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SOME SKETCHES

BY R. F. BEASLEY.

As Zeb Green has been writing some stories about the trials and tribulations which he encountered more than twenty-five years ago in his efforts to establish his newspaper at Marshville, and as The Journal knows something "about them days" also, some of its readers may be interested in hearing some of its experiences. The days of the early nineties, when The Home and The Journal were struggling to get a foothold, were some days. The Journal issued its first sheet on February 8, 1894, after The Home had been running two or three years, perhaps. The job office which had been bought from W. J. Boylin about the time he sold The Enquirer to Mr. Ashcraft, was the only thing that enabled The Journal to get a start. It stood in the relation to the board bill somewhat as Mr. Green's pa stood for his. The Journal started not only without any money but in debt two thousand dollars for the job plant. Of course it had this advantage over The Home, in that it began to carry some advertising from the start, though the prices were insignificant. Such firms as Lee & Lee, Belk Bros., Capt. W. C. Heath, then in charge of the hardware company, T. P. Dillon, C. W. Bruner and a few others more transient, began small advertisements at once. To get a new paper on a solid footing is always a difficult business, especially if there is an older paper which is already well occupying the field. The owners of the paper worked day and night, and Mr. C. F. Cadieu, who was the paper's first devil and has been with it every day since, with them, never learned till later years that there was such a thing as a limit to a day's work. The paper was started in the Boylin old stand, where T. W. J. Rudge Co. now is, and occupied the lower floor while The Enquirer ran up stairs in the same building. The papers ran along this way in the same building as good neighbors for some time.

Most people had no idea that the paper would last long. They had seen two papers in town several times and one had always faded away. Hon. R. L. Stevens expressed the prevailing sentiment to the editor by saying that there was not room for two papers. We have always been a friend and admirer of Mr. Stevens, but have always cherished a secret delight in having been able to prove him a false prophet in this particular. He has probably forgotten it, and his remark was not intended as unfriendly, but as one of caution. He is a mighty good political prophet but we could never risk him on newspapers. The paper was first printed on a job press, one page at an impression, and was exactly half its present size. The price was one dollar and though that was a day of cheap prices, the paper is now giving just eight times as much per week for a dollar and a half as it then gave for a dollar. The publication day was Thursday till the year 1909. Then Mr. Jas. G. Covington, who was chairman of the county Democratic executive committee, got the paper to come out once on a Tuesday to get in some special advertising matter, and the change was so well liked that it was printed on Tuesday ever afterward. After a while a Washington hand press was secured and the paper enlarged to seven columns. Many a night we sat up with old G. Wash, as the press was called. Pulling the lever of a Washington hand press is a man's job, and the man who could get a hundred impressions in twenty minutes was some pumpkin. The army of tramp printers was still flowing over the land at that time and many are character visited us and sojourned for a while. Some of these men were gems. There was Jack, the two finger man, who came on a freezing day clad only in a summer shirt and a thin coat. When he arrived he had not eaten in three days and wrapped his arms and legs around the office stove for an hour before he could thaw out. We were all very fond of Jack, who was straight to the core, but had the misfortune of his kind—the inseparable thirst. He left one day when the wanderlust came on as quietly as he came, though better fed, and we never saw him again. There was Cricket—who would sit upon his stool and chirp as cheerfully as a millionaire. He became a prize Sunday school scholar after having fallen heir in the winter to a summer suit of clothes. Just about the time we thought Cricket had become a fixture he came in one day loaded with corn liquor, and said, "ain't I a d—n fool," and cut out. We never saw him again. There was another whose name will not be mentioned. He has since founded and successfully conducted a paper of his own and reared and educated a family. There were of course dozens of others, but few of striking personality.

Major lies buried in Monroe. Mr. C. W. Bruner, who always had a big heart for the wandering printers as well as others, and some others of the Major's friends, saw to it that a modest stone marked his resting place. The Major was a royal soul. He began coming to Monroe right after the war and finally said that he expected to die here. He kept his word. He came into a little money from a sister in Indiana where he was born, and came back to Monroe on his last trip. What little money he had was given away as quickly as he could dispose of it, and it would probably be not disagreeable to him to say that he spent his last days comfortably in the county home here. No man ever had a greater sense of devotion and loyalty than he. He never did much work after we knew him, being too old and feeble. There was one thing that he could do well in the earlier days, and that was to "roll" the forms for the old G. Wash, that is spread the ink on with a big rubber roller. The Major knew much of Shakespeare by heart and often at night when we were sitting up with G. Wash he would run the roller, chew tobacco, and keep us awake with King Richard. He dodged in and out of Monroe for twenty years or more, before finally settling down in his last days. There was one thing that he never did, ride a train. He always walked from town to town and spent the nights with his country friends along the roads. Right after the war he made the acquaintance of the young men of that day, and always talked of his bouts with Charlie Bruner, Tom McCauley, John Austin, Wat Boylin, and others, always calling them by their first names. One time the Major got in his cups so bad that it was necessary to get him out of town. One cold morning he agreed that if we would give him a quart of corn whiskey he would take it and put out for Wadesboro, expecting the walk to sober him up. He was good and thirsty that morning. I got the liquor and put out with the Major down the Wadesboro road to be sure that he would get out of town before the roller mill is now I handed him the bottle and had to snatch it away from him to save a bit of it for his later use. He took the bottle and toddled off down the road in his short, jerky way of walking. I loitered around a little before getting back up town, and imagine my chagrin, on arriving, to see the Major in front of the English Drug store, drunk as a lord and quoting Richard II to an admiring crowd to beat the band. I know that the Major felt a little sheepish over that exploit as he had gone back on his word, and so he left and remained away for a long time. The day of the tramp printer is gone. The Major did not shirk the title, but he was one of those rare souls who are men apart from their circumstances or the accidents of life. Whatever his raiment, he was a gentleman and a soul in which there was no guile.

LATEST HAPPENINGS

The War in Europe, and Recent News in State and Nation.
Governor Harrington of Maryland Wednesday signed a bill which legalizes race track betting.
John D. Ryan, copper magnate and financier, has been appointed aircraft director by Secretary of War Baker.
Congress will hardly fix the price of cotton, according to a statement from Majority Leader Claude Kitchin.
"Don't be a 25-cent patriot when you can be a \$5,000 patriot." Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo Wednesday advised a crowd assembled to meet his train at Gallup, N. M.
Gov. Gardner Wednesday night tendered to Champ Clark, speaker of the House of Representatives, the appointment as Senator to succeed the late William J. Stone, Senator from Missouri, who died last week.
The Confederate reunion will positively be held in Tulsa, Okla., Sept. 25 to 27. There has been much confusion as to the exact date, and this statement, coming from the adjutant-general of the veterans, sets rumors at a rest.
Flem Osborne of Ashe county, shot William Osborne through the heart Wednesday and turned to go away when William Osborne rose to his knees and shot him in the back, then turned over and died immediately. It is thought that Flem Osborne will die. The trouble was over an old grudge.
James Canter of Richmond, Va., will make a seventh fight to save himself from the electric chair. The Virginia Supreme court Wednesday granted him a writ of error which will result in a new trial. Canter, with his older brother, were arrested in April, 1915, charged with the slaying of Mrs. Maude Wilson. Luther Canter, the older brother, explained his crime after making a complete confession in which he exonerated James of any connection. He died in the electric chair in May, 1915. The case of James Canter was then carried to the Supreme court, where the decision of the circuit court was reversed, and a new trial granted. Five trials have been held since then, four resulting in hung juries. The sixth resulted in conviction and the case was again carried to the Supreme court where the error verdict was entered.

Presbyterian Church Notes.

Services on Sunday next as follows: 11 a. m. Worship and sermon; 3:30 p. m., Sunday School, (promotions); 8 p. m., Praise service and sermon. A cordial invitation to the above services is given to all.—Reporter.

HEAVENLY VISITOR CAUSED EXCITEMENT TUESDAY NIGHT

Fleety Light Was Seen in the Clouds, and a Few Became Excited—Hope That It Was a Sign the Kaiser is Going to be Beheaded.

Many of the people of Union county were very much excited Tuesday night about 8 o'clock, and no doubt some were just a little scared, when across the skies, traveling from north toward the south shot some kind of a fiery visitor, leaving a trail of smoke behind it with a phosphorescent glow. The people gathered on the streets in crowds to watch the smoke, which remained for some time, and discuss the origin of the fiery wanderer.

One woman said she was sitting on her front porch when she noticed a flash of light similar to that caused by lightning and so looked up for the clouds. Instead of seeing any clouds she saw a ball of fire, about the size of a man's head shooting across the sky leaving in its wake silvery colored smoke.

Some ascribed it to hostile airplanes, or some new German invention. Some averred that they could smell the gasoline which the contraption burned. One man said that he saw the thing and it was in the shape of a man's head with a hat on. Hope that it is a sign that Kaiser is going to be beheaded, was expressed.

The morning papers state that the visitor was visible over a hundred mile stretch of country. Reports of the excitement created had come in from places as far north as Salisbury and as far south as Spartanburg. Reports are that an explosion was heard by the people of Spartanburg just preceding the shooting light. Gastonia people claim that they heard three explosions five minutes apart.

A. A. Atto, head of the United States weather bureau at Charlotte, was of the opinion that it was either a meteor or meteorite. The silvery mist in the heavens following it, he explained, were probably caused by the heating of the atmosphere by the body as it rushed through it. He said that meteors often explode and shatter into smaller ones before they strike the earth.

There is considerable disagreement and speculation in the scientific world regarding meteors. Some say they likely result from volcanic eruptions on this earth, and some that they are little bits of the moon that strayed away from home. Some hold that like comets, they are comparatively irresponsible wanderers around the firmament that chance to be drawn into the terrific attraction of the earth, speeding to it faster and faster until friction with the world's atmosphere causes internal complications, so to speak, which often result in explosion before the final impact comes.

Real Estate Transfers.

The following recent real estate transfers have been recorded by Mr. M. C. Long, Register of Deeds:
J. J. and R. D. Crow to N. R. Helms, 11 acres on the Charlotte road in Monroe township; consideration, \$326.
R. L. and Hugh McWhirter to J. Floyd Braswell, 23 1/4 acres near Wingate; consideration, \$1200.
P. P. Cox to Milas D. Pursor, house and lot near oil mill; consideration, \$1175.
W. M. Morris to Russ S. Morris, 44 1/4 acres in Sandy Ridge township; consideration, \$1250.
J. R. Beaty to Eli F. Cagle, 50 acres in Goose Creek township; consideration, \$1200.

THOSE REACHING 21 SINCE JUNE 5 TO BE REGISTERED

Senate Resolution to This Effect Has Been Adopted by the House—New Registrants Go To Bottom of List.

Both the House and the Senate have passed the bill requiring all men who have become 21 years of age since June 1, 1917, to register for military service. The measure first goes to a conference, and will then be handed to President Wilson to sign. The date of the new registration is not named. Representative Kahn of California estimate that the new registration will place 500,000 to 700,000 new registrants available for service.

An amendment, providing that the men registered under this bill be placed at the bottom of the classes to which they may be assigned, was passed. Probably one hundred men will register under the new law in Union county.

Mr. Helms' Horse Got Loose.

(From the Wadesboro M. & L.)
Last Saturday Mr. T. M. Helms of Union county was in Peachland. He had driven over in a buggy, and had horse tied in a vacant lot. The horse got loose and set out for home, no doubt being tired waiting. He was still hitched to the buggy, but soon got loose from that. Lanes creek was very high, but the animal swam that, and when Mr. Helms reached home, the horse was waiting for him. The buggy was about torn up.

Many a man who is always bragging about his ancestors is raising children who won't be able to do much bragging.

NOTICE.

The laws of North Carolina and the City of Monroe prohibit any repairs to buildings, wiring, chimneys, flues, or appurtenances thereto belonging, or the erection of new buildings, or additions, removing of buildings, or remodeling same, changing of street or building numbers, unless permits for such are issued by the Chief of Fire Department.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL

—Bishop J. B. Cheshire was assisted in the services at St. Paul's Episcopal church Wednesday night by Rev. E. A. Osborne of Charlotte.

—Messrs. W. D. and J. M. Clark of Sandy Ridge township have the record for new Irish potatoes. They had potatoes taken from their garden Wednesday for dinner.

—In order to preach the commencement sermon at Wesley Chapel high school next Sunday at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Rev. John A. Wray has postponed his Shiloh services until the following Sunday.

—Mr. J. Ed Plyler, son of Mr. Jackson Plyler of Buford, and Miss Lillie Broom, daughter of Mr. C. C. Broom, also of Buford township, were married April 14 at the home of the officiating minister, Rev. M. A. Osborne.

—Union county should feel a distinct pride in Battery B, of which so many of our boys are members. According to Sergeant Archie Fairley, who was home on a furlough the first of the week, the local and Anson county boys made the highest score in a recent target practice of any of the batteries in the brigade.

—Union county should be proud of Mr. Wilber C. Hooks, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Hooks of Vance township. He enlisted in the navy some time ago and since joining has made a grading of 100 per cent in pistol, machine gun and rifle practice. In doing this he won first prize for the best marksmanship in a contest in which two companies took part.

—Hereafter members of the county school board will be elected by the people. The Democratic party will nominate its candidates for the board just like the nominees for other county offices are chosen. It is not known whether or not any of the present board members term expires this year, but if it is the case, the people will have the opportunity for the first time to vote for a member.

—Mr. W. C. Wolfe attended the meeting of the Grand Council of the Royal Arcanum at Greensboro on Wednesday and reports that among other important business transactions by a unanimous vote it was decided that one thousand dollars worth of Liberty Bonds be purchased. A hat collection of \$50.00 was raised for the Red Cross. Reports of officers showed the order to be 100 per cent solvent and paying all claims promptly.

—Mr. and Mrs. T. J. W. Broom received one of the most pleasant surprises of their lives at 2 o'clock this morning when their son, Mr. Ernest Broom, who is in the army at Camp Jackson, walked into their home without announcing himself. The first intimation of his visit was received when he struck a match in their room. He was sent to Camp Greene after two deserters, and snatched off a few hours to spend with his parents, leaving early this morning for Charlotte.

—The preliminary hearing of Bonner Wentz, who on April 8th shot and killed his cousin Will Wentz, is today in progress before Recorder Lemmond. Prosecuting Attorney R. L. Stevens is being assisted by Redwine & Sikes, J. C. M. Vann and T. F. Limerick. Stack & Parker and J. D. McCall are counsel for the defendant. The widow of the dead man is one of the witnesses. She appeared in the court room with her six-weeks-old child in her arms. A number of witnesses will give testimony, and much time will be consumed in the hearing. It is believed.

—Mrs. Ella Baucom, wife of Mr. Edgar Baucom of New Salem township, died in a Charlotte hospital Wednesday. Death came as a result of a growth on the throat. She had only been in the hospital since Tuesday. Mrs. Baucom was a daughter of Mr. Henry Edwards of New Salem township and was only 27 years of age. She is survived by her husband and six children. Funeral services were held at Olive Branch yesterday. She was a woman of strong character. She was a member, and had been for years, of the Baptist church. She labored not for herself, but for her family and community.

—Union county may soon boast of a concrete road if the plans of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce materialize that a concrete road from Charlotte to Wilmington, which would give a direct route from Camp Greene to the sea, would in the long run save the government much money besides relieving the railroad congestion. The road, if built, would come by Monroe. It would cost a total of \$4,500,000 for a distance of 189 miles. The cost of building the road could be saved from the difference between railroad and truck transportation of a few divisions of troops. Mr. T. L. Riddle, secretary of the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, is interested in the proposal, and has written a letter to the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce pledging the support of the Monroe organization.

—The funeral services over the remains of Dr. J. W. Stephenson, who died Thursday morning in a Charlotte hospital, were held at the cemetery here late yesterday afternoon by Rev. J. E. Abernethy, the body being carried from the train to its last resting place. Many life-long friends of the deceased, who was a prominent dentist here for nearly a quarter of a century, and mayor of the city for several years, were at the cemetery to pay their last respects. Dr. Stephenson was a native of Alexander county, and was born and reared near Taylorsville. He was nearly 70 years of age. About forty years ago he moved to Monroe, practicing his profession here, with the exception of one year spent in Statesville, until

about 16 years ago, when he suffered a stroke of paralysis. He married Miss Mildred Hudson of this county who with two sons, Messrs. Joseph F. and James Stephenson, and one daughter, Miss Mildred Stephenson, survive. Four or five years ago Dr. Stephenson and family moved to Oakboro where they lived until two years ago when they moved to Rockingham where the sons are engaged in mercantile business. Dr. Stephenson was the last of his father's family. He was a brother of Rev. R. T. N. Stephenson, a well known and popular Methodist minister. From the time he was stricken sixteen years ago Dr. Stephenson gradually grew worse. He had been in a hospital for several days. The deceased was a member of the Presbyterian church. While he lived in Monroe he took an active part in the life of the community, and was a man admired by the entire citizenship of the county.

Schools Must Be Kept Up to Present Efficiency.

Some time ago we wrote a letter which was published in the papers of the county urging all school districts which have not yet voted a special tax to do so by June the first so as to secure additional funds for the maintenance of their school for the ensuing year. A few districts have responded and will hold their elections in a few days. However there are still some districts which have not taken any step in this direction, and in all such cases we want to suggest that those districts in which there is no special tax take steps at once to secure by private subscription at least as much money as would be realized in the district provided such tax were levied. We urge this because it is absolutely necessary that some step be taken to secure more money for each and every school in the county.

We ought to be able to give the teachers some assurance of a substantial raise in salary before they are compelled to go into other lines of work that will pay living salaries. You will agree with me, I am sure, that an incompetent teacher is, to say the least, very undesirable, and that it is the worst sort of extravagance to expend public funds in the employment of such teachers. However, we are in danger of having our school work disorganized, and greatly decreased in efficiency at a time when there never was such great necessity for carrying it on in full and even in greater efficiency. The whole country is confronted by similar conditions produced by the same cause, and similar campaigns for increased school funds for increased salaries of teachers and other expenses for schools, are being carried on in all parts of the country. One of the committees in one of the districts in which there is no special tax told me they were going to raise money by private donation for their school and that they were going to collect it before the beginning of the school.

According to my information, Great Britain and France, who have already suffered infinitely more than the United States, and more, I hope and pray, than the United States will ever be called upon to suffer from this war, and are consequently far less able than the United States to do it, have greatly increased their educational appropriations, practically doubling them. In this crisis we cannot afford to let our children suffer and our children starve intellectually and spiritually for lack of proper education by a disorganization and a decrease in the efficiency of our schools and teachers. Therefore let every school committeeman and every patron in every district in which there is not sufficient funds for the payment of a living salary to teachers of their children feel it their duty and a sacred obligation resting upon them to help provide, in this great emergency, the necessary support for their school.

Very respectfully,
R. N. NISBET, County Supt.

Births.

To Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Howard, Monroe township, a daughter, Apr. 3.
To Mr. and Mrs. George Hargett, West Monroe, a daughter, Georgie Lee, Apr. 5.
To Mr. and Mrs. William Jennings Bryan Preslar, Monroe R. F. D. 5, a daughter, April 6.
To Mr. and Mrs. James H. Lee, Monroe, a son, Feb. 16.
To Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Kindley, a daughter, March 5.
To Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bullard, Monroe, a daughter, March 24.
T. L. CROWELL, Registrar.

At a hearing before State Food Administrator H. A. Page in Raleigh Tuesday W. W. Love and A. S. Leitz retail grocers of Albemarle and R. M. Trexler, retail merchant of Badin, and Dr. W. C. Fitzgerald, proprietor of the Central Hotel at Albemarle and Pete Andrews, a baker of Badin, were found guilty of violating the food administration order, rules and regulations.

American soldiers, wounded in the great battle which is now being waged are already arriving at the rear. American wounded and sick to the number of 128 have reached hospital No. 25. They are from units engaged in fighting side by side with French and British in stemming the German advance.

The total losses of the brigade of marines with the American Expeditionary Force in France so far reported was announced yesterday by Major General Barnett, commander of the corps, as 278.

GERMAN DRIVE DEVELOPS INTO TERRIFIC STRUGGLE

Tide of Battle Has Surged to and Fro During Two Days With Decision Still in Balance—Pershing's Men Are Bearing Their Share.

The great double German drive, in the Somme and Armentieres sectors, which began Wednesday morning, has developed into a terrific struggle. The tide of battle has surged to and fro during the last two days, with the decision still in the balance. The British, having been forced back out of Villers-Brettonneux, launched a counter-attack and swept the Germans back almost to the lines which were held before the present fighting began. The French have been driven back out of Hangard-En-Santerre, but are holding their positions close by, while on the line southwest of Ypres, the British have been compelled to withdraw slightly before furious attacks along the Meteren-Bailleul-Wytschaete line.

Wounded Americans are arriving at a hospital behind the French lines in the Somme sector, showing that General Pershing's men are bearing their share of the burden of the great battle.

Notwithstanding the frantic preparations made by the Germans for a continuance of their drive toward Amiens and the extreme violence of the fighting, their guns thus far in that region have been very small. Along the line from Albert south to Castel, except at Hangard-En-Santerre, the German assaults have been hurled back by the allied forces, which are strongly posted on the higher ground to which they retired during the last days of the German drive in Picardy.

It is unofficially reported that four to six German divisions, or from 48,000 to 72,000 men, have been hurled at the British in this sector must have been small, for there are no great gains reported by Berlin so far. It was rumored Thursday that Mont Kemmel, a dominating height north of Wulverghem, had been taken by the enemy, but this has not been confirmed.

That only slight gains have been made anywhere along the two fronts have been subjected to attacks is proof that the allies are prepared to defend their positions. In the last three weeks, the Germans have hurled up heavy cannon to the old Somme battle ground and have marched many fresh divisions to the points where they have been held for the moment of attack. Their failure to do more than gain almost insignificant bits of ground is one of the most encouraging features of the fighting that now is going on and which may be looked upon as the third phase of the great German offensive.

Unionville Commencement.

Correspondence of The Journal.
Unionville, April 25.—Mr. Bright Trull, who has been at work at Hopewell, Va., has returned home.
Mrs. E. J. Griffin visited her daughter, Mrs. Hoyle Love of Rockwell, last week.
Messrs. T. L. and R. F. Price were called to the bedside of their uncle, Mr. Hurley Price at Kannapolis, last week. Mr. Price had been stricken with paralysis and died Tuesday.
Mr. R. N. Hargett was carried to the sanatorium in Charlotte Tuesday for treatment.
Miss Daisy Worley of Monroe is visiting Miss Amy Helms.
Misses Margaret and Mossie Clement of Bostic are visiting here.
Mrs. L. E. Huggins of Marshville is visiting her father, Prof. O. C. Hamilton.
Mr. Lonnie Price and sister, Miss Zulah, of Gastonia are visiting relatives here.
Little Robert Price, Jr., has been real sick with eczema, but is some better.
A large audience heard the annual sermon by Dr. Gurney of Monroe Sunday. He preached a very impressive sermon from the text, "And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone."
The program was well rendered and showed good training by the primary and intermediate classes, on Wednesday night.
Thursday night will be the recitation and declamation contest by the boys and girls.
Friday at 10:30 a. m. Mr. Plummer Stewart of Charlotte will deliver the literary address. Friday night there will be a play by the high school class, "Diamonds and hearts." Everybody invited.—School chums.

—Mr. Grier Hudson, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hudson, came very near being drowned yesterday in the Neuse river, near Raleigh as a result of an auto accident. He and a companion were out driving when the accident occurred. The turn at the river bridge is very sharp, and when they started to make it the steering wheel caught, throwing the car and the occupants into the river. Mr. Hudson fell under the car, but his companion landed clear of the machine. There was about five feet of water in the river, and before a rescue party which was nearby could release the young man from under the car, he had almost expired. When taken to the road he was unconscious and as limp as a rag. Restorative methods were applied, and he was taken to a hospital, where it was stated at nine o'clock this morning that he would recover unless pneumonia set in. His mother went to Raleigh this morning to be with him. Mr. Hudson is employed in the Bell-Hudson Raleigh store.