal in the South, and this is amply reflected in the village. Everything is on a high plane and the employees are in the enjoyment of an ideal village and environment. The plant has been successful from the start.

At the head of this great enterprise are J. F. Alexander, president; J. R. Moore, sec'y-treas., and S. A. Summey, superintendent.

NEW CANDY KITCHEN

Mr. Sam Suber and a Mr. Thompson have rented the Alexander building, next door to the postoffice, and are installing an up-to-date candy kitchen. The plant will be modern in every respect and they will manufacture the very best product.

Mr. Surber comes from King's Mountain, where he amassed a fortune in the business. He is to be congratulated upon coming to our thriving city, where he will doubtless build up a great business.

GETTING READY TO BUILD FLORENCE BAPTIST CHURCH

The building committee of Florence Baptist church has the plans for the building of the new church ready, and has called a meeting for Friday night, when contractors are invited to look over the plans preparatory to making bids for the construction of the edifice. The meeting will be held at the Welfare House at 7:30 p. m.

The new building is to cost about \$6,000, and will be erected on a beautiful plot at the South end of Powell street. Construction work is to begin at an early date.

Rev. C. C. Matheny will be pastor of the new church. The building committee is composed of Rev. Matheny, chairman; I. B. Covington, G. R. Early, H. L. Henderson, C. L. Proctor, E. G. Flack. Mr. E. G. Flack is treasurer of the building fund.

K. P. MEETING

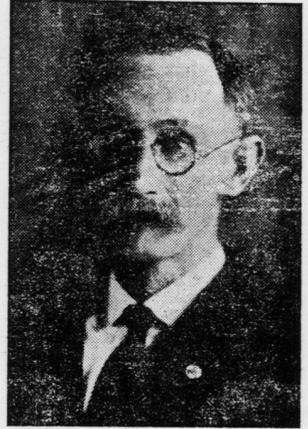
There was a good attendance at the K. P. Hall Monday night. Messrs. John Reis and Walter Wilkie were given the rank of Esquire, and Mr. J. W. Long, Jr., the rank of Page.

On next Monday night the ranks of Esquire and Knight will be conferred. All members and visiting members are cordially invited to attend.

FOREST CITY LODGE K. P. GETS SILK FLAG

Has Largest Per Cent Gain in Membership—J. C. Harrill Elected Grand Inner Guard.

Forest City Lodge, No. 82, Knights of Pythias, made a wonderful showing at the fifty-first Convention of the Grand Lodge, held at Wilmington, June 13-15. Our local lodge had the honor of winning a silk flag for the largest per cent of gain in membership, and also won a place in the list of grand officers.



J. C. HARRILL

Mr. J. C. Harrill, K. R. S., Forest City Lodge, attended the convention as a delegate, and was unanimously elected grand inner guard. The selection is a good one. Mr. Harrill is an enthusiastic, hard working member of Forest City lodge, and is very popular in K. P. circles. His good works augmented by that of every member, resulted in Forest City lodge showing the greatest gain in percentage of membership of any lodge in the state in a total of 247 competing lodges.

BUSINESS GOOD IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY

The editor dropped in to see Mr. Paul Reinhardt, clever manager at Efrid's, Tuesday morning with the view of getting an ad for this week's issue. The store was full of customers and Mr. Reinhardt confessed that while he wanted an ad, he just didn't have time to take up the matter. We were gratified, as well as surprised, to find them so busy at such an early hour.

Other merchants, also, have been busy, and Forest City is enjoying a very prosperous Summer season.

Going out into the county we find business good in every town. All of which speaks well for Rutherford, one of the state's best and most prosperous counties.

DEATH OF MRS. LOU HARRILL

Mrs. Lou Harrill died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. B. E. Harrill, Bostic, route 2, Wednesday of last week. She had been ill for several months, and while her death is deeply regretted, it was not unexpected. She was a sister of Mr. J. E. McFarland and Miss Kate McFarland, of Forest City.

Mrs. Harrill was twice married, her first husband being Mr. William Bridges. Of their union one son survives, Mr. Arthur Bridges. Her second husband, Dr. J. B. Harrill, has been dead several years, leaving two children—Mr. G. S. Harrill, of Charlotte, and Mrs. B. E. Harrill of Route 2, Bostic, at whose home she died. Mrs. Harrill was 77 years old. The funeral service was conducted by Dr. Albert Johnsin, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Charlotte, assisted by Rev. Mr. McKinnon. The relatives have the sympathy of many friends in their bereavement.

B. Arp Lowrance will be glad to see any one interested in a nice lot for building a home. He will spend all of this week in Forest City.

B. B. Doggett sells Fords.

BIG REUNION AT BOILING SPRINGS LARGELY ATTENDED

The report on the Boiling Springs reunion was delayed last week, reaching us after the Courier had gone to press.

On July 18th, at the instigation of Mr. S. C. Jones, author of the splendid history of the Hamrick family, that family together with the McSwain and Greene families held a huge reunion at Boiling Springs.

The church was thrown open and Rev. A. C. Irwin was asked to act as chairman. After brief devotional exercises, Prof. Huggins extended a hearty welcome and the speaker of the day, Attorney Fred D. Hamrick, of Rutherfordton, delivered a timely and patriotic address using as his subject, "Our Folks." Mr. Jones gave a brief account of the great work required to compile his wonderful history of the Hamrick family.

Every one seemed to have brought dinner, as 110 feet of table was loaded to the point of taxation.

In the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Jones sang a few old songs, and Prof. B. Ray of Chesnee, S. C., led in a splendid song service.

Boiling Springs, July 28.—The corn club boys and canning girls, under the leadership of Mr. B. E. Lawrence and Mrs. Wallace, our County Demonstration Agents, are holding a very joyful encampment at the time of this writing. We are glad for both these events to have taken place in our little village.

A few days ago there was hatched by a hen, belonging to Mrs. J. D. Huggins, a chicken with four legs and four feet. It is still living.

DEATH OF MISS McMURRY

(Special to Courier)

Rutherfordton, Aug. 1.—The news Saturday morning that Miss Johnnie Lee McMurry was dead caused universal sorrow in Rutherfordton. Many friends had anxiously watched for weeks at her bedside, where she had borne with unusual fortitude intense suffering, hoping that her young life might be spared but, an allwise Heavenly Father, with "His Everlasting Arms" beneath her frail body bore her spirit to its Eternal Home at 3 o'clock a. m. Saturday.

From the time, nearly fourteen years ago, that, as a tiny mite of humanity, she came to bring consolation to a heart burdened with a great sorrow, until the day of her going away she has been a source of constant joy and inspiration to her devoted mother. A child of gentle and sweet manner she endeared herself to all who came in contact with her. Not only was she loved by girls of her own age but all, from babies to grown ups, were attracted by her unselfishness and desire to please. Ever willing to sacrifice her own wishes for the pleasure of others she was included in plans for social enjoyment, and many of her playmates will miss her genial presence, and grieve that she walks no more among us.

Johnnie Lee was the only child of Mrs. Tessie Rudisill McMurry. She joined the Methodist church several years ago and was a faithful attendant at the services. Especially did she love her Sunday School and was rarely ever absent. Her class from the Sunday school and other intimate friends carried the beautiful floral offerings, among them one given by the Sunday School class of which she was a member.

The funeral was conducted from the late residence by Rev. N. E. Crowder, assisted by Rev. M. A. Adams, of the Baptist church, on Sunday morning, after which the beautiful white casket containing all that was earthly of this fair young maid, was borne to Palm Tree cemetery, Cleveland county, and placed beside the grave of her father there to await the Resurrection Morn.

In addition to her mother, there survives two aged grandmothers and many other loving relatives to mourn their loss.

MONEY TO LOAN—To North Carolina farmers at 6 per cent. Why pay 8 per cent? J. Will Proctor, Asst. Mgr. Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., Lincolnton, N. C. 42-1t.

THE WATER AND SEWERAGE BONDS BRING PREMIUMS

Purchased by Farmers Bank and Trust Co.—Work to Begin Soon on Splendid New Water Plant and Sewer Extension.

Sealed bids were opened last Tuesday for the sale of \$65,000 city bonds for the new water plant and sewerage extension. That Forest City is a good risk was demonstrated by the spirited bidding on the bonds, which were sold to the Farmers Bank & Trust Co., of this city. The bonds brought \$66,500, a premium of \$1,500 and with accrued interest from July 1 to delivery of the bonds. It is gratifying to local pride that the home bank outbid some of the strongest financial institutions in the country. This bank, with its more than one million of resources, has done much for the advancement of the town and county.

The bidding was as follows: Farmers Bank, \$66,500; N. S. Hill & Co., Cincinnati, \$66,411; Hancock Bond Co., Cincinnati, \$66,368; Breed, Elliott & Harrison, Cincinnati, \$65,200; Bray Bros., Greensboro, \$65,045; Rosensteel Co., Cincinnati, \$66,010; Southern, Barry Co., New Orleans, \$66,337; W. K. Terry Co., Toledo, \$65,019; Durfee Miles Co., Toledo, bid for water bonds only, \$51,310.

Work on the water plant and sewer extension will begin at an early date. Mr. R. P. Bishop, of the Carolina Engineering Co., Wilmington, will begin the survey work in a few days.

Forest City is to have a new \$50,000 water plant, and \$15,000 is to be expended upon sewer extension work. When completed the water plant will be one of the finest in the country, and will add much to the future growth of our fine city.

MR. JOHN R. SMITH DIES

(Special to Courier.)

Henrietta, Aug. 2.—Mr. John R. Smith died at Harris Sunday afternoon at 3:10 o'clock. He had been suffering from high blood pressure for more than two years, and had been confined to his bed more than nine weeks previous to his death. He endured his suffering with great patience and died rejoicing in the faith of his Lord.

Mr. Smith was forty-seven years of age. He had been in the service of the government nearly sixteen years, being a rural mail carrier. He was a veteran of the Spanish-American war, a member of the Junior Order, Henrietta Lodge, serving as financial secretary for a number of years. He was loved and respected by all who ever knew him, very popular with the patrons of his route.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Webb Smith, his father, Mr. D. M. Smith, who is eighty-four years of age, and seven brothers—T. C. Smith, Henrietta; J. M. Smith, Rutherfordton; A. W. Smith, Woodward, Okla.; Fred F. J. Boyd, Edgar and Ralph Smith, all of Gastonia, and one sister, Mrs. W. P. Connor, of Gastonia.

Mr. Smith was a faithful member of Sulphur Springs church. Funeral services were held at Providence M. E. church Monday, July 31, at 3 p. m., conducted by his pastor, Rev. Smith, assisted by Dr. Adams, of Rutherfordton, and Rev. Simpson, of Harris. The great love and esteem in which he was held was manifested by the great throng of people from the surrounding country.

BIG PICNIC AT THERMAL CITY TODAY

A number of Masons from Forest City and the county will attend the big Masonic picnic at Thermal City today. This will be a great day for Masonry and good fellowship, with everything provided for the pleasure of the day.

Rev. and Mrs. W. L. Dawson and daughter, Ruby, are visiting friends here. Mr. Dawson was a former pastor of the Forest City Methodist churches and he and his family are very popular here. Mr. Dawson preached in the Methodist church Sunday morning.