

COUNTY-WIDE PLAN OF FARM DIVERSIFICATION

BIG MASS MEETING TO BE HELD IN FOREST CITY TUESDAY, JAN. 4.

Farmers and Business Men to Meet With Leaders at Ki- wanis Hall at 10:30 A. M.

There will be a mass meeting of farmers and business men at the Kiwanis Hall, Forest City, Tuesday, 10:30 a. m., January 4, 1927. To this meeting every farmer in Rutherford County is invited and urged to attend. Following the launching of this diversified farming program group meetings will be held at various places throughout the county to emphasize the importance of substituting other profitable crops in connection with cotton production. Leaders feel that the campaign is most urgent in order to re-establish farming in this county on a profitable basis.

Mr. E. S. Millsaps, district agent, Farm Demonstration Work, Statesville, N. C., will make an address on a "Better Balanced Agriculture."

No effort will be made to turn farmers away from cotton entirely. Our farmers know how to raise cotton and are equipped for its culture, but at the same time, they are consumers as well as producers, so the main effort will be to drive home the importance of having more than one money crop. Cotton is necessarily one of the two. The other money crop might be feed for livestock, gardens, poultry, dairy products or pork.

The plan of this reduction is to accomplish same by an additional acreage of feed and food crops and more livestock raised to consume these crops. This will necessarily mean a smaller acreage in cotton.

This plan is one adopted by the State of North Carolina and every cotton growing county in the State will put on this program. Dr. E. C. Brooks, president of the State College, is chairman for North Carolina. Each county has appointed a committee to help put this program over.

A committee for Rutherford County is as follows: J. F. Weathers, Forest City, chairman; J. H. Thomas, president of Farmers Bank & Trust Company; J. L. Taylor, Citizens Bank; M. O. Dickerson, Commercial Bank; G. W. Rollins, W. G. Harris, G. E. Morgan, county commissioners; O. C. Erwin, Rutherford County Fair; A. B. Bushong, D. H. Sutton, agricultural teachers; J. W. Matheny, cotton oil mill and fertilizer salesman; Fred D. Hamrick, Rutherford County Club; R. E. Price, C. S. Wilson and C. E. Alcock, editors of county papers; B. D. Wilson, Rutherford Kiwanis Club; J. M. Edwards, Forest City Kiwanis Club; O. J. Holler, Farmers Federation; Van Hampton, Richard Ledbetter, J. M. Walzer, A. G. Hamrick, Geo. Blanton, Joe Allen, Plato Gettys, Douglas Melton, Dewey Long, Joe F. Groves, J. H. Walker and James Burgess, farmers; C. O. Jenkins, manufacturer and farmer; F. E. Patton, county agent; C. S. Royster, superintendent of County Home.

Each member of this committee is urged to be present at the meeting Tuesday and see that the farmers of his community are there also. Immediately after the meeting this committee will meet and lay plans whereby the program as presented by Mr. Millsaps may be carried out in Rutherford County.

It is important that our farmers attend this meeting, for here they will learn of the only way in which they can hope to gain financial aid for next year's crops.

Eight Farming Points

A successful campaign of this nature is declared to be the most important and far-reaching movement ever launched in Rutherford County. Everybody is directly or indirectly affected by the price of cotton and

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BUSINESS MEN TO BACK FARMERS

Subscribe Liberally in Initial Move to Raise Money for Farmers Federation.

That the business men are fully awake to the difficulties confronting the farmers of the county and willing to help in the emergency, was exemplified at a meeting following the regular session of the Kiwanis Club Monday night, when, in less than ten minutes, \$6,000 was subscribed in stock in the Farmers Federation in their new drive to raise sufficient funds to carry on the business in the new year. Only a few of the business men were present, but they were enthusiastic in their support of the Farmers Federation and fully cognizant of the fact that the Federation will lead the farmers from the distress of present conditions by teaching diversification and providing a market for the farmers' products.

The Federation has just started a drive to raise \$25,000 in the county to finance the warehouse at Spindale. From the success of the preliminary meeting, the promoters are sanguine of reaching the goal. Business men will subscribe to this stock liberally, knowing that when they do, they will be helping themselves eventually, for the placing of the farmers in a prosperous condition will make all business prosperous.

Among the Federation men present at the Kiwanis meeting were Messrs. J. G. K. McClure, Zeb Greene, O. J. Holler, Thos. F. Byrd and B. A. Buff. Several made inspiring talks. Committees were appointed and the drive for stock subscriptions is now under full headway and meeting with gratifying success.

With all the work planned by the Federation under way this coming year, backed by the farmers of the county raising the things they can dispose of, the establishment of chicken hatcheries, building of potato curing houses, etc., Rutherford County will soon come into its rightful heritage of one of the best agricultural counties in the State. We have every requisite. Push and grit and co-operation will spell success.

Supt. Clyde A. Erwin and Mr. McClure made inspiring talks at the Kiwanis Club.

CITY HALL NOTES

Mayor Lowrance entertained for some of the police officers of the county at his home Christmas night at a delightful three course dinner. Among the guests were Sheriff W. C. Hardin, Curtis Hardin, Chief Houser, Rutherfordton; B. E. Putnam, Garret Edwards, C. R. Price, A. A. Price, M. E. Fox, Martin Greene, Broad Greene, B. A. Stalaker, Joel D. Pierce, Dr. A. C. Dun-can. The courses consisted of oysters, chicken, ham, cakes, and all accessories. The writer is sorry to have missed this jovial supper and is also anxious to know what "Lace Coffee" is. First opportunity we shall ask Chief Price.

Many comments have been heard on all sides complimentary of the excellent manner in which the local police handled the crowds during the holiday rush. Only a few minor arrests were made and no drunkenness was in evidence.

Ever alert to maintain law and order, a good one is told on two of the local officers who thought they had flushed a crap game in the woods Sunday afternoon. Noticing some parties on their knees, the sleuths quietly slipped up behind them and were almost dumfounded upon learning that they were engaged in prayer. The officers were asked to join in, but decided that their morning worship had been sufficient for the day.

The Young Matron's Circle will meet Friday afternoon, Dec. 31, at 3:45 o'clock with Mrs. U. S. Courtney.

ON THE STROKE OF TWELVE



The New Year of Our Lord

Let bygones be bygones,
Wha's huffed at anither
Dinna clout the auld days
And the new anes thegither;
Wi' the fauts and the failings
O' past years be dune,
Wi' a grip o' fresh freen'ship
A New Year begin.

So sang a Scot. Beneath the burr of his Highland tongue the meaning of some of the words may be obscured, but the meaning of the verse as a whole is plain enough.

Let bygones be bygones. The year 1926 goes to join in history the years that have gone before. Throw away the hatchet along with the 1926 calendar.

With the faults and the failings of past years be done. This is another year.

Begin it with a grip of fresh friendship. The Courier feels very grateful for the support given during the year 1926—in fact, for the whole of the five years we have been with you.

Let us all pull together with a spirit of fellowship and co-operation in the New Year just dawning.

Forest City and Rutherford County have a great future, but the fullest measure of success will come with more force when all pull together for advancement of town and county.

Get in line with your newspaper and work and plan for greater things in 1927.

MR. CALVIN BLANTON DEAD

Spindale, Dec. 29.—Mr. Calvin Blanton, 53 years of age, died at the home of his brother here, Mr. W. H. Blanton, early Tuesday morning, following an extended illness.

About two and a half years ago he was stricken with paralysis and has been confined to his bed since that time. His condition grew worse, until the end came Tuesday.

Funeral services were conducted from Shiloh Baptist Church Wednesday at 2 o'clock, with Rev. B. M. Hamrick in charge of the service.

He is survived by two sons, Mr. Carl W. Blanton, who is salesman for the American Tobacco Co., in Gainesville, Ga., and Mr. Clyde Blanton, of Avondale. Two brothers, Messrs. W. H. and Ayden Blanton, of Spindale, survive, also two sisters, Mrs. Sallie Wood, of Spindale, and Mrs. Eddie Hester, of Shiloh section.

FIVE COURSE DINNER

Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Bostic entertained with a five course dinner party on Sunday evening to the following young people, who were guests in their home for the Christmas holidays: Miss Ruth Moore, of Columbia University, New York; Miss Dorothy Bostic, of Brenau College, Gainesville, Ga.; Mr. Edward Kimbrel, of Fort Mill, S. C.; Dr. W. C. Bostic, Jr., of Wheeling, W. Va.; Mr. William Moss, of Wake Forest College; Miss Margaret Bostic. The home was beautifully decorated with the season's colors, potted flowers and holly, and made a charming background for the young ladies and young men present.

ROBBINS-LAUGHTER

Spindale, Dec. 22.—Mr. Howard Robbins, of this place and Miss Reba Laughter, of Hendersonville, were married in Spartanburg, before Magistrate Burton, Tuesday. The wedding was a surprise to the large number of friends of this popular young couple.

Mr. and Mrs. Garland Robbins accompanied the couple to Spartanburg, being the only witnesses to the ceremony.

Mrs. Robbins is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Laughter, of Hendersonville. She was at one time a resident of Spindale and is well known here.

Mr. Robbins is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Robbins, of Spindale. For several years he has been engaged in the mercantile business with his father here, and has made a large number of friends, who are congratulating him in this new venture. Mr. Robbins is also a member of the Spindale Band and has a number of friends in that organization who wish him success.

Mr. and Mrs. Robbins are now at home in Spindale.

BASKETBALL

The Spindale Athletic Club will play the Pacolet, S. C., Y. M. C. A. Basketball team at Spindale Friday evening, at 8 o'clock. The Pacolet team were the Y. M. C. A. champions of upper South Carolina last year, and a good game is assured.

On Saturday evening Spindale plays the Marion Athletic Club at Spindale.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Grenell, of Hot Springs, N. C., who spent a few days here with Mrs. Grenell's brother, Mr. W. L. Brown and Mrs. Brown, returned to their home Wednesday.

FOREST CITY MAN SERIOUSLY HURT

Mr. Clyde Holland Injured Monday When Auto Hit Wagon at West End.

Mr. Clyde Holland, son of Mr. C. M. Holland, of Forest City, was seriously injured in an automobile accident Monday night about 7 o'clock, just above Weir's store, at West End.

Mr. Holland was returning to Forest City, when he ran into a wood wagon, being driven by a Mr. Casey, of Cherry Mountain street, of this place. Mr. Holland received injuries in the chest, also a blow above the right eye. He was removed to the Rutherford Hospital immediately after the accident, and is in a critical condition. Reports from there this morning are to the effect that he is weaker today than yesterday, and his chance for recovery is doubtful. A friend, Mr. Frank Adams, was with Mr. Holland at the time of the accident, and received a broken arm.

Mr. Holland is about 25 years old, and is well-known in Forest City. He holds a position with the Forest City Oil Mill. He has a number of friends who sympathize with him, and wish him a quick recovery.

The wagon was not displaying lights. This is an evil that should be remedied by the lawmakers in the coming session of legislature. At present there is no law to compel horse-driven vehicles to display lights after dark. Such vehicles are a menace to their drivers and to the drivers of other vehicles. It is difficult, almost impossible, to see a buggy or wagon when passing another auto, if they are directly in front of one of the cars.

THE ANNUAL STUDENTS' SERVICE

At the First Baptist Church next Sunday morning the annual students' service will be held. The college men and women at home for the holidays and also the students and teachers in the city schools are invited to be the guests of the church next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. The pastor's subject will be "The Road to Manhood." It is the desire of the church and pastor to make this service of real benefit to Forest City's fine student body whether they are still in our schools at home or in college and just home temporarily. The church is glad to give recognition and any aid possible to our students. The public cordially invited to worship with us.

WOMAN'S CLUB

The regular monthly meeting of the Citizenship department will be held on Monday evening, January 3, 1927, at 7:45 o'clock, in the Kiwanis Club room. Let's have a good attendance and start the New Year off with pep and each one resolve to be present at each meeting of the year, so that we may accomplish greater things for the upbuilding of our community.

Literary Club, division 2, will hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, January 6, at the home of Mrs. R. E. Biggerstaff. All members are urged to be present. Those who have not paid their dues, please come prepared to do so.

HIS BROTHER KILLED ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Mr. W. C. Lattimore, of Forest City, received a telegram Christmas Day conveying the sad intelligence that his brother, Dr. R. L. Lattimore, had been killed by a policeman at his home town of Pineville, Ky. No further particulars were sent. A later telegram said the burial would be on Tuesday. Mr. Lattimore could not make the trip, and as yet has not received full particulars of the tragedy. His brother, Dr. Lattimore, has resided in the Kentucky town for the past 30 years and was a man of prominence. He leaves a wife and two children.

MRS. BRIDGES CLINGS TO THEORY OF MURDER

WIFE OF WILLIE BRIDGES BELIEVES HER HUSBAND MET FOUL PLAY.

County Officers Reject Mur- der Theory and Believe Bridges Is Alive.

Mrs. Willie G. Bridges, interviewed in her home on East Main street, Thursday morning by a Courier reporter, stated that she was still firm in her belief that her husband, who mysteriously disappeared Sunday night, has been murdered and his body cast into the waters of Lake Lure.

"There is no reason in the world why my husband should have deserted his family," said the distressed woman, with tears in her eyes. "He has been a devoted husband and father, and I cannot but believe that he has met with foul play."

In an interview with Sheriff Hardin early Thursday morning, he was inclined to believe that Mr. Bridges was not dead, but was possibly somewhere in Spartanburg. He and his deputies have given up the search. He also stated that on the day of Mr. Bridges' disappearance someone called at the store of Mr. Barzille Ledbetter and bought a cap, stating that he wished to go to Spartanburg, and that the one that he was wearing was too dirty to wear, as he was going on the 'bus.

When Mr. Bridges' pocketbook, which had been left with the car, was later shown to Mr. Ledbetter, he stated that it was without doubt the same one that the stranger had when he paid for the cap.

A Mr. Yeager, a taxi driver of Chimney Rock, carried a stranger to Spartanburg on the day of Mr. Bridges' disappearance, and from his description of him, Sheriff Hardin believes that the person was Mr. Bridges.

Rutherford County's greatest mystery is yet unsolved. While police officials scout the theory of murder, it will be seen from the interview with the wife of Mr. Bridges that she and the family are firm in their belief of foul play.

Story of the Disappearance

The abandoned automobile of W. G. Bridges, who was connected with a local filling station, was found in the Lake Lure section Monday morning.

All efforts to find trace of the man, who left his home Sunday to go to Chimney Rock, have proved fruitless.

A Ford coupe, which Bridges hired from Lee Philbeck to make the trip, was found on a road between the main highway and the dam. A rear wheel on which there was a flat tire had been jacked up and there were tire tools on the ground. An overcoat and a cap, which were later identified as belonging to Bridges, were lying across a front fender.

Bridges left home with between \$80 and \$100 in his possession, according to his wife, who is almost hysterical and is convinced that her husband has been murdered.

Sheriff W. C. Hardin and his deputies have searched the vicinity and the banks of the lake for trace of the missing man and are skeptical of the murder theory.

In addition to the overcoat and the cap, the officers found two pennies on the running board of the car. The cap had been purchased Sunday afternoon from Barzille Ledbetter, the proprietor of a general store, at Chimney Rock.

Bridges and his wife have two small children. His father, Bert Bridges, was widely known in this section before his death and at one time was county superintendent.

Mr. R. E. Price, editor of the Rutherford County News, was taken to the Rutherford Hospital Wednesday, for treatment.