

Mount Airy News.

J. E. JOHNSON Editor and Publisher.

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ROAD BUILDING BLOCKED.

It is with regret that we write about the road troubles that have developed in this township. A year ago the people voted a small tax by which the roads are to be worked and a Commission was appointed to see that the work is properly done. The Commission has provided teams, plows, etc., with which to work all the roads in the township, and apart from the general work they have planned to have three roads properly located and graded. This must be done before a good road can ever be maintained at a reasonable cost, for the road beds, as they are now located, can never be properly drained or worked by machinery.

The road leading from this town into the heart of the county by way of White Plains was considered by far the most important road leading into town, for several reasons. It is possibly traveled more than any other road and over it comes the largest quantity of tobacco to the local market. And then it was located along branches and in such places that in rainy weather it became the worst road by far that is in the county.

For these reasons it was the opinion of the Commission that this road needed their attention first. A force of men was put to work on it after a competent surveyor had been employed to properly locate the roadway. And now the work is to stop. It has developed that the people along the road are wanting as much as a thousand dollars damage for the right of way where the road has been changed to cut into their lands. The road was changed as far as Stewart's creek, about three miles from town, and then the work will be discontinued and the grading of the Westfield road commenced.

As we see it this is an unfortunate state of affairs. There is a great demand for a road to this town from that direction. The people in the southern and central portion of the county want the road and need it. The various roads converge in and about White Plains from different sections and from White Plains to this town the traffic is so heavy that the road soon becomes impassible in the winter and during rainy weather. The road must have special attention to be used, and it must be graded and the road way changed before it can ever be made a reasonably good road.

But now the work must stop. As we understand it the Commission takes a stand something like this: They were put in charge of the road work with funds barely sufficient to keep the roads in passable condition and they have hardly sufficient funds to do the work that is in demand without spending a cent for damage. The people who live along other public roads that need to be graded and worked are willing to give the right of way and welcome the building of a good road through their farms. The Commission takes the stand that it is their duty to build roads where the people want them and use the money at the present time to make roads rather than pay damages to land owners.

It would be asking very much to say to a farmer that he should give all the road way through his farm in every instance. It is a two sided question, and we do not understand that the Commission is demanding a free right of way, but they are not now in position to spend money for rights of way. If the people along the roads want a good road by their home it is up to them to be generous and consider the good that is to come to them from the building of the road. They tell how one farmer asked five hundred dollars for damages at a certain point on a road and the Commission refused to build the road at that point and another man gave the right of way and the man who wanted damages would now be glad to give the land free.

Of course it looks hard to a

man to be asked to give good land to the public, but then you ask any man who owns land a short distance from a road and he will tell you that he would be glad to give the right of way through his farm if he could only get a good road. The value of a good road is so great to a farmer that most men consider that any farmer can afford to donate the land that he may get the benefit of the road.

It is to be hoped that the people of the township will be as generous as they can and not get up confusion about this work, for it is certainly badly needed and the farmers along the roads will receive as great benefits as any class of people to say nothing about what it will mean to the general public.

Disturbance at School Closing.

Of course there are those here who would prefer that we say not one word about the disturbance at the exercises at the entertainment at the Graded school building last night. Only for the fact that the disturbance was such that it was necessary to call in the police and that the teachers are humiliated we would not mention it, for it is no credit to our town.

We said a year ago that the only hope for that school was to turn out the outlaws who are in attendance. Just so long as a few boys and girls are allowed to attend who are not subject to the laws of parents at home or to the laws at school just so long will these disturbances continue.

State Democratic Convention in Raleigh June 6th.

An official call has been issued by Chairman A. H. Eller, of the State Democratic executive committee, calling a State convention of the Democratic party to meet in Raleigh on Thursday, June 6th, at noon, "to nominate officers, to declare a party platform, to elect delegates to the National Democratic convention, and to take such other action as may be deemed advisable. One delegate from each county for every one hundred and fifty Democratic votes, and one delegate and one alternate for a fraction over seventy five Democratic votes cast therein for the Democratic candidate for governor at the last preceding gubernatorial election shall be chosen in accordance with the plan of organization."

School Commencement.

Last Sunday morning Rev. M. A. Barber of Christ's church Raleigh preached an excellent sermon to a packed audience in the school auditorium, the sermon was of a very high order and highly appreciated by those who heard it. Splendid music was rendered by the best local talent.

Last night members of the high school gave a splendid program, with a few members from the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th grades.

To-night the graduating class will entertain the public and on Friday night Mr. R. D. W. Connor of Raleigh will deliver a literary address in the absence of Hon. J. Bryan Grimes who is kept at home by illness in his family.

Notice.

We will sell to the highest bidder, for cash, or one half cash and balance in six months with approved security for deferred payment on

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BYRD MARION ON WITNESS STAND.

Denies Having Seen Claude Allen Shoot in Court Room—He Also Defends Himself.

Wytheville, May 27th.—Byrd Marion, who is like the defendant, charged with complicity in the shooting up of the Carroll county court, was a witness today for the defense in the trial of Claude Allen. Marion denied that he saw Claude Allen fire a shot in the court room, but admitted seeing the defendant with a revolver in his hand. He denied that he took any part in the Hillsville tragedy.

The Commonwealth rested its case this morning after examining one witness, Detective Lucas, who arrested Claude Allen. Rapid progress was then made with witnesses for the defense, fourteen having been put on the stand when court adjourned for the day. Testimony of five witnesses given at the trial of Floyd Allen, father of Claude, who was convicted of first degree murder, was read into the record, it being as to the good reputation enjoyed by the younger members of the Allen clan previous to the present trouble. Other evidence introduced by the defense today was to impeach witnesses for the Commonwealth.

A summary of the evidence for the State against Claude Allen for shooting and killing Judge Thornton L. Massie, and for conspiring, aiding and abetting with other Allens and kinsmen of his, in shooting and killing the judge and officers of Carroll county court:

Shows that on March 14th, 1912, Claude Allen was in the court room, when the jury rendered its verdict convicting his father, Floyd Allen, of felony, as charged and fixed his penalty at one year in the State penitentiary that he was standing in the northeast corner of the court room with his uncle Sidna Allen, when the jury filed into the court room. Had a whispered conversation with his father, when it was known that the jury had agreed; returned to his position by the side of Sidna Allen, and that when Floyd Allen jumped up and fired the first shot, and that shot at the judge of the court of Carroll county, which shot entered the right arm of the judge, passing through into his body. That he advanced, with Sidna Allen, who again fired on the judge officers and jurors and did kill Judge Massie, Commonwealth's Attorney Foster, Sheriff Webb, Juror Fowler and Bettie Ayers, wounding Clerk Goad, Juror Kane, a bystander, and shot a lock of hair from the temple of another juror; retreated to the court green and to the street, firing back at court house. Seized his horse and took flight; was arrested on the 28th of March by Detective Lucas, who took from his person two pistols of 38 calibre, with a box of cartridges and \$84.60 in money.

"Arc All The Boys Ready?"

That he was seen the evening before in the court room approach his father, take him by the hand, feel his pulse and say, "They are beating regularly," when his father replied to him, "Are all the boys ready?"

That he stayed with his brother Victor at Hall's Hotel the night before the shooting and that Victor left on a table a 38 Colt's revolver which he took and concealed on his person the next morning and hurried to the court room.

That he was seen with the Allens and Edwardes at the foot of steps that lead to the court room on the morning of the tragedy, about 30 minutes before the shooting, when Wesley Edwards distributed cartridges among them and all went to court room together.

He admitted when on witness stand having drawn a pistol and firing at Goad, because he thought Goad was going to shoot his father.

Judge Bolen Corroborated.

The evidence of Judge Bolen, an eye witness, who saw Claude Allen fire the first shot, which took effect in the right side of Judge Massie, has been corroborated by other witnesses.

Walter D. Tipton, the associate counsel with Judge Bolen, who was defending Floyd Allen at Hillsville on March 14th, also testified that after the first shot fired he saw Claude Allen on a bench about 6 or 8 feet from the

northeast corner of the court room, with both hands aiming a pistol and fire, but could not testify at whom he was firing, as he was endeavoring to get out. Mr. Tipton also testified that while going out he saw Wesley Edwards near the corner of the bar, reloading his pistol, this youthful outlaw was seen again on the court green reloading.

The evidence when the State rested its case was even stronger than it was against Floyd Allen at this juncture.

The Defense Puts Up Byrd Marion.

Byrd Marion was the star witness. He testified he lived in Carroll about three miles from Floyd Allen. Said he was "no kin to them." Related how he was summoned to Hillsville as a witness for Floyd Allen, but did not go until Tuesday and was in the court room Wednesday evening. He was stopping with Mr. Burnett, who lives about thirty yards beyond the Blankenship stable. Was at the store on the North side of the court house when the shooting began, was sitting at stove. The jury came in and the verdict was announced—heard the judge say "take charge of the prisoner." Then the trouble commenced. Some one ran against him and knocked him down. He got out as the shooting was going on down the stairs and on to the hotel and out to a lot where Green Robinson, Sidna Towe and others were. Remained there until shooting was over. Went out on street to a platform near the post office, walked out the street towards Burnett's home and saw Floyd Allen lying on a little bed and carry

Continued to Page three.

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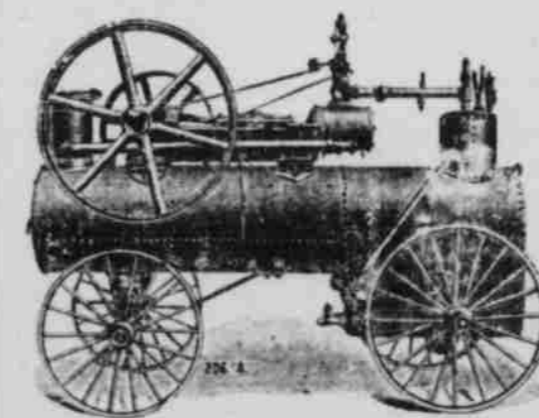
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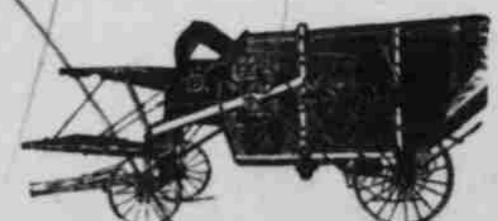
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