

## CORN CRACKER ON JOHN FOX, JR.

Gives Resume of Fox's "Trail of the Lonesome Pine" and Sidelights

People who write for publication, are actuated by different motives. Many of them are emotionless matter-of-fact enough to warm the cockles of the heart of the most pronounced Gradgrind. Gradgrind was a stupid, materialistic creation of Charles Dickens who would have interpreted a flight of humorous fancy as a piece of sad news; and in that he would have been sustained by his commonplace and provincial uncles, aunts and cousins. Such people are hell-bent-for-leather in quest of "news";—and if they try to write they are pronounced news-grubbers,—and denounce any flights of fancy as a price of sad news and of dangerous tendency. Their turgid productions are composed largely of biographies of kinspeople who never read anything and were never fifty miles from home. A rambling regard for dry detail and subject-matter of no interest except to inbred ignoramus, is regarded as a literary masterpiece by all the anointed cousins but appeals to nobody of sense and information. Any departure from this stupid style, is a slimy slander on the birth of Abraham Lincoln, or a mendacious attack on the character of Washington and a glorification of some selfish and cowardly Tory.

Among popular Southern authors was the lamented John Fox, Jr. He was a Kentuckian, and was familiar with the cause and effects of mountain feuds. His literary masterpieces are, "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine,"—and "The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come" is a thrilling account of a supposed waif who finally proved that he was a scion of Kentucky aristocracy and exemplified the superiority of good blood by a bright and vigorous intellect and by a sublime and exalted courage. Abraham Lincoln proved the same traits and for the same reason. A scrub will show his snobbery by truckling to the rich; while a real hero admires true nobility,—money or no money.

In the "Trail of the Lonesome Pine," a Kentucky faction and a Virginia contingent had fought for perhaps 50 years, because the Falins ridiculed a Tolliver boy for wearing patched breeches. Result, a bloody battle and many funerals. This meant a war of extermination between the forces, "Devil Jud Tolliver," a fearless Kentucky giant, was leader of the Kentucky forces; while "Red Buck Falin; marshalled the other line of warriors. The story begins with the advent of John Hale, a graduate of Centre College and a civil engineer who was riding on The Trail of the Lonesome Pine,—and began fishing in a mountain stream near the home of Jud Tolliver. Of course he was a "furriner", and probably inimical to the still of Jud Tolliver. The sharp-eyed surveyor saw "June" peeping from mountain laurel and engaged her in conversation. Devil Jud appeared with his deadly Winchester and an expanse of whiskers. He issued the mountain challenge as to who the furriner was, where he came from and where he was going. Hale was non-committal and rather out-spoken. Jud prepared to fire when June, the bright and beautiful daughter of the feud chieftain,—told that his name was "Jack" and he had no gun. If he had no gun he was not a raider; and Jud invited him to dinner and gave him a jolt of "white lightning." Hale found a vein of cannel coal on land of Devil Jud, secured capital to build a railroad, develop coal mines around Big Stone Gap, sent June to school; and established law and order at Big Stone Gap. But her uncle ruthlessly murdered a policeman; was apprehended, tried and executed by efforts of Hale. This temporarily alienated June and Hale.—Devil Jud was seriously wounded by a Falin; and later, Devil Jud and June went to Missouri where Jud died. Hale and June met at "Lonesome Pine" renewed their plighted troth, were happily married and lived "unhappily" ever after.

But Devil Jud Tolliver is not dead so you would notice it. He has a roving commission something like Buck Fanshaw and Wild Bill Hickok in mountains of Kentucky to keep the peace by blowing out the brains of undesirable citizens. He has 35 notches on stock of his gun, and that tallies with the mounds in his private graveyard. He says that enemies have told he killed 38, which is a d—d lie and preys on his mind. He has reached the adolescent age of 22,—and had he not been maligned might have reached a ripe old age. The autograph that adorns his notes and checks is not Jud Tolliver; but

## MIDWAY NEWS

Forest City, R-3, Jan. 25, Mrs. John Young and daughter spent Sunday with Mrs. C. L. Cash.

Mrs. Daniel and son spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Daniel.

Mr. Ed Thompson spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Long at Rutherfordton.

Mrs. S. L. Thompson, of Cliffside visited Mrs. Jay Cole last Sunday.

**Honor Roll of Pleasant Grove School**  
Hubert Bridges, Louise Matheny, Rush Cole, Arlan Baily.  
Second grade—Vonnice Crowder.

I don't propose to tell what it is. Facing guns in hand of "Devil Jud Tolliver" does not agree with my complexion.

CORN CRACKER.  
Shelby, R-5, Jan. 26.

## EN ROUTE TO MARRY WHEN ARRESTED ON DRUNK

"Well, pay the costs and go on up to Caroleen and get married—but don't stop over any more en route," was in substance what Judge John P. Mull told a defendant in county court at Shelby Monday morning.

The trial, which ended when the defendant, a white man of Maiden, Catawba county, paid the costs brought out an unusual story in the court room. Sunday afternoon late one of the motor busses plying to and through Shelby halted at the local bus station. The Maiden man with a drink or two more than his legs would operate under was arrested by city officers for being drunk. Sunday night he was the guest of Cleveland county, being lodged in the county jail. In court Monday the officials naturally expected just another one of those drunk stories, but they heard something else. According to the de-

pendant, he was en route to Caroleen to get married. Questioning on the part of Solicitor Gardner brought out that the man had recently been running upon his future spouse. No mention was made of Leap Year, but stated that when arrested here he was en route back to Caroleen to go to work and intended during the week to go over in Gaffney and get married. Coming over on the bus, however, he felt his drinks begin kicking and was out taking a little air when the officers picked him up and finished the process in the city cooler.—Shelby Star.

Poultry club member from Catawba, Anson and Lincoln counties are exhibiting 18 selected birds at the Madison Square Garden Poultry Show this week.

Miss Rachel Corwen of Duluth, Minn., was arrested for stealing from her employer to buy flowers for a friend's funeral.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE TO BE HELD MARCH 6-11

Methodist Sunday School Workers to Meet in Alexander This Year

The week of March 6 to 11th has been designated as the time for holding the annual Sunday School training institute for the Methodist churches of Rutherford county.

Plans for the Institute were made at a meeting of the pastors, Sunday school superintendents and departmental heads of the Sunday school with Mr. O. V. Woosley, of Lexington, field secretary for the Western North Carolina conference.

The institute will be held in the school building at Alexander. From the interest manifested at a preliminary meeting held at the Methodist

## COUNTY FAIR OFFICERS

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Rutherford County Fair Association held at Spindale Tuesday afternoon, January 23, Mr. Geo. W. Rollins was elected president to succeed Mayor Chas. Z. Flack of Forest City, Mr. Grant Allen of Union Mills, was elected vice-president; Mr. David Lindsay executive secretary with Mr. F. C. Kinzie, secretary-treasurer. All the former board of directors were re-elected for this year. The treasurer made a report. Plans were discussed to make the 1928 fair the best in the history of the county.

A. B. Chester and his bride of Skipton, Eng., are taking their honeymoon trip on horseback through Yorkshire.

church in Forest City, the training school this year will be the best of any year since the first one was held in the county.

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