

# THE MONROE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED TWICE EACH WEEK — TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

VOL. 26. No. 95.

MONROE, N. C., TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1921.

\$2.00 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

## AS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY A SIGN OF SUPERSTITION

Union County People Can Afford to Laugh at the Superstitions of Colored People.

### CUSTOM MAY BE LOCAL ORIGIN

Did you have peas for dinner New Year's day? Most Union county folks did, and if you were among the number you can no longer laugh at the darkey who dodges a cemetery on dark night, or who carries in his pocket the left hind-foot of a grave-digger rabbit as his "lady-luck" piece to drive away "hants," misfortune and hunger. Like him, you are superstitious.

The origin of this superstition is known. It is a deep-rooted one this section, and there were few folks in Union county minus a dish of peas on Saturday. Their presence promised all sorts of good fortune to the family that dined on the hum-dish. Some claim one will save a dollar during the year for every one ate, while others say the family that dined on them the first twelve months.

Dr. E. W. Sikes, president of Coker College inclines to the view that this superstition is purely local, as he has never encountered it in other sections. Nor has the Journal been able to discover any mention of it in folk-tales of the South.

There are, however, many superstitions said to purely of local origin. J. M. Blair believes the custom of people have of putting a pan of water under the bed to prevent "night-sweat" is peculiar to Union county.

Down on Rocky river, where he was born and reared, Mayor John C. Sikes learned from the garkies that a screech of an owl could be stopped by thrusting a shovel in the fire. He has never heard mention of this superstition from any other source, and negroes around Rocky river also believe, he says, that a large "possum, reason unknown, will climb nothing but small trees. They always expect a small "possum" when they hear the dogs baying under a large tree.

Mr. Blair, who is interested in Union county folk-lore, believes in only superstition. He always turns pale if a black cat crosses his path on New Year's day.

Other superstitions said to be purely local include: Placing of a finch's toe nail under the door step for good luck; also, the hiding of a small tip of the tale of a dog will keep him from straying from home, and a squirrel to cross the road in front of a buggy is considered a good omen.

**SEVERAL EMPLOYEES WANT TO MAKE THEIR AUTOMOBILES**  
Officials Take No Notice of Circular Asking Permission to Use the Plant.

Monroe, Mich., Jan. 3.—Officials of the Ford Motor Company had taken official notice of a handbill distributed Sunday by a number of the company's employees asking that the Ford plant, now closed for inventory, be used by them temporarily for making cars for their own use. A formal request had been made to the company for such action, it was announced.

Distribution of the handbills gave rise to a number of false rumors in Monroe today. The police ridiculed the rumor that the Ford employees had declared Soviet control and had taken over operation of the plant. When the workers appeared at the plant Monday morning to receive their pay checks, the report spread that they were storming the plant. But one policeman was on duty in the vicinity of the factory and there was no disorder, the police announced. Rumors that the Governor had been asked to send Federal troops from Fort Wayne, were called "hoax" by the police and company officials.

## PRICE TURNS "ANTI" ON THE REVALUATION ACT

Senator Now Wants to Hold Conference to Discuss Means of Reducing Taxes.

Senator J. N. Price, who voted for revaluation while a member of the General Assembly in 1913, has turned "anti," and now wants to hold a conference at Monroe for the purpose of formulating ways and means of reducing the tax rate. He went to settle with the Sheriff the other day, and discovered that his taxes had increased considerably over the previous year. Now he has blood in his eyes for somebody.

### WATSON WOULD MAKE W. S. S. AND BONDS LEGAL TENDER

Georgia Senator Tells of Remedy He Will Propose When He Takes His Seat.

Thomas E. Watson, United States senator-elect from Georgia, announced in a copyrighted statement published in the Atlanta Constitution Sunday that at the extra session of the 67th congress he will introduce a bill to make Liberty and Victory bonds and other government paper legal tender.

Mr. Watson has announced plans for introducing bills to force the federal reserve and farm loan banks to lend money directly to individuals and to require the secretary of the treasury to issue the unused greenbacks authorized by a bill signed by President Lincoln. The total of these authorized but unused greenbacks, according to the senator-elect, is \$102,000,000.

Discussing his plan to make legal tender of Liberty and Victory bonds, credit certificates, war saving stamps and all government obligation paper issued during and since the world war as a remedy for what he claims is an existing "domestic crisis," Mr. Watson declared such action would have an electrifying effect upon American business life.

On passage of such legislation Mr. Watson declared "all apprehension of a panic would quickly disappear."

Regarding the nation's financial system, Mr. Watson said he would introduce bills to make it mandatory under penalty for the regional banks to lend direct to farmers on approved securities at an interest rate not over 5 per cent; to repeal that section of the farm loan act requiring a group of ten signatories to a loan and insertion of a mandatory clause compelling such banks to lend an individual applicant upon approved securities without the requirement of additional obligations.

From Two Acres to Forty with Terraces.

A few years ago I bought a next to my home, fifty-three acres of land that were in very poor farming condition. Later I bought a hundred acres adjoining the above mentioned tract that was in worse condition than the first tract. I cleared down the hedge rows, hauled straw in and plowed down the grasses. The negroes who had owned it ran the rows down the hill nearly rutting the tract of land.

The first operation in cultivating the land was disking, and then the breaking of it. Afterward I planted such of the field to corn and peas for hay. The remaining twenty acres, laid off in straight rows, made two bales of cotton, for, due to the fact that the rows were straight and the soil loose, the fields washed badly. The second year I ran the rows the same way with the one water ditch in the twenty acres. The field almost washed away, the drifts causing a hundred and fifty yards of fence to be washed down. But, in spite of all the washes and gullies I made six bales of cotton, and enough corn for use, with a surplus to sell.

## NEW YEAR USHERED IN WITH CHARGE OF DYNAMITE

Marshville was Rocked by the Terrific Force of the Explosion—The Light New Year Spirit.

Marshville, Dec. 31.—The New Year arrived amidst a great clatter of sounding brass and tinkling symbols. There was no public watch night observed, but most of our folks were watching all right—and waiting, even though they had prepared for slumber. The preliminary ringing of bells and firing of guns finally announced the passing of the old year and the arrival of the new. Then when the folks had generally thanked heaven that the racket had been no worse, wished everybody a happy New Year, and crawled in and were about half asleep, there came a mighty noise as if the earth was reeling and the skies falling. Everybody sat up in bed and waited for the earth to close in on 'em then, when it didn't, rubbed their eyes and demanded to know "Where am I?" By that time, the rumbling and roaring was diminishing sufficiently for one to think a wee bit, and gradually it became known that some one had made use of a mighty charge of dynamite in greeting the glad New Year! Well, everybody turned over and started to sleep again; when they had given about one more, the fool thing went off the second time, and jerked everybody upright once more, this time to a minor explosion of their own; for while we all like to know when the new year arrives, yet it is a wee bit annoying to be informed of the fact twice in such stentorian language, and especially when we are about half asleep. However, the last explosion seemed to have landed him safely, and there was nothing more said about it, and in the morning everybody had something to talk about and laugh over.

Mr. Roy Marsh is in a hospital in Baltimore to undergo an operation, his friends over the county will regret to learn. He was accompanied to Baltimore by his brother-in-law, Mr. E. E. Marsh.

Mr. J. C. Austin and family spent the week-end in Norwood.

Mrs. B. C. Griffin and daughter Miss Virginia have returned from a visit to Mrs. McWhirter of Salisbury. While there they were guests of honor at a brilliant reception given by Mrs. McWhirter on Friday afternoon.

Mrs. R. L. Griffin, accompanied by her sister, Miss Lillian Stevens, returned Thursday from a visit to Christmas in Matthews.

Miss Lillian Moore of Charlotte is spending a few days with her aunt Mrs. J. E. Applewhite.

Mr. J. W. Davis of Statesville spent the week-end here with his daughter, Mrs. B. C. Griffin.

Miss Evelyn Price of Monroe spent several days here last week with her grandmother, Mrs. Ellen Barrino. On her return home she was accompanied by Margie and Master Charles Carrino, Jr.

Miss Lola Caple from near W. tesboro spent the week-end here with relatives and friends.

Misses Johnnie and Gladys Long have returned from a week's visit to relatives in Concord.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Edwards have moved into their attractive new home which has just been completed.

## HOW MRS. BROOM GETS WATER FROM HER SPRING

She Has Unique Labor-Saving Device on Her Farm—Hard Times a Blessing in Disguise.

Waxhaw, R. F. D. 1, Jan. 3.—The Rehoboth school reopened after its holiday recess on Monday, Jan. 2nd. The teachers, Misses Belk and Reef, are making excellent reputations for genuine school work at this place.

Mrs. Lonnie Austin and children of Wingate spent Sunday with the former's sister, Mrs. R. S. Gamble of this community. Mr. Gamble has recently suffered a fresh attack of neuritis. For the past several months he has been unable to do any work but had thought until a few weeks ago that he was on the road to complete recovery. However, his recent experiences has caused him to feel like there is no easy or quick route away from the trouble.

After several costly attempts to get water on one of her farms by putting down a well in the yard and failing on account of the extreme hardness of the rock encountered, Mrs. L. E. Broom has had a line of poles set from the house to the spring and on these a tight wire attached on which a bucket suspended by a pulley is hung and sent down to the spring when water is to be carried. Mr. L. M. Riser constructed this project and we understand that it is considered a very welcome labor saving device.

One of the most depressing signs of the times just now is the almost universal attitude of planless uncertainty among the people. It seems that everybody is experiencing a period of moody gloomy uncertainty. No one seems to have any fixed plans. Every one is fearful as to what to do or what to think. It seems to be that we are just about to conclude that whatever we do, we will later wish we didn't. One thing is certain however, we are going to get through, we are sure to come out at one end or the other, and maybe the experience will be worth all its costs. If it is we will find in a year or two that what we thought was calamity was really a blessing in disguise. There is nothing that can permanently cripple an industrious people, except the denial to them of the equal right to labor and produce. When we see the point, we'll be all right. I think we don't quite see it yet.—Novus Homo.

## COAL OIL JOHNNY ONCE A GREAT SPENDER, DEAD

John W. Steele, Who Once Gave a Negro Singer \$5,000, Dies at Railroad Station Agent.

John W. Steele, known widely in the east half a century ago as "Coal Oil Johnny," reputed then to have spent a fortune when oil was discovered on his Pennsylvania land, died of pneumonia yesterday, aged 77 years, at Fort Crook, Neb., where he was a station agent for the Burlington railroad, having been in the road's employ thirty-seven years.

Little more than a mythical name nowadays, back in the sixties "Coal Oil Johnny" set records for scattering coin along great white ways that have never been surpassed. He was the adopted child of a farmer named McClintock at Oil Creek, Franklin county, Pa., who took him out of a poorhouse as a child. He inherited the apparently worthless farm and when a fortune in oil was discovered on it he set out to squander the gains in every form of wild excess.

He handed \$5,000 to a negro who pleased him with a song, he bought horses and carriages for a short drive and then gave them to the driver, champagne he always ordered by the basket. Luckily he one day found his coat so stuffed with greenbacks that it was uncomfortable. He ran into a bank, threw it to the money teller, and never came back again. Years later, when he was penniless, the bank directors found him and sent him the coat's contents, some \$30,000. He bought a farm and he and his wife settled down a near Ashland, Neb.

Falling Prices Due to Propaganda.

Six months ago ninety-nine out of every one hundred of our population not living on farms were "rooting," as they say at the baseball games, for the prices of farm products to come down. Prices have come down and so have the business and profits of those short-sighted merchants, manufacturers, and laborers who were hollering for lower prices for the other fellow's products. Business can never be good, nor can the manufacturing population be prosperous when the farmer is producing at little or no profit, and certainly not when he must sell at a loss. The reason is plain. The farmers are our largest producers. They produced \$25,000,000,000 in 1919, and they constitute in numbers about 10 per cent of the buyers; therefore, it ought to be evident to any merchant or laborer that when the farmer produces at a loss, the buying power of the country is crippled and merchandising cannot be profitable. If the present price of cotton, for instance, were the result of the free and unhampered influences of supply and demand, no one would have a reason to complain; but it is not, it is almost entirely due to the propaganda for lower prices and its consequent effect on those who control the credit and finances of the country. There is not more cotton nor less demand than last year, but less money available for handling it and an organized effort to force prices down.—The Progressive Farmer.

If Christmas is not kept with mirth and love, it is merely December 25th.

## HALF GALLON MOONSHINE SECRETED IN COOK STOVE

Officers, in Searching Home of Colored Woman, Came Across Unique Hiding Place.

In the past police officers have found liquor hidden in out-of-way places, such as in church cellars and beds, but Minnie Helms, colored, who lives near the cemetery, had the most unique hiding place on record. She kept her whiskey in the oven of her cook-stove, where it was found the other night by Officer Helms, of the local police force.

The officers had been suspicious of selling liquor for some time, and decided to raid her home. On entering the house, they were met by Minnie, who gave them a cordial invitation to make a search of her premises. The officers, after looking in almost every conceivable hiding place, were about to give up the search when Mr. Helms pulled open the stove door. There sat a half-gallon of moonshine.

## LONG PROSPERITY LIES AHEAD FOR THE COUNTRY

E. H. Gary, of the Steel Corporation, Predicts Defeat of Protection by Public.

That a long era of prosperity lies ahead of the United States and that the determination and courage of the people will overcome all problems of readjustment was predicted by Chairman E. H. Gary, of the United States Steel Corporation, in a year-end talk to the newspaper men of Wall street.

"It is only repeating what many are saying, that while many things in the general atmosphere are disquieting, I am as hopeful and confident of the future as I have been at any other time," said Mr. Gary. "The things that have come to pass have not been unexpected to the thoughtful mind. The wonder is that times have not been much worse. The minds of men throughout the country have been distorted.

War Developed Good.

"During the war men have been thinking of power and force. Demoralization, envy and cupidity have developed. The capitalist has been using his wealth to unreasonably, if not unfairly, increase his fortune. The tradesman have been buying for the lowest obtainable price and charging the highest profits which would be tolerated. There has been indifference on the part of many to the rights and interests of others. The Golden Rule in business has been temporarily suspended. There has been an orgy of extravagance and profit."

Mr. Gary said that future generations, looking back upon the present, would be amazed at how nearly insular large numbers of public officials and private individuals, who would never seem to have been, then he added:

"When not absolutely necessary to kill people by the millions or to steal property in small quantities or to appropriate the property or territory of another of large value is just as bad as to murder a single individual or to steal a small amount of money or to rob another of a single horse. For governments to waste money by the millions or billions for war purposes, when unnecessary, is as indefensible as it is for individuals to waste small amounts, although not generally so considered.

Our Power Manifested.

"There is another side of this picture. Any country which within a year and a half, can mobilize 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 of men for the army and navy and transport more than 2,000,000 soldiers from the United States to the battle fronts of France and can raise, for its own military necessities and those of its associate nations across the seas, over \$20,000,000,000, has demonstrated that, with the exercise of the proper spirit and the utilization of its natural resources, it can master an economic situation far worse and more difficult than the present situation according to the wildest statement or imagination that has yet been conceived or suggested.

## MONROE MINISTER AIDS THOSE "DOWN AND OUT"

Rev. Mr. Snyder Keeps Young Men Off the County Roads by Paying Their Fines.

STORY OF CHESTER YOUNG MEN  
Two cotton mill operatives "swung" a train at Chester, intending to "drop off" at the mill, a short distance down the line, where they were employed. The train, however, happened to be a through freight, and instead of making the customary stop at the mill village, came on to Monroe without so much as slowing down. Unfortunately for the two young men, the local officers were unusually vigilant that day, and they espied them as the train came to a halt. They spent the night in jail. In the Recorder's court the next morning they, to all appearances, told a "straight" story, and the Recorder saw fit to suspend judgment upon the payment of fines.

The Recorder may have thought he was very lenient towards the defendants. The "cost" amounted to but \$4.80; but even a dollar is a large sum to two penniless men in a strange community. They faced a road sentence unless the "cost" bill was paid; but fortunately for them, sympathetic spectators in the court-room paid them "out," and sent them home.

But sympathetic spectators are not present at all sessions of the Recorder's court, and more than one youth afflicted with the wanderlust would be serving a road sentence if it were not for Rev. E. C. Snyder, a Union county Baptist minister. Whenever a youth with some refinement, or possessed with an honest face, happens to be caught in the police dragnet, Rev. Mr. Snyder is notified. Without making investigation of the lad's case he trusts to the innate sense of honesty of the defendant, and proceeds to "pay" him out. If the young man lives not far away, Rev. Mr. Snyder sends him home; and invariably he receives a check compensating him for what money he expended in court costs and railroad fare. Others he sends out into the country, where they work until they earn money sufficient to discharge their obligation to their benefactor, and a little surplus to supply them with warmth and food until they secure steady work.

The Monroe minister is doing a great work. Owing to the distress of the country, thousands and thousands of men are thrown out of work, and they roam over the railroads seeking for work; and the number who are daily picked up by the officers increases daily. The indications are, unless the police and Recorder's court are more lenient with the floating laborers, that the most of Rev. Mr. Snyder's time will be occupied in this work.

## UNION COUNTY COUPLE MARRIED IN CHARLOTTE

Miss Zolnie McAllister is the Bride of Mr. J. Mack Clark, of the Union Community.

Mr. J. Mack Clark of the Union community in Union county and Miss Zolnie McAllister, of Middleburg, were married Thursday afternoon at 5 o'clock by Rev. H. G. Hardin, at the Tryon Street Methodist parsonage, says the Charlotte Observer.

The young couple motored up from Union county, accompanied by Miss Flossie Moore and W. D. Clark. There had been no announcement of the plans of the young people and most of their friends will be given a pleasant surprise.

The bride is a daughter of the late Dr. William McAllister and Mrs. Maudie Zediker McAllister of Middleburg and has many friends both in the eastern part of the state, where she was reared, and in this section where many of her relatives live. For the past two or three years she has been teaching school in Georgia, but more recently has been teaching at Wesley Chapel.

The groom is a prominent young farmer and business man, and is a brother of Messrs. H. B. and Murray Clark of Monroe. His bride is a niece of Mrs. W. T. Shannon. They will make their home in the Union community.

## WEST VIRGINIA CAPITOL IS DESTROYED BY FLAMES

One Laborer is Killed and Several Firemen Injured When Roof Caves In.

Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 3.—The capitol building of West Virginia was destroyed by fire late today. One laborer was killed, a fireman seriously injured and several other fire fighters hurt when a section of the roof, under which they were landing, caved in. The spectacular nature of the fire was enhanced when much ammunition stored in the third floor of the building exploded.

THE MONROE JOURNAL

EVERYBODY READS IT

EVERYBODY NEEDS IT