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\$2.00 PER YEAR CASH

ROAD TO PEACHLAND MAY BE OPENED VERY SHORTLY

With Gasoline Down Two Cents a Gallon, Prospects Are Alluring to Marshville's Motorists.

WHAT ABOUT THE GROUND HOG?

Marshville, Feb. 7.—Mesdames Ed. M. Marsh and Graham Hearon spent the week-end with relatives in Charlotte. While there they attended the marriage of Miss Cullie Marsh to a Mr. Edwards. Miss Marsh formerly lived here, and her many friends here will be interested to learn of her marriage.

Miss Hallie Moore, a trained nurse, of Charlotte visited relatives here over the week-end.

Mrs. Frank Harrell is spending several days in Rutherfordton visiting relatives.

Miss Lola Hood spent the week-end at her home in Matthews.

The play, "Brown Eyes Betty," was presented by the high school in their auditorium on Wednesday and Friday evenings of last week to large audiences, who enthusiastically pronounced the rendition splendid.

His friends will be glad to know that Mr. Roy Marsh continues to improve at Johns Hopkins where he is taking radium treatment for tumor on the brain. The first application of the radium was made a week or so ago, and the next will be made the first of March. Mr. Marsh will remain in the hospital until the next treatment, then he and Mrs. Marsh will return home for a month, before returning for another treatment. Mr. Marsh is able to sit up now, and has been writing to his family. His father, Rev. A. Marsh who has been in Baltimore with Mr. Marsh since Christmas returned home a few days ago.

Will some one please tell us whether the ground hog saw his shadow or not? We have seen definite statements in various papers to the effect that he did, also that he did not. Now who is right? We know that Marshville saw no sun that day until twelve-thirty when a few faint rays crept out. But the afternoon developed into a beautiful spring specimen. If his tribe came out early did he stay until the sun shone then go to corner again? What is his course of procedure anyway?

Dr. and Mrs. M. P. Blair had as their guests on Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Blair Boylin of Wadesboro and Mrs. Boylin's sister, Miss Dowd of Charlotte.

The snows may swirl and the rains may s lash, but we have four miles of good road to ride upon just the same; and the minute the sun comes out every one take advantage of it, too. And gasoline down two cents already! It is said that the first of March will see the road opened through to Peachland. If gasoline should continue to drop two cents a week until then, (as it did last week, you know)—well we can't think of any better spring tonic than this bright prospect!—Lina C. Harrell.

THE HAPPENINGS AT WINGATE

Membership and Attendance of B. Y. P. U. Steadily Increasing.

Wingate, Feb. 7.—Much interest is being manifested in the Baptist Young Peoples' Union here. By dividing the class into two divisions, thus stimulating rivalry, the attendance is constantly increasing. Last week's attendance report showed that section "A" with 46 enrolled had 39 present Sunday, 5 new members, 6 visitors, and a collection of 70 cents. Mr. Valentine Tarlton is president of section "A," and Mr. Roma Waddell is secretary. Section "B," with 52 enrolled, had 41 present, 3 new members, 2 visitors, and a collection of 70 cents. Mr. Joseph Beach is president, and Miss Minnie Herrin, secretary.

Misses Rachel and Billy Dean of Marshville visited Miss Mary Bivens last Saturday.

Miss Vera Newman of the high school was called home Saturday on account of the illness of her father.

Miss Rosa McIntyre of Charlotte spent the week in with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. McIntyre.

Mr. Voyle Williams returned from a visit to Charlotte Saturday.

Mr. Clyde Bivens spent the week end with his mother, Mrs. Minnie Bivens.

Miss Bess Bogan returned Sunday from Badin where she has been visiting her sister.

Miss Mable Hallman of Marshville visited Miss Martha Sherwood Sunday.

Mrs. Jim Griffin of Laurinburg is visiting relatives here.

Elder Sam McMillan of High Wingate.

Point spent Friday and Saturday in James, the young son of Prof. and Mrs. C. M. Beach, has been suffering from an attack of tonsillitis, but is somewhat improved.

Mr. and Mrs. Fernando Biggers of Oakboro spent Sunday in Wingate.

Mrs. R. F. Hunnicutt is seriously ill. Relatives have been called to her bedside.

Death of Little Dorothy Melton.

Sunday, Jan. 30th, the death angel entered the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Melton and claimed their two months old daughter, Dorothy Irene Melton, who was loved so much by all. The little one was taken ill Sunday morning at 11 o'clock and died about 9:30 p. m. that same day. Funeral services were conducted Monday by Rev. Mr. Brady of Prospect and the remains were laid to rest in the Sandy Ridge cemetery.

John Knight's Children Won't Suffer For Bread

UNUSUAL PROVISION MADE FOR THEM BY JUDGE RAY

Negroes Implicated in the Case to Help Family While the Father Is on Gang

ROBINSON IS GIVEN TEN YEARS

A scene unique in the history of Union county occurred Saturday during the closing hours of the February term of Superior court when Judge J. Bis Ray began imposing sentences upon the several defendants convicted during the week of crimes contrary to the laws of the state of North Carolina.

Instead of sentencing the defendants upon conviction, the court waited until the last minute to say whether they should pay a fine or serve a penal sentence for violations of the law. The defendants sat in the little room to the right of the Judge's bench. Among them was a man convicted of killing his own brother, another an ex-serviceman found guilty of stealing a bale of cotton, and a father of four or five little children who had been convicted of making liquor, a negro forger, and a few others completed the little assembly that awaited the pronouncement of their penalty.

Out in the court room sat relatives of the convicted men. The wife and five little children of John Knight, the convicted blockader, were seated upon the first bench. Their pitiful plight especially aroused the sympathy of the court attendants, and it was noticed that the face of the Judge took on a sorrowful aspect as his roving eyes occasionally centered upon them. The wife looked upon the court with mute, but pleading eyes. The little children played, wholly unaware of the predicament of their father. Further back sat the father of one of the young white defendants, whose only plea for his son was that he was weak intellectually.

Makes Motion for a New Trial.

The first man hailed before the bar of justice was Lucius Robinson, who had been found guilty of the murder of his own brother, Noah Robinson. Before Judge Ray had an opportunity to pass sentence, the defendant's lawyer, Mr. J. C. M. Vann, arose, and made a motion for a new trial, alleging that the court erred in admitting certain testimony to be the dying statement of Noah Williams, the victim of the shots fired from the pistol of the defendant. This statement was made by the deceased shortly after the arrival of physicians as he lay at a home near Mineral Springs, a short distance from where he was mortally wounded. "Am I hurt?" he is said to have asked the Doctor. "You are badly hurt," was the response, "but I think you can pull through." "Do something for me, doctor," he is said to have supplicated, "I can't stand the pain much longer." It was then that he declared that he had no pistol, nor was he drunk.

Vann Appeals for Client.

Judge Ray permitted this alleged conversation to go to the jury as the dying statement of the deceased. Mr. Vann contended that it was not admissible as he did not believe the deceased was under the apprehension that he was going to die when it was made. The motion for a new trial was denied.

Mr. Vann then sought to secure a light sentence for his client. "Your Honor," he pleaded eloquently, "the defendant is a tenant, and the father of seven children who are dependent upon him for support. He has been a fairly good character, and in view of the fact that the crime was committed while he was under the influence of liquor I think he is deserving of that mercy which I feel Your Honor will accord him."

Here Judge Ray interrupted. "Being under the influence of liquor does not excuse the crime," he said.

"I know," replied Mr. Vann, "but it does temper the moral culpability of the act."

To Appeal to Supreme Court.

Judge Ray said something about Cain and Abel. "Yes, Your Honor," suavely remarked Mr. Vann, "but Cain was guilty of first degree murder. My client has only been convicted of manslaughter."

Concluding his appeal, Mr. Vann made reference to the mentality of his client. "He does not possess the intelligence that you or I do," he said, the inference being that Lucius Robinson was not aware of the gravity of his crime. "It makes no difference," sadly replied Judge Ray, "he certainly knows the Biblical injunction, 'Thou shalt not kill.'"

In reviewing the evidence in the case, Judge Ray remarked upon the fact that Lucius had fired not once, but several times. The readiness of the wife of the deceased to testify favorable to the defendant also aroused the credulity of Judge Ray, who remarked that such conduct was exceedingly rare. Mrs. Noah Williams, it was said, went to the home of Lucius Robinson after the death and funeral of her husband, where she stayed for some time.

A sentence of ten years at hard labor in the penitentiary was imposed upon Robinson. The defendant gave notice of appeal to the Supreme court. His appeal bond was

fixed at fifty dollars, and appearance bond at five thousand dollars.

Mr. Vann still occupied the floor. Convinced of the innocence of Charlie Brown, the alleged mulatto pickpocket who conducted his own defense in court, the one-time candidate for Congress decided to interpose in his favor before Judge Ray. It was a magnanimous act, court spectators agreed. As Charlie came in, Mr. Vann began his appeal. He stated that he was not retained by the defendant, nor was he appearing for him in the expectation of reward. He was convinced of his innocence, and was actuated by this belief in making a statement in his behalf. Mr. Vann said that the money found on Brown was unlike that lost by Mr. Squires, and that he did not believe the defendant had time to change the money stolen from Mr. Squires into bills of larger denomination in the short period that elapsed between the commission of the crime and his arrest by his officers. He also reiterated the testimony given on the stand by Brown, which was to the effect that he reached Monroe with a specified sum, the amount of which the writer is unable to recall, and that the sum minus about two dollars spent for board and lodging was equal to the amount taken from him by the police. The pocket-book that contained the money was not like the one owned by Mr. Squires.

Judge Ray, however, was convinced that Brown was a typical circus follower who made his living by gambling. This belief was substantiated to an extent by the admission of the defendant that he had "done time" for gambling. He was given a road sentence of eighteen months.

John Knight Gets Two Years.

In his disposition of the case of John Knight, the young white man from the lower edge of the county, who had been found guilty of manufacturing liquor, Judge Ray showed excellent good judgment, and earned the commendation of the scores of lawyers and court attendants who were present. He sentenced Knight to the road for two years, but made provision, in an unusual manner, for the support of the defendant's wife and five little children.

Implicated in the charge against Knight were three negroes, Adam Wall, Clayton Wall and Isaac Blount. After sentencing Knight, Judge Ray turned to the negroes and said: "You darkeys lay \$250 on my desk quick!" Without any question, attorneys for the negroes began seeking the white landlord of the men. He was found, and he agreed to pay the \$250 exacted by the judge.

How Judge Provided for Mrs. Knight and Children.

Seeing his demand was being complied with, Judge Ray ordered the clerk to take charge of the \$250, which was "laid on his desk," out of which he was instructed to pay to Mrs. Knight the sum of \$15 a month. The negroes were then discharged upon the payment of costs. Mr. J. J. Parker, one of the attorney's representing Knight interceded. He told the court that Knight's entire crop had been seized by his landlord and a Monroe supply house, and that the defendant began making liquor from necessity. This appeal failed to move the judge. "Let the \$250 these negroes have 'laid' on my desk go to the school fund," he ordered. Attorneys for the defendant were panic-stricken. Hurdled they carried Knight over into the jury room for a conference.

Very shortly they returned. They agreed to submit to the original sentence, but made the plea that \$15 was not enough for the support of Knight's family during the present period of high living costs. "That's more than John Knight ever gave them," replied His Honor. In the end, however, he reduced Knight's sentence from two years on the roads to eighteen months.

De-Service Man Fined \$500.

DeWitte Craig, who was in the Bickett Battery during the war, and Floyd McCorkle, who was also in the army for a short while, were let off with a fine of \$500 each for the theft of a bale of cotton. Mr. J. C. Sikes represented these defendants. In behalf of Craig, he read a petition urging that he be spared a road sentence. It was signed by bank presidents, attorneys, business and professional men, a newspaper editor, the sheriff, the clerk of court, the county superintendent of public instruction, a county commissioner and the sheriff. After Mr. Sikes had concluded his appeal, Judge Ray rather reluctantly allowed Craig to pay a \$500 fine. McCorkle's penalty was the same as that imposed upon Craig.

John Meets an Old Friend.

John Harper, alias John Hollis, colored, drew a two-year road sentence for entering the store of Mr. Wristen Lee about two months ago. "Haven't I seen you before?" asked Judge Ray, when Harper appeared before him to receive his sentence. Harper grinned. "Yassaah, Judge," it was over at Winston-Salem, was it not?" questioned His Honor. "Yes, sah," "Didn't I give you a long road sentence over there about four months ago," Judge Ray asked further. "Dat's right, sah," responded the defendant. "Two years in the penitentiary," said the Judge. "Perhaps they can keep you down there."

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DENOUNCE THE MEMBERS OF PRESENT TAX BOARD

Local Farmers' Union Organization Would Have Them "Legislated" Out of Office.

CALL UPON PEOPLE TO HELP

Resolutions passed Saturday by the Union county branch of the Farmers' Union arraign the present board of tax supervisors in severe terms, and denounce the indicting of more than one thousand citizens for failure to list their property. The resolutions, which were drawn by a committee composed of Messrs. R. B. Cuthbertson, H. M. McCain and E. G. Yarborough, read:

"Whereas, the present board of county tax assessors of Union county has proven itself to be expensive, careless, inefficient and indifferent to the general interest of the tax payers of the county, and

"Whereas, said assessors for gain did sell their birth-right for a mess of pottage by indicting more than a thousand good citizens for failure to make their tax returns when 99 per cent of them can prove that they did make their returns, and

"Whereas, said citizens have been put to great deal of expense of time and money in attending court on said charges, we, the members of the county organization of the Farmers' Union, do resolve:

"1. We protest against the present method of tax listing because it is too expensive and because of inflated tax value of real estate as fixed by said board. Expenses of listing, revaluation and litigation will amount to about \$18,000.00.

"2. We favor the township method: A board of three for each township to make revaluation, said board to be appointed by the county commissioners.

"3. We condemn in the strongest terms the outrageous and high-handed act of the board in indicting a large number of loyal citizens for failure to list their taxes when a vast majority of them can prove that they made their returns.

"4. We ask our representatives in the present legislature to use all fair and lawful means to have said board removed from office.

"5. We call on all citizens who want an honest valuation and a square deal to write to and urge our representatives to fall not in having the present board removed from office.—R. B. Cuthbertson, H. M. McCain, E. G. Yarborough, Committee."

"KATCHA-KOO" DELIGHTS TWO LARGE AUDIENCES FRIDAY

Much Praise is Accorded the Director, Miss Neva Burgess, of New York City.

By MRS. ROSCOE PHIFER. The Parent-Teacher association is very much gratified with the results of the play given Friday afternoon and night at the Strand Theatre for the benefit of the school.

"Katcha-Koo" delighted two large audiences, as was evidenced by the hearty applause and frequent encores. At the evening performance the house was packed and quite a number stood during the two-hour performance, no seats being available.

Mrs. Neva S. Burgess, the capable and highly efficient director of New York, endeared herself to all who came in contact with her. A woman of splendid attainments, strong mentality, faith and courage, she inspired others, to do their best and to go forward in every good and uplifting movement, in every undertaking for individual or community betterment. In response to a certain call, Mrs. Burgess paid a tribute to the talent of the town and urged the organization of the community players. She advised the business men to take over the opera house, if it could be secured, and put on community plays frequently. It is good training for the children and it gives the young people something to do that is beneficial and at the same time, enjoyable, instead of leaving them to their own devices.

And the getting together of the people for safe and sane amusement is good for them. See what the Chautauqua has done for Monroe! The community players could do the same thing, on a smaller scale, of course.

All who took part in the play or assisted in any way, helped greatly to make it the success it was, and the association extends thanks to each and every one. The Monroe orchestra members, who so generously gave of their time and talents, deserve all praise. The music was splendid and thoroughly enjoyed, and added so much to the effectiveness of the play.

WATCH FAILS TO WAKE DEAD

And Minna Negro Must Stand Trial on Widow's Complaint.

Minna, Fla., Feb. 7.—Joe Thomas, an aged negro, got into trouble today through failure to make good a contract to bring back to life the husband of a negro woman. She said she gave him \$15 and her husband's gold watch for the job.

Thomas said he buried the timepiece at the grave to rouse the sleeper, but it didn't work. The court said it looked like false pretense and bound Thomas over.

Card of Thanks.

We desire to express our sincere thanks to those who were so kind and sympathetic to us during the sickness and death of our little child.—Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Melton.

TO INAUGURATE COTTON BUYING MOVEMENT HERE

Cotton Association Would Have Those Who Are Able to Buy Spots to Warehouse until Fall.

ENTIRE SOUTH BACKING PLAN

Realizing, to quote Mr. J. S. Wannamaker, "that it is the height of folly and spells commercial suicide to plant another crop when the staple can be bought for less than the cost of production," the Union county branch of the American cotton association is preparing to inaugurate a movement to secure the purchase of spot cotton by local farmers and business men.

This buying movement is designed to supplement acreage reduction. After a farmer has signed the pledge, he will be urged, if he has the money, to buy as many bales as possible on the present market, and store it in the warehouse. The present price of the staple, many believe, will be far less than the cost of producing the 1921 crop. This is in keeping with a Southern-wide movement.

President Wannamaker, in a recent statement, had the following to say relative to this campaign:

"Through special committees of the strongest financial men in the South, under the leadership of the American Cotton association, systematic plans were put into effect and force several weeks ago for the purpose of inducing those financially able to purchase the amount of cotton for fall delivery that they would produce under ordinary conditions on their lands and not to permit the planting of a seed of cotton on their lands for the present year.

"The plan is proving far more successful than was anticipated. It is being handled in the strictest confidence. If the general trade and cotton-consuming world knew of the men who are in charge of this matter, the information alone would prove of a startlingly bullish nature. Before adopting this plan it was necessary for the men interested in it to be thoroughly convinced that the South would put in a drastic acreage reduction, and for this reason a most systematic canvass, through confidential representatives, was made of the entire South. The information secured was convincing and proved that the cotton crop for 1921 would be drastically reduced in every one of the 800 cotton-producing counties, and that we are facing the absolute certainty of a one-half cotton crop for 1921.

"Based upon this information leading producers in many sections of the South have purchased the cotton they would produce under ordinary conditions on the exchanges for delivery in the fall of 1921; others have purchased the actual spot cotton. However, they pledged themselves under no condition to permit the planting of a seed of cotton on their lands, and in addition to this not to dispose of their holdings until the fall of 1921. The plan is being systematically pushed, and additional numbers are being added daily. Under no condition will names of those behind this plan and those adopting it be furnished. With an acreage reduction of fifty per cent and the assurance of the success of the above plan, it not only decreases the production of cotton for 1921, but increases the amount of cotton it will be necessary to deliver from the cotton produced in 1921. Conditions confronting the cotton producer will be absolutely changed, and instead of facing bankruptcy in the fall of 1921 as he is now, having raised his food and feed crops at home, planting only one-third of his lands in cotton, he will be facing prosperity and will secure for his cotton so produced a greater amount of money than he could possibly have secured had he planted a full acreage and produced a full crop."

Eleven Girls Faint When Revolve of Sulfur Becomes Apparent.

Centre, Neb., Feb. 7.—Authorities are looking for Thomas Langdon, twenty-three years old, a farmer who left the community last night. It is alleged Langdon, angry at a rival who escorted a young woman to a dance at a school house dropped two skunks into the room where the dancing was going on, and nailed the window shut. When the young persons discovered what happened they found the door was tied from the outside and that props had been placed against all the window blinds.

Eleven of the eighteen girls present promptly fainted. While the boys were busy with them the stove began to pour forth volumes of smoke following the placing of a board and several stones on top of the chimney.

LIVE FROG IN FISH'S BODY.

Removed from Pickeral, Amphibian Hops Behind Stove.

Boston, Feb. 7.—A frog which had taken up residence in a pickerel's stomach, was disposed of by Harry Fairbanks, of this city, who hooked the fish through the ice at Mill Pond, N. H. A few minutes after evicting the first-mentioned tullees amphibian shook off winter torpor and hopped languidly to new quarters behind a stove. The frog's "pickerel houseboat" was fifteen inches long.

Even fertilizers can't overcome the handicaps of poor seed bed and poor seed.

IS OPPOSED TO SWAPPING HORSES AMID STREAM

Mineral Springs Correspondent Is In Favor of the Present System of Road Construction.

SELLING MANY CABBAGE PLANTS

Mineral Springs Route 1, Feb. 7.—Mr. Matt Yarborough is right seriously ill with measles. He is teacher at College Hill and his school is closed indefinitely.

The students at Prospect have organized a basket ball team. Mr. Ernest Broom is captain.

Mr. W. P. Plyler, our local merchant and cabbage plant man, has sold thousands of plants to the farmers here for the last few days. He has turned down several 20,000 plant orders in the last week.

Mr. Rance Starue cut his knee right seriously a few days ago while chopping wood. A leader was cut and the bone was fractured.

According to our older people, this will be a good grain year. They point out that the ice and snow which has been on the ground for several days will kill a great many insects, which greatly helps the grain.

At this time last year your scribe was laid up with the "flu," alias grip, la grippe, and influenza, and will say if we live to be as old as Methusala's mail bag, I shall not forget the nice things my friends did for me.

Mr. C. C. Starnes who has been right sick with grippe for some time, is better.

The people of Buford township are greatly incensed over the way some of her citizens have been treated concerning their taxes. They were partly appeased when they read the grand jury's report, but to quote one citizen, "What the county needs is a tax lister that is capable of taking the tax and one honest enough to not try to graft the people."

The thousand men on the court house square last Monday morning was a monument to the inefficiency of our listers and a serious blow to the revaluation act in Union county, and although I have been a supporter of the new law, I am willing to petition a change if we are to have a thousand or so pulled up every year to please the whims of a honorable magistrate. The people of Buford have enough of it.

It is rather hard to get people to talk road matters down here but most of us favor Capt. Heath's plan. We can't see that anything is to be made by swapping horses in the middle of a stream. And why as soon as Monroe township got most of her roads in good shape, are we to pay our part which must be nearly a hundred thousand dollars, on the bonds for no more work than we have had? If we daily what will become of our roads? Will 27 men be more efficient than the nine we already have? We have no kick against Mr. Eubanks, and believe he can fill the office for this township better than any person in it, for he has had the necessary experience. Should not we farmers get together in community meetings and discuss this road question? We did not feel equal to the occasion on the 22nd. These are some of the questions I have been requested to ask through The Journal, as most of us are still in the dark as to what is being done.

Mr. Marvin Barrett is home from Charlotte for a few days visit.

SAYS 95 PER CENT OF TAXPAYERS ARE IN THE MUD

This Plus Half Million Dollar Bond Issue, According to Green, Is Present Road Status.

County Unit Plan a Failure

To the Editor of The Journal:—Since only a few hundred citizens were present at the mass meeting at Monroe, February 22nd, when I made friendly apology to chairman Heath and to ex-chairman Henderson for their monumental failures to make a success of a bunglesome, unwieldy and impractical county unit system of road supervision, I am asking The Journal for space to reiterate the apology for having made criticisms that seemed to apply to men instead of the SYSTEM. Neither Mr. Henderson nor Mr. Heath nor any other man can make anything like an approximate success under a centralized county unit system, with one directing head at Monroe. Mr. Henderson, who is a successful business man, resigned rather than continue under a system that was to collapse under its top-heavy load within a few months. Chairman Heath's two-page apology for the failure and the collapse of the late lamented centralized county unit system was patently done, but it is my modest opinion that he is slightly in error for wanting to attempt to redeem the said county unit system that has caused the half million, plus fifty-two thousand dollars, to melt away in eighteen months, leaving more than ninety-five per cent of the taxpayers hopelessly in the mud, with fifty-two thousand dollars less than nothing for road maintenance. The biggest legacy Union county taxpayers and their posterity will have out of the net results of this five hundred and fifty thousand dollars is a bonded indebtedness of a half million, plus 1000 miles of mud roads.

The sooner we get back to local self-government and under township supervision the quicker we will find a little relief. I. J. GREEN.