

LOWER TAX RATE IF UTILITY PLANTS ARE SOLD

Former Banker Dies After Long Illness

JAMES HINER THOMAS CLAIMED BY DEATH THURSDAY MORNING

Stricken With Paralysis in July.—Buried in Kentucky Saturday by Masons.

Leaves Large Sums To Banks

Mr. J. H. Thomas, late official of the Farmers Bank and Trust Company, left a large sum of money, in the form of insurance policies to the banks of this county. The Farmers Bank was carrying a policy of \$60,000 on the life of Mr. Thomas. In addition to this he assigned a policy of \$50,000 payable to this bank; a policy of \$30,000 payable to the Rutherford County Bank & Trust Company; one policy of \$10,000 payable to the Chimney Rock Trust Company and \$30,000 to the Mooresboro Bank, at Mooresboro—a total of \$180,000 which will be collected by those four institutions. A policy was left to Mrs. Thomas, also a policy which will pay \$150 per month during Mrs. Thomas' life.

James Hiner Thomas, former president of the Farmers Bank & Trust Co., and who before losing his health was one of Rutherford county's biggest business men, died at his home here last Thursday an effort to regain his health. Mr. Thomas went to Florida and returned to his home here slightly improved. On July 24th Mr. Thomas was suddenly stricken with paralysis and from then until his death last Thursday he was confined to his bed and could talk but very little and that was almost a whisper.

Funeral services were held at his home Friday afternoon at 2 p. m. with Rev. M. F. Moores, pastor of the First Methodist church, in charge. The Spindale Quartette, composed of Messrs. G. B. Howard, D. C. Cole, T. O. Hendrix and J. W. Starnes, had charge of the music and they rendered three selections in a most beautiful manner. At the beginning of the service they sang, "It Is Not Death to Die," after which Mr. Moores read two passages from the Bible. Mr. Thomas had been in ill health for about two years, his condition becoming serious in January of this year. Inauguration of Scripture. A beautiful prayer was offered by Mr. Moores for the family and other relatives of the deceased. The Spindale Quartette then sang, "Sometime We'll Understand."

In glowing words Rev. Moores paid a wonderful tribute to Mr. Thomas, telling the great characteristics which he possessed, his wonderful personality, his great business ability and last but not least, his democratic friendship for all. Mr. Thomas did not extend his friendship to only the big man, but the humblest and lowest could call him friend, stated Mr. Moores. He also told of Mr. Thomas' Christian life and how interested he was in the work of his church.

Mr. B. L. Smith, formerly of Forest City, but who is now superintendent of the Shelby schools, then spoke. Mr. Smith also told of some of the fine things in Mr. Thomas' life with which he was familiar, saying that he had known him for twelve years and that never in all that time had he, by any act of Mr. Thomas, any cause to think any less of him. He told of Mr. Thomas' great sympathy for the unfortunate and those in sorrow, saying that he had often remarked on this great characteristic of the deceased. At the conclusion of Mr. Smith's talk the Spindale Quartette, in closing the service, sang, "Does Jesus care."

The body of the deceased was then sent to Asheville and placed aboard the Carolina Special of the Southern Railroad and shipped to the home of Mrs. Thomas, at Pleasureville, Ky. Services were held there Saturday by the Pleasureville Lodge No. 410, A. F. & A. M., which gave him a Masonic burial as a courtesy to the Forest City Lodge No. 381, A. F. & A. M.

Active pallbearers for the service were: R. L. Reinhardt, J. A. Dennis, G. C. King, E. G. Abernathy, W. L. Hicks, and F. I. Barber.

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SUCCUMBS



JAMES HINER THOMAS.

Party To Honor Chairman Mull

Asheville, Sept. 2.—Democratic leaders from the ninth and tenth congressional districts have been invited to attend a banquet to be given at the George Vanderbilt hotel here, September 19, in honor of Odus M. Mull, state Democratic chairman. The banquet is being arranged by local Democrats and Robert R. Reynolds, attorney, is in charge of the arrangements. He says he expects to have 250 prominent western state democrats at the banquet. Kingland Can Winkle, Asheville lawyer, and president of the Buncombe county Bar association, will act as toastmaster. Among the prominent leaders who will be honor guests are Governor Max Gardner, former Congressman Clyde Hoey of Shelby; Josiah W. Bailey, Raleigh, nominee for United States senate; Zebulon Weaver former 10th district congressman; A. L. Bulwinkle of the ninth district; and Senator Lee Overman.

THIEVES ABANDON CAR AND STEAL ANOTHER

Chief Charles R. Price found an abandoned tudor Whippet car on Cherry Mountain street Monday evening about eight o'clock. The car had a Kentucky license tag on it, and was stolen from Asa Barber, of Winchester, Ky. The thieves run out of gas on Cherry Mountain street, and abandoned the car, and took a Buick sedan, parked nearby. The Buick belonged to Mr. Ezra Moore, of Alexander. The motor number of the Buick is 1888679 and the license is N. C. 331-356.

MISS EUNICE HICKS AND HOWARD CLARK ARE WED

Cliffside, Sept. 2.—Mount Pleasant church, near here, was the scene of a beautiful wedding August 24, when Miss Eunice Grace Hicks became the bride of Howard Clark at High noon. The church was beautifully and attractively decorated in native evergreens, ferns and lilies.

The ceremony was impressively performed by Dr. T. C. Holland professor of Wake Forest college and formerly of Porto Rico.

Mrs. Clark is an attractive and cultured young lady. She was educated at Limestone college, Gaffney, S. C., and Lenoir-Rhyne, Hickory. She has been a successful teacher in the Rutherford school.

Mr. Clark is the oldest son of Haywood Clark of Lenoir. He was educated at N. C. State college and is now employed in Martinsville, Va., as an electrical engineer. Immediately after the wedding Mr. and Mrs. Clark left for Virginia.

You will find a complete line of school supplies at all times, quality and prices right, at Stahl's 5-10-25c Stores.

ROMINA THEATRE IS RE-OPENED

First Show Monday Night by B. & A. Amusement Corp.—New Sound Equipment Installed.

Much interest was shown in the re-opening of the Romina Theatre under new management Monday evening. Interest developed swiftly during the past week while the house was closed for the installation of new talking equipment which stands pre-eminent among the finest equipment made.

The Romina will be under the personal supervision of Mr. E. F. Dardine, who has been in active association with the picture business since its inception.

Mr. Dardine comes to Forest City with a reputation and prestige in the motion picture circles that count for as much as any other one individual in the business. He is virtually known to every exhibitor, producer and film booking house representative in the Southeast, and knows the theatre as few people do. His knowledge, along with the benefit of his long practical experience, will unquestionably be reflected at the local playhouse.

Mr. Dardine has a fixed idea about ideals of service and responsibility to the community, and that is to create a distinctive and homelike atmosphere to the theatre, and to stabilize admission prices. The admission prices under the new regime will be ten and thirty cents to all.

Associated with Mr. Dardine will be his assistant manager, Mr. Dick Chastaine. To him goes the credit for the wonderful sound installation which was so agreeably received by the first night audience Monday night. Mr. Chastaine has risen to his position through application of himself and a studiousness that has revealed a native ability and talent for the things that are entrusted to his direction. In addition to being assistant manager, Mr. Chastaine, will be in personal charge of the projection department, as he is fully grounded in the fundamentals of projection and theatre technology.

(By C. C. Whitacre.)

On Monday night the Romina Theatre opened to the public for the first time under the new management of the B. & A. Amusement Corporation. Mr. E. F. Dardine, of Charlotte, one of the owners, is the new manager of this popular playhouse and in coming to Forest City will give this town the benefit of his long experience in the motion picture world. Mr. Dardine has been connected with moving pictures since their beginning, having owned and run one of the first theatres in Chicago, Ill. For the past eighteen years Mr. Dardine has lived in Charlotte, where he was both a distributor and

VOTERS REGISTER FOR UTILITIES SALE ELECTION

Nearly 900 Register in Spindale and Rutherfordton—Believe Towns Will Sell.

Four hundred and sixty voters registered to vote in the special election to be held in Rutherfordton next Tuesday to determine whether the public utilities plants shall be sold or retained. A total of 480 voters registered in Spindale to vote on the same question.

The election on the utilities sale will be held next Tuesday in those two towns. Mr. Baylus Justice was registrar in Rutherfordton and Mr. J. H. Hill was registrar at Spindale. Indications are that the elections in the two towns will be overwhelmingly in favor of the sale. According to reports, eighty percent or more of the Spindale voters are in favor of the sale, while it is thought that the greater portion of the Rutherfordton voters are heartily in favor of the sale of their plants to the Southern Public Utilities Company. The registration books closed at Rutherfordton and Spindale Saturday evening. Much interest was shown during the last day. Several advocates for sale of the plants singled out unregistered voters and carried them to the place of registration, where they registered to vote. Superintendents of the Spindale textile plants Saturday morning urged their employees to register for the election.

First Bale Of Cotton Ginned Tuesday

Mr. W. Z. Harrill, of near Avondale, had a bale of cotton ginned at the Avondale Mills gin Tuesday morning. This is the first bale of cotton reported ginned this year.

MR. B. H. LONG RESIGNS.

Mr. B. H. Long, who has been connected with the First Industrial Bank of Rutherfordton, as Cashier, during the past two years, resigned his position September 1st. Mr. Long is one of the best bankers in the State, as well as one of our most substantial citizens. He will take a short vacation before assuming a new position.

BIG GOLF TOURNAMENT.

On September 11, 12, 13 Rutherford Country Club will stage its first invitational golf tournament. Golfers from all of the nearby clubs have been invited to participate in this tournament, and it is expected to be the largest golf event in the history of the local club. Suitable and valuable prizes will be awarded to the winner and runner-up in each of the four flights.

The tournament is arranged in such a manner that regardless of whether you are very efficient at the game or just an ordinary duffer, you will be placed in the tournament in proper company. For that reason it is expected that a large number will enter.

The public is cordially invited to witness this event and see some real golf matches by such well known players as Allen Smith, of Asheville, Fred Webb, of Shelby, who were so prominent in the limelight during the southern tournament at Sedgewick field this spring.

The local club has experienced its most successful year. The course is in the best shape in the history of the club and many more are playing daily than ever before.

NUMBERING HOUSES.

The Town of Forest City is having all houses and places of business in Forest City numbered, in anticipation of securing free mail delivery in the city. The work of placing the numbers began last week, and will be finished within a short time.

an exhibitor in the motion picture world.

The Romina has installed new sound equipment and the friends and patrons of this popular theatre will be most agreeably surprised at the improvement of the new sound. The Romina will bring to Forest City only the latest and best in talking pictures, comedies and news and will give the people of Rutherford county the best in amusement at popular prices.

WOULD ALSO BENEFIT RURAL COMMUNITIES

Many Other Advantages Seen In Proposed Sale of Water and Light Plants to Southern Public Utilities Company.

By W. L. HORN.

(The following article, with a little resume of his experience with the light and water systems of the town will be of interest, and more convincing, since Mr. Horn has been on the job for a long time and has the interest of the town and county fully at heart. Furthermore, Mr. Horn is one of our largest taxpayers and is vitally interested in the progress and prosperity of this city. Every voter should read and ponder Mr. Horn's article before making up his or her mind as to the sale of the utility plants.—Ed.)

In the year 1907 the writer pondered how convenient electric lights would be for all who used the old time oil lamps, more on account of having to clean some of this type in the store, opened a correspondence with the Piedmont Electric Co., of Asheville, N. C., asking them to send catalogues of their electric plants, and also asked them to send best prices on same. In about four days, Mr. Farr, the president of the company, bounced my heart into my throat, when he came into the store asking for W. L. Horn. Introducing himself as the president of the Electric Co., he looked down on me; the more he looked, the more he had to look down, for I drew myself up to about the size of a number six shot. I explained I only wanted the catalogue and prices to look over and did not wish to put him to the trouble of coming down to see about it.

In less than two years I had the privilege to vote for the small system, only a part of our present system, which operated from about 5 to 11 o'clock at night.

When I was elected to my first term of office, my inclination to this type of work caused the board to designate the electric plant as my duty to look after. Electric irons became a vogue, and hearing complaints that night service only caused them to have to stay up so late to do their ironing, and operating the plant just to let them iron would be very taxing on the town coal bill, and also the cost of an extra fireman arrangement was made to

run their cloth room. As they had their engine overtaxed, too, this gave us a revenue of about \$400.00 per month, and let the house-wives do their ironing in day time, which brought about a slight increase from light consumers, but we were up against it having to run the same little engine 24 hours per day, from Monday morning till Saturday night. A cross pin flew out the engine during day run which shut down the ironing and the Florence Mills cloth room for a short while, and it was realized that the engine, with no time to rest, would not hold up long, and the writer again opened correspondence with the Southern Power Co., and in answer, received Mr. Jno. W. Fox, special representative for Southern Power Co., Charlotte, N. C. Our troubles and predicaments were unfolded to him. After going over the matter, he assured me if he could get the mills and some of the other towns interested so it would justify their building lines, he would be glad to furnish power to us. A canvas was made and the Florence Mills dropped into line and on down the line till up came the line, and the day we got hooked on to their line our worries disappeared, and you know the service we have been receiving since. These lines have been instrumental in bringing many large plants to Rutherford county, and other counties through which these lines were run.

So much for the efforts in getting these improvements in our individual towns. Comes now another proposition which I consider means more than our first light plant, and getting our engine replaced with Southern power current. Forest City has spent hundreds of dollars in the endeavor to get outside money, with manufacturing plants, bakeries, laundries, etc., to give employment and get more people. We have succeeded in getting the people, as our population increased 75 per cent plus in the last ten years.

We should consider this proposition an answer to part of this advertising, for there are more dollars and cents involved in this deal than we could expect from any enterprise we could avail ourselves of for some time. It should not be looked on as a mere sale of the system, as it will mean greater expenditures, later, and constructive, more employment, more conveniences for our country neighbors. I would refer you to Mr. Holler's letter in last week's Courier. It will give them a

Markers Arriving For Confederate Veterans

Bills of lading on government markers for graves of Confederate soldiers have been received by a number of local people. These monuments are being shipped to applicants through out the country, and are expected to arrive this week.

More than five hundred applications for markers for Confederate Veterans have been made by Clarence Griffin during the past eighteen months. The markers expected this week are the first shipped into the county by the War Department in response to the applications.

chance to have water works in their homes as well as the light, as complete systems are now manufactured driven with small motors which will give them the same pressure as we get from our lines in town. This will mean better homes with more conveniences than they can now have, as S. P. U. aims to go out into every settled nook, which means more property in the county. Would it not be more reasonable to expect a better feeling toward us, from our near neighbors should our vote for sale be cast so they can be reached by these conveniences? They can follow electric lines into town mentally, as well as they can our roads. Let's continue to throw the lines to make our town the centre, which is considered by S. P. U. in case of purchase.

Their service will be more uniform, as they contemplate installing a regulator for our light lines, which will save the up-flaring of the lights and dimming which is so hard on radios and light bulbs, motors, etc. This will entail a considerable outlay of cash.

We can remember too that we are in the throes of the most severe depression many of us have ever experienced. There are more sales of land, houses and lots advertised by the Sheriff for sale for the taxes than has ever been recorded for the county. When taxes are not collected it naturally puts the municipalities in a prospective embarrassing position to meet obligations for bond maturities and interest on bonds which are due at certain intervals, and they are cold maturities at this time as there are no bank resources to fall back on for a tide-over.

Now for the monetary advantages: Refer to Mr. Stratford's figures in The Courier, August 28th.

He shows an advantage to the town with S. P. U. as owner of \$5,591.00. The writer considers his probable tax from S. P. U. underestimated \$2,047.00.

Out of 700 light users it is estimated 400 are around 25 to 50 Kw users. S. P. U. rate in this bracket is 2 cents per Kw. under town rate, which on 25 Kw. entailing 50c per month per customer, or \$2,400 per month, which makes a total saving to town and the people of \$10,038.00

There will be an additional amount saved in county taxes which will be a saving to every tax payer in the county on account of this sale as the total bid for all this property is \$920,000, which will automatically change from non-tax to a taxpaying enterprise.

Some opposition to the sale is made on the surmise that should S. P. U. own the plant the rates can be raised on the consumer, who has to pay the piper. This company, I deem, is like any other enterprise serving the public. They want to please, they want to create a demand, and they want to fill the demand in the line which they are dealing, and as we are just one in the hundreds of towns which they operate, and they will not take any more advantage of the consumer than they would of the town, and from this point you should be worrying under the same fear. If they wanted to raise, if they were permitted to, they could raise on the towns and the towns would naturally raise on you, so one of the fears could be balanced against the other and it amounts to nothing in that respect.

Now, in conclusion, would say my connection with the town in an official way is longer than any person in town, and no one has ever accused me to my face of working any selfish interest in all my connections with the town, and the foregoing are earnest and honest convictions.

But all of us, as separate individuals, have the right to vote as he or she pleases.