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ROAD COMMISSION LETS CONTRACTS

New Firms Organized Locally Come in for Good Contracts Over Union County

WORK TO BEGIN AT ONCE

Prices for Different Classes of Work the Same to All Contractors to Be Paid Monthly

The board of county commissioners will offer for sale on March 17th \$250,000 worth of road and bridge bonds for the construction and maintenance of roads and for building and repairing bridges. These bonds are to be sold at not less than par value and will bear six per cent interest.

In consequence of this the road commission is preparing to have work begun on several projects at once, the following contracts having been let today:

W. A. Dicus—To improve Providence road from Jackson highway to South Carolina line near Walkup's store, approximately 7 1/2 miles, by grading, draining and top-soiling.

W. A. Dicus—To top-soil Providence road from town limits of Waxhaw to a point about three miles north thereof.

W. A. Dicus—The construction and top-soiling of new road to be located from Providence road near Wedington to Marvin, approximately four miles.

W. A. Dicus—To improve by grading, draining and top-soiling the Lancaster road from Mount Carmel to South Carolina line, about ten miles.

W. A. Dicus—To improve Rocky River road from Lancaster road near Broom's store to South Carolina line, by grading, draining and top-soiling, approximately five miles.

W. A. Dicus—To improve Waxhaw-Indian Trail road from Waxhaw to Twelve Mile Creek, approximately three miles, by grading, draining and top-soiling.

J. C. Zobrist—To improve by draining, grading and top-soiling Wolfe Pond road from D. W. Flow's residence to South Carolina line, approximately nine miles.

J. C. Zobrist—The completion of the Monroe-Pageland road from B. F. Parker's residence to Center Church, approximately six miles, under direction of engineer of commission.

J. C. Zobrist—Completion of Stack road from point near D. W. Flow's to Bibb's place, approximately three miles, under direction of engineer of commission.

J. C. Zobrist—Completion of Marshville-Pageland road, approximately five miles, under direction of engineer of commission.

Union Construction Co., J. W. Fowler manager—To improve Monroe-Olive Branch road by grading, draining and top-soiling, approximately 13 1/2 miles.

Union Construction Co.—Completion of Morgan Mill road, under direction of commissioner's engineer, approximately 8 miles.

Union Construction Co.—Improving of road from Unionville to Morgan Mill road by grading, draining and top-soiling, and constructing where necessary, under direction of commissioner's engineer.

Griffin & Edwards—E. C. Griffin, J. Hurley Griffin, and J. M. Edwards—Completion of Marshville-Olive Branch road, approximately 8 miles, under direction of commissioner's engineer.

The contractors for the above projects are to furnish all labor, teams, material, machinery and equipment, except pipe for drains. They are also held responsible for any damage for injuries to persons or property, except for damages to real estate in the removal of top-soil and improvement of the roads and the contractors are to procure top-soil and material in such places as the commissioner's engineer may direct.

Payment for the work to be made by the commission monthly to the contractors on the basis of work actually completed, with ten per cent of the amount of such work retained by the commission at its option until the completion of any particular project. And if the work of any contractor shall be done in an unsatisfactory manner to the commission or for other reasons the commission may stop the work upon payment of the actual value of the work done.

The price to be paid for the work done is to be as follows: Cement concrete, class A, \$20 per cubic yard; class B, \$18 per cubic yard; clearing and grubbing per acre, \$100; earth excavation per cubic yard, 30c; loose rock excavation per cubic yard, 65c; solid rock excavation per cubic yard, \$1.65; surface courses, top-soil, per cubic yard, 45c; overhaul on Exc. and borrow Sta., per cubic yard, .015 after 500 feet; overhaul, top-soil and sand-clay, .015 after 800 feet; placing pipe, any kind, per line foot, 30c.

The commission is to furnish such pipe of such type as it may desire and place same at contractor's camp. All work is to be completed, unless ordered discontinued by commission, by December 15th, 1922.

Rabbit is Good But Must Be Caught Right

To the Editor of The Journal:—I guess your Badin man is on the right track in giving the rabbit foot preference over the horse shoe. But he is probably not aware of the fact that to be effective it must be a graveyard rabbit caught by a freckle-faced red-headed boy on the first full moon falling on Friday night after the fifth Sunday in February.—Marshville.

DO THE KIDS LIKE SWEET THINGS?

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Turner believe that they do for on Saturday afternoon they drove up to the Union County Children's Home and unloaded a fifty-gallon barrel of home-made syrup—and Union county came makes a syrup that skins anything that ever came out of New Orleans a block. Mr. and Mrs. Turner have no children of their own but they have a great big farm and made lots of molasses, so they just loaded up a barrel and left it for the thirty-odd youngsters at the home. A barrel full, folks, not a measly jug or two full. But the generous donors know enough about children to know that it takes a lot of sweet ingredients to supply a house of thirty-odd kids. Fine!

SAINT VALENTINE WAS A ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP

Martyred in Rome Feb. 14th, 270 A.D. Event Has Been Celebrated Since—Local Items

Wingate, Feb. 13.—On the fourteenth of this month there will doubtless be many parties, as it is a custom with a good many to have Valentine parties on that date. And there are a good many who celebrate Valentine's Day who do not know the meaning of the day which they celebrate. In review of European history the writer has been able to gather the following account which may be interesting to some:

St. Valentine was a Roman Catholic Bishop who was martyred in Rome on February 14, 270 A. D. This day has since been celebrated, not in a serious manner in which some seem to think it should be, but by protestants and Catholics alike. It is usually celebrated by having parties, by sending anonymous love tokens, cards of greetings, and various social activities. Some writers say that Saint Valentine was accustomed to go around from house to house and leave food on the door steps of the poor, and that sending Valentine greetings has developed from that. Another celebration of the day was the observance of the Roman festival Lupercalia, which was celebrated on February 15th. On this occasion the festival drew from a box the name of a lady to whom he was to be faithful for the ensuing year. It is supposed that this custom is the beginning of some of the customs of Valentine's Day.

Mr. M. S. Humphrey has bought the lot opposite Mr. W. M. Perry's residence on Main street and plans to erect a residence there in the near future.

Some of the brick and lumber have been laid on the Baptist parsonage building lot back of the new church and the remaining part is being prepared. The erection of the parsonage will be begun at an early date.

Miss Thelma Humphrey of Charlotte spent the week-end with her parents here, Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Humphrey.

Mr. C. C. Lemb recently told the writer he was planning to bed 200 bushels of sweet potatoes, from which he expects to sell plants to the public. Mr. Lemb has been in this business for a number of years and always has more orders for his plants than he can fill.

Mr. A. C. Small, Wingate's well-known garage man, has been in the automobile business for fifteen years. Mr. Small was one of the first mechanics of the county. Mr. Small attended school in Charlotte, where he received his diploma, signed by J. H. Dickerson and W. L. Johnson, the latter being general foreman. Mr. Small knows the county automobile history from the beginning and is prepared to give a good deal of interesting information as to the first garages, first automobiles, and the first mechanics of this county.

Wake Forest College, spent several days here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Williams, last week.

Mrs. L. C. Trontman and two children, Ethel and Jack, spent the week-end with relatives in Marshville.

Miss Alice Liles of Charlotte spent Sunday with her sister here, Miss Netta Liles, who is head of the music department of the high school.

Legion Minstrel Great Success

The American Legion Minstrel that was given at the Strand last Friday afternoon and night proved an unusual attraction. At the afternoon performance the room was filled to the limit and at night crowds were turned away after seats had all been taken.

There were twenty-five or thirty characters in the attraction, all local talent, and the program was a very varied one, the plan of a hand-saw being one of the outstanding features. Mr. Eugene Lemmond played quite a number of tunes on an old hand-saw and many people got the idea that it was a fake, but The Journal learns that it was a real accomplishment.

The dancing by Messrs. Moss Horton and Wm. Austin and Miss Elizabeth Houston was especially fine. Messrs. Fred Smith and Bill Cole brought down the house with their solo. There were also many other good features.

The proceeds were large, about \$200 being cleared from the two performances. The money goes to the support of the Legion.

The U. D. C.'s will meet with Mrs. Randolph Redfearn at 3.30 Thursday afternoon.

Men's Bible Class of Central M.E. Church Has a Jolly Good Time.

Major Heath Presents Detailed History of the Church and Prominent Speakers Enliven the Occasion While Eats Come in for Good Measure

The Men's Club of Central Methodist church gave what they pleased to term a supper in the Men's Bible class room last evening at 6:30 o'clock, but a few invited guests express themselves as being willing to call it a real banquet, with an attendance of about 125 men.

Some of the outstanding features of the occasion were a history of Central Methodist church by Major W. C. Heath, addresses by A. M. Stack, J. C. M. Vann, Rev. Geo. P. Stevens, Mr. Pierce White of Charlotte and Dr. C. C. Weaver and the singing by an excellent choir of male voices.

The exercises opened with a medley of old time negro melodies that brought down the house, but when the plates were passed around the singers immediately found more interesting ways in which to entertain themselves and the singing ceased. But everybody seemed to be satisfied and agreed that the rattle of spoons, knives and forks furnished far better music at that particular time than any choir could render.

Mr. A. M. Secrest, president of the club, presided in a very pleasant manner, but his most excellent work was attained during the eating periods.

Major Heath declared that a meeting of this kind does more to remove prejudice and create happiness than anything that could be done, and intimated that Dr. Weaver could always have a big crowd at his Wednesday night prayer meeting service if he would only give the necessary "hand out."

History of Central Church
The Major then gave the following interesting history of the local church.

The territory now known as Union county was first included in the Wateree, South Carolina Conference, 1810-36; then Lancaster circuit, 1836-41; then Waxhaw circuit, 1841-42; then Pleasant Grove circuit, 1842-64; then Monroe circuit and station were formed.

Monroe first appears as a paying appointment August 9th, 1844, and paid that year for support of the ministry the good sum of \$3.05. But in 1841 the Rev. W. A. McSwain had preached on the front steps of T. D. Winchester's store, and the up-stairs of this store was used by the Methodists in which to hold services until their first church was erected in 1842-43 on the lot now occupied by the First Presbyterians, which property was owned and occupied until the erection of the wooden church, which stood on the lot on the opposite side of the present building and which building was sold to Shute & Sons, and was moved away and is now standing opposite Griffin's stable.

The first quarterly conference was held with the Monroe church Feb. 7, 1865, Jas. Stacy, presiding elder, and Jno. McMakin pastor. Those present at this conference as official members were Jno. McMakin, pastor in charge, Adam Ivey, local preacher, J. T. Driffin, J. Houston, class leader, B. M. Porter, J. Ormand, H. King, Banj. Troit and J. Wentz.

It was in the year 1850 that the first Sunday school is mentioned, records showing 30 scholars, 4 teachers and a superintendent. There were received into the church on the entire circuit in this year 115 white and 27 colored members.

It was in 1854 that a committee was appointed, of which T. D. Winchester, the father of E. C. Winchester, our present postmaster, was chairman, for the purpose of seriously considering the advisability of moving the parsonage to Monroe. It was thought inexpedient on account of the cost which was estimated at \$580.00. The parsonage was, however, moved here in 1855, and the house was purchased from John D. Stewart and was located in the southern extremity of the town.

George Washington Ivy was pastor in 1856-57, and the late H. M. Houston's name first appears as a steward. It was in this year that the name of the circuit was changed from Pleasant Grove to Monroe.

In 1864-65, E. A. Lemmond was the preacher and his salary was \$5.90. During the years 1861-65, the church was greatly grieved and affected on account of the ravages of war.

The Monroe church was "set off" from the Monroe circuit in 1865 and made a station. The time of this beginning is remarkable—1865-1866.

The first quarterly conference was held on the 25th Nov., 1865, and was opened by the Presiding Elder, Rev. F. M. Kennedy. H. J. Wolfe was elected recording steward and T. D. Winchester district steward; salary of pastor fixed at \$500.00 and was paid in full.

In 1867-68, Rev. Jno. R. Little was pastor in charge, and the enrollment was 110 white and 43 colored and the pastor's salary, owing to the "strenuousness of the times," was fixed at \$245.00, with board and lodging.

H. M. Houston and T. D. Winchester were the first delegates to the first "District Meeting," held in Wadesboro in Aug. 1867.

The church had no preacher in 1839. B. F. Dixon was pastor 1871-72, and John H. Walsh, S. S. Supt. Six copies of the Raleigh Christian Advo-

cate taken this year by the membership of the church in 1873-74-75 and 79 by T. P. England, M. V. Sherrill, C. M. Pepper and D. May. It was in 1875 that W. H. Phifer's name first appears on the records and during the year a "glorious revival" is reported.

It was in 1879, while the Rev. D. May was pastor, that the first enforcement of discipline for worldliness is noted, and co-incidence with this a reduction of membership.

The quarterly conference records from 1877 to 1891 are missing. From 1878 to 1897 the pastors in charge were J. H. Guinn, P. J. Caraway, F. D. Swindell, W. C. Gannon, A. P. Tyer, J. C. Rowe, W. R. Barrett, R. M. Hoyle, and W. R. Ware. It will be noted that some of them were the most noted preachers of the State. It was during the pastorate of Rev. R. M. Hoyle in 1894 that all of the debt of the church was paid. His preaching was unusual, and as many of us recall, his discipline rigid. His record will live—a diamond in the rough.

It was during the pastorate of W. R. Ware that the enterprise of attempting to build the present magnificent church was undertaken and \$8,000.00 were subscribed for this purpose.

It was in 1899 that Rev. W. M. Bagby came as pastor and it was during his pastorate that a contract was made. A glorious revival took place also and 23 added to the church. Made and the first brick laid on the 21st day of June 1900. The building committee was composed of W. H. Phifer, J. H. Lee, S. W. Parham, W. S. Lee, J. J. Crow, C. W. Bruner, J. R. English and W. C. Heath.

The opening services in the present church were held July 5, 1901. The membership at that time was 430. The program began with a love feast conducted by Dr. John R. Brooks. Bishop Wilson of Baltimore, a distinguished guest, preached the first sermon and his subject was "Saul of Tarsus." Bishop Wilson proved to be a man of strong parts and treated the subject in a masterful way. A mass meeting of all the Sunday schools of the town was held in the church the same day. The church was afterward dedicated by Bishop Morrison.

I am indebted largely to Rev. W. R. Ware, who wrote up a history of the church while here as pastor, and to an article appearing in the Charlotte Observer on July 6th, 1901, by H. E. C. Bryant (Red Buck), who reported on the first meeting.

Address of the Evening
In his address Mr. A. M. Stack referred to what he has seen in the old countries and in places that are not under the influence of christianity, and declared that the vilest sinner in America is indebted to christian influences which provide safety and the pursuit of happiness which he enjoys. Mr. Stack believes that it is a tragedy that so many people are debtors to the christian religion and don't know it.

Mr. J. C. M. Vann, who was an invited guest from the Episcopal church, made some happy hits. He said that it is a generally recognized fact that the Episcopal church is the mother of Methodism, and that if that be true she is a proud old mother. He also declared that her children are a great deal more prolific than she has ever been, judging from the wonderful growth of the Methodist church in Monroe. He threw a bouquet at Dr. Weaver by stating that he has never heard him preach, but the first requisite to a good preacher is the qualities of a real man and that Dr. Weaver certainly possesses such qualities. Mr. Vann also stated that if there had ever been any doubt as to his being an orthodox Methodist, the supper last night had not only made him an orthodox but a shouting Methodist.

Rev. Geo. P. Stevens, a returned Presbyterian missionary to China, was another invited guest and he was at his best. He wished the heathens in China could look in on that scene and get the real significance of such a body of business and professional men gathered in an effort to stimulate interest in the spread of the gospel. Rev. Mr. Stevens, after his delightful talk, sang a few Chinese songs and closed with, "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder," asking the entire body to join him in singing the chorus—in English. This singing was an inspiration and it almost provoked a revival among some of the more spiritually-minded.

The address of Mr. Pierce White of Tryon Street Methodist church, Charlotte, was rich in its suggestions, reminiscences and real inspiration. He said it was a pleasure to him to be called Mr. White in Monroe for the first time, as heretofore he had always been referred to as Anna Chreitberg's husband. Mr. White felicitated Monroe upon its ability to co-operate in all good work and stated that he had never seen a town where everybody pulled together better. After the supper had progressed that far Mr. White felt something like Jacob did the first time he kissed Rachel. He then told a story of a man who couldn't understand the scriptural reading that Jacob kissed Rachel and then lifted up his voice and wept.

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ONE TALENT MAN THE ONE WHO GROWLED THE MOST

But the Temptation of the Five Talent Man Is to Lie Down on Job Too Quickly, Says Dr. Weaver

In his Sunday evening sermon in Central Methodist church Dr. C. C. Weaver handled a big subject in a masterful manner. He talked on the subject, "Temptations of the Talents" and suggested that all men run up against temptations that test the use of their talents and that they are prone to yield to the temptation to fail to use their God-given faculties.

In regard to the five-talent man Dr. Weaver said his temptation is to quit too soon—that because of the fact that he is possessed of a greater amount of ability than the average man and that people tell him of his wonderful accomplishments he often gets the idea that his work is so satisfactory that it isn't necessary for him to put forth any great effort, and consequently he falls short of what he might and should accomplish. He illustrated his point this way: "Here's a man who is going to run a race with another fellow and he has a half a mile the start, but when the end of the race is reached he may be only a quarter of a mile in the lead; yet because he reached the end of the track ahead of his opponent people proclaim him the winner. Just because a man of five talents comes out ahead of the one or the two talented fellow," declared the speaker, "is no evidence that he has done his duty."

"The temptation of the two-talent man," said Dr. Weaver, "is discontent—that he often realizes the fact that he can't accomplish what a five talented man can do and sulks on the job." He gets the idea that if he cannot do big things he is not especially under obligations to do anything and he quits trying. As an illustration he referred to preachers who sometimes become discouraged because they can't preach like some other minister, and also to musicians who lose interest after hearing a master musician, when at the same time there may be hundreds of people who really get more out of the efforts of the lesser talented musician.

"The one-talent person often treats his talent with contempt," said the preacher, "because his service is small, and yet that service is needed and if it is not rendered the world suffers because of the failure and the individual who refuses to use that one talent is condemned because of his attitude."

"Non-use of the talents leads to inability to use them," he declared, "and it is not abuse but non-use that the Lord condemns in the story of the talents." He declared that a man who refuses to use his talents soon reaches the place that he doesn't see anything to do and he sits down and refuses to try.

The speaker then referred to the fact that the only fellow who brought charges against his Lord in the story of the talents was the one who had hid the money and did nothing at all. "So it is with people of modern times," he declared, "the fellow who engages in criticism and abuse of others is the one that does nothing himself."

The congregation at the Sunday evening service was large and the message was well taken and every one went away feeling that he has something to do in life, whether he be a one, two or five-talent man.

OPENS COUNTY CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BOLL WEEVIL

First Meeting Will be a Big One to Be Held in the Court House on Monday Week

By T. J. W. Broom

To lessen the heavy losses which cotton boll weevil is due to inflict this year the North Carolina agricultural extension service has arranged for big important, county wide meetings. The first of these meetings will be held in the court house in Monroe, Monday, Feb. 27th, beginning at 11 a. m. Be on time. Come for a purpose. Urge all cotton growers to attend.

The best methods for growing cotton under boll weevil conditions will be explained, including varieties, planting, fertilizers, culture, etc.

The best methods for fighting the boll weevil will be discussed, including the poison method. Also for making a good living on the farm—home gardens and orchards; milk cows; hogs; poultry, etc.

All cotton growers in the county are urged to attend. The meeting may make the difference between success and failure to you. No effort will be spared to make the meeting valuable. Each speaker is a specialist in his line, and realizes the seriousness of the problem.

Every banker, business and professional man should attend this meeting. The financial prosperity of our county for the next few years depends largely upon our action this year towards the boll weevil menace. If we do the right thing now the hardships that have attended boll weevil invasion in other sections can be averted. If we do the right thing now and follow it up for five years the agricultural prosperity of the county will be assured.

This meeting will open the campaign against boll weevil for 1922, to be run by the North Carolina agricultural extension service in co-operation with the county agent.

Prices Mill camp W. O. W. will meet Saturday night, Feb. 18th.

CHRIST IS LIFE'S POSITIVE FORCE

The Only Source for the Enlargement and Enrichment of Life in All Its Phases

AMUSEMENTS FORGOTTEN

Dr. Burrell Says It Is Not the Function of the Church to Furnish But to Enrich Them

Dr. W. R. Burrell, pastor of the First Baptist church, preached Sunday night on the subject of amusements without mentioning amusements at all. On the preceding Sunday night he had preached on the subject of the personal attitude of christians toward amusements of one kind or another, saying that these constitute questions which individuals must to a large degree solve for themselves. On last Sunday night he preached on the theme of the position of the church, or rather that of Christ, in relation not only to amusements but to life itself. The text was John 10:10, the words of Christ: "I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

Dr. Burrell's plea is that when one grasps the great fact that the proper incorporation of Christ in his life will so fill and enlarge that the phases of life known usually as amusements will sink into their proper place of insignificance. It is not the business of the church to furnish this or that form of amusement and entertainment but to throw its whole energy into the task of the enlargement of life to the full proportions attainable only through the adoption of the positive teaching of Christ. The christian must live on the positive, not the negative plane.

Christ is a Positive Force.

Christ was and is the greatest positive force in the world. He knew and taught nothing of a purely negative character. He came not to repress or suppress any phase of life but to enlarge it. His "Thou shalt" everywhere supercedes the "Thou shalt not" of old testament as well as of all other religious systems. He everywhere and always exhibits a profound appreciation of the worth and value of human life and an appreciation of its possibilities that staggers the imagination, and gives the lie to every pessimistic utterance. He exalts every natural impulse and seeks to direct it into channels of larger usefulness. So far from repressing these things he weeps with those who weep and laughs with those who laugh. A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, he is no stranger to the festive board and the marriage celebration. And we are not surprised to find him not only conviving at it but by the manufacture of more wine—real wine—furthering the boisterous merriment incident to such an occasion.

No Business to Ignore

A study of his matchless life leads us to a restudy of the attitude in relation to the necessary and vital part that joy and pleasure play in the human drama. First, we gather that it is no part of the business of the church to attempt to repress or ignore what Christ evidently regarded as fundamental to life itself. It is the part of fear and unbelief to prohibit that which challenges our best to control. Christ attempted no such thing but frankly facing whatever difficulty there might be, set himself to overcome the difficulty and turn the liability into asset. He utters no prohibition but proposes to interpenetrate with his own life and power all human relationships until the evil in them sloughs off, and the good, raised to its highest power, remains.

Thus we have no record that he ever uttered a word against the slave traffic, the wine shops or the brothel, and yet such was the effect of his life and teaching that these things are forever impossible where his influence predominates.

No Business to Provide Recreation

Secondly, we gather that it is no part of the function of the church to go into the business of providing recreation and amusements, nor is it any part of its legitimate work to provide soup kitchens and such like, however meritorious these may be in themselves. But it is her task to so encourage and support every worthy effort and to quicken and interpenetrate these things with the spirit of her master as to make them valuable adjuncts to her proper mission and work and so further the purpose of the Master in making life more and more abundant. Too long has the church tentatively surrendered to the devil whole sides of life that are often its most approachable and helpful features.

Only when we shall have learned the lesson that a negative attitude toward life is anti-christian and un-social shall we begin to glimpse possibilities of our holy faith in enlarging life and enriching human well being. The influence of an aggressive christian life and an aggressive church that sets itself to guide and direct rather than to repress is simply incalculable for good, and when we shall have come to see that it is our business to relate the spirit and life as well as the teachings of Christ to all phases of life in the individual and the community we have learned the secret of the unique ministry of our Lord and can come measurably near to seeing the answer to the age-old prayer, "Thy kingdom come."