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# The Mount Airy News.

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## GOVERNOR BLEASE'S THANKSGIVING GIFT.

Paroles 99 South Carolina Convicts, Pardoning one Other.

Columbia, Nov. 22nd.—Ninety-nine paroles and one pardon were announced today by Governor Blease as his Thanksgiving gift to prisoners in the State Penitentiary and on the public works in the several counties of South Carolina. This is undoubtedly a record for executive clemency.

A hurried compilation gives the following as the nature of the various crimes for which the prisoners were serving sentences:

Murder, 28; manslaughter, 26; bigamy, 1; violating dispensary law, 3; burglary and larceny, 7; assault and battery with intent to kill, 10; assault and battery of high and aggravated nature, 4; housebreaking and larceny, 5; highway robbery and larceny, 1; larceny of live stock, 1; obtaining goods under false pretenses, 2; gambling, disorderly conduct and petit larceny, 1; rape, 3; breach of trust, 1; breach of trust, fraudulent intent, 1; manslaughter and carrying concealed weapons, 2; grand larceny, 1; safe cracking, 1; larceny and forgery, 1; total 100.

With the issuing of the large batch of Thanksgiving paroles and paroles, Governor Blease's clemency record approaches the 900 mark.

The records in the Secretary of State's office show that up to yesterday he had issued 257 paroles and commutations and 525 paroles, making a grand total of 782 paroles, commutations and paroles.

The Governor's first act of clemency after coming into the office was to commute the sentence of John Pendegrass of Williamsburg County from hanging to life imprisonment. This was done January 10, 1911. According to the records the first parole was that of G. Wash Hunter, a former client of Governor Blease's law firm whom the Governor paroled on February 20, 1911. Hunter had been serving an eight-year sentence for manslaughter. This case created great interest.

Should the Governor pass the 1,000 mark by the next session of the General Assembly, he will have averaged one pardon, commutation or parole, a day since assuming office three years ago this session of the Legislature.

The paroles are dated November 25.

In all but one, which is a pardon, the prisoners are released under the parole act.

## Some Good Road News.

The citizens who live on the road leading from the Turkey Ford on Fish river to the Mt. Airy and Dobson road near Will Atkins' residence, observed both of the good road days and the result was so gratifying that they have worked five days with their teams and have hired an extra team to help grade.

One section of the road is in the care of J. A. Blue and A. M. Key. The following citizens have contributed labor or cash to help do the work: Geo. Jackson, John Key, W. E. Haymore, M. S. Key, Geo. Blue, W. C. Key, J. M. Harell, Wilson Key, F. M. Lewis, J. A. Blue, A. M. Key and Ed Marion. The other section is in the care of S. Y. Simpson, S. M. Copland, Wilson Marion and others. The road is about half graded and the work will be continued until the road is completed and in the spring the split log drag will be used to keep the road in condition while packing.

This is the first move for good roads in this section. The citizens along the road freely gave the lead to make changes in the grade where needed. All the citizens along the road have extended a helping hand; some have furnished labor and some cash to hire teams. The road when finished will be a credit to the community it passes through. The grading will be finished before the weather gets to freezing hard. There is a good interest in road building in this section of Dobson township and for good roads for Surry Co. in general.

## THE CITYWARD DRIFT.

Men Contented to Live in the Open, But Their Wives Want Company.

Herbert Quick, in Good House-keeping Magazine.

My explorations of the souls of farmers backed by my own life on a farm, and the lives of my mother, sisters, aunts, cousins, and women neighbors lived, lead me to the conclusion that the "drift to the cities" has been largely a woman movement. I have found the men on farms much more contented and happy than the women.

My mother wanted my father to leave the farm and move to a college town where the children could have "a better chance." He did not accede to her wishes, and one bit of spiritual drift was checked. But just to the degree that farmers have reached the plane of letting the wife and daughter vote on the future of the family they have been pushed toward the city.

Out on broad cattle ranges I have found men and boys filled with the traditional joy of open spaces and the freedom of spirit which goes with it; but in many, many cases their women were pining for neighbors, for domestic help for pretty clothes, for schools, music, art, and the things tasted when the magazines came in.

So here we have one of our greatest national problems related back to that eighth or tenth person in our population who happens to be a farm woman.

Our agricultural life has been falling to pieces. The fragments have been sucked to the cities. The pride of the nation once lay in its sturdy farmers. From their ranks came our statesmen, our scholar, our financiers. The iron in the nation's blood came from the blade of scythes and sickles, and the polish from its plowshares. The farmers fought our battles and built our railroads and bridges. They have been the soldiers of progress. And unless we can still maintain a farm life in which the greatness of American life can flower, the armies of progress will suffer that decadence which comes to the hosts of any nation when they come from payments instead of from meadow and plowed field.

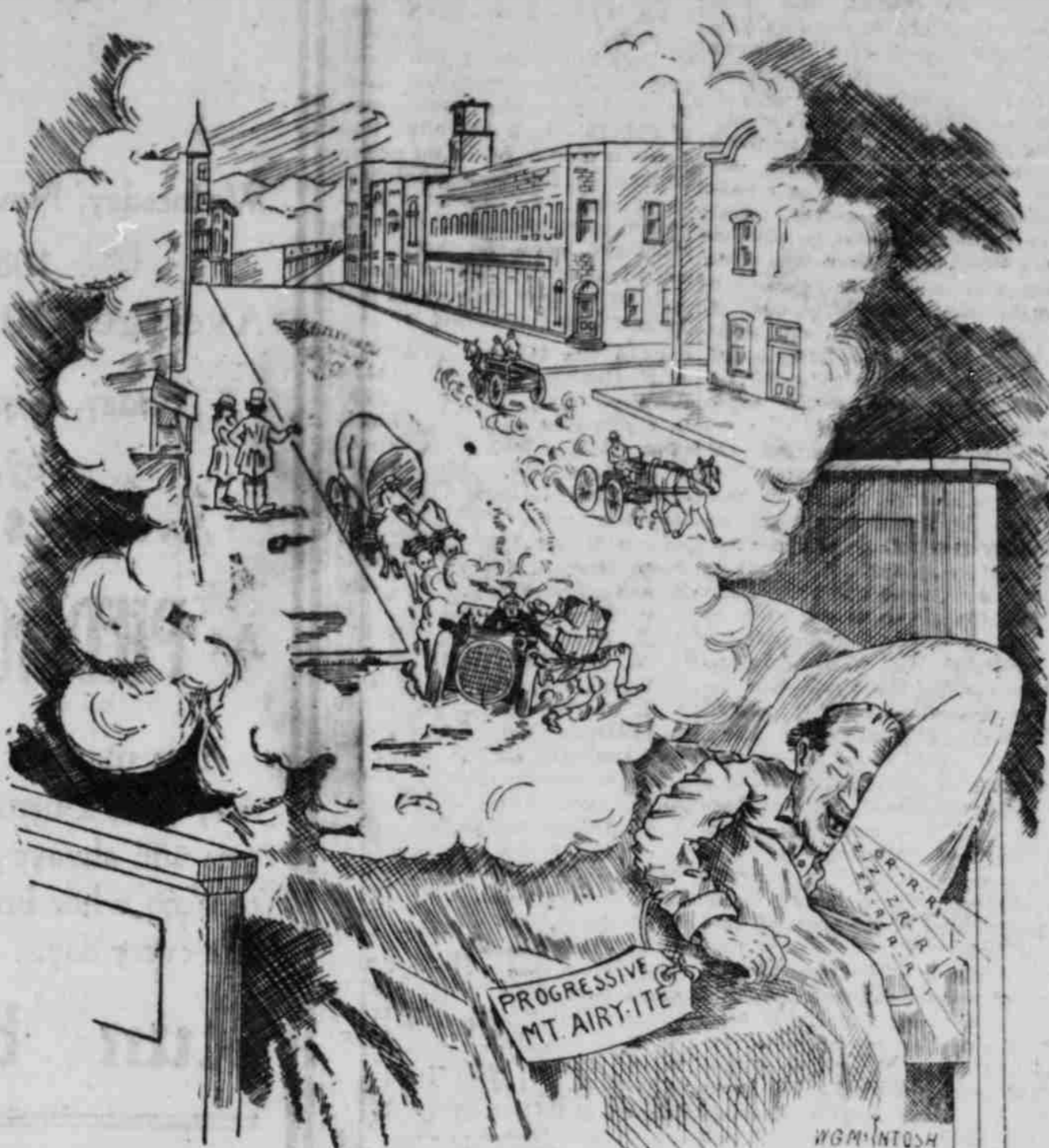
The farm woman must bear these oncoming hosts of strong men, or they will not be borne. And unless the farm women can live under conditions which make for happiness, health and pride, our whole nation will be weakened by the ill health, unhappiness, and unrest of these mothers and wives.

There is a movement for better things among the farmers' wives of the land. There is a new organization on an international scale. There are questioning and revolt and progress in the rural homes. This idea is finding recognition among them, that all the prizes of progress are no longer to be allowed to go to the man life on the farm, while the woman life is to vegetate.

The fact is that the better conditions which have come to farmers through progress and invention have been largely forced upon the men. Once the two sexes were on a parity in the matter of labor and living. The old notion of a very competent farmer's wife was the one who "washed and mopped, and baked and brewed, and spun a run, and went a visiting in the afternoon."

But the present woman movement on the farm is toward a higher plane than the economic plane. It is a demand for happiness and ease and the fruits of progress in the home, as well as out of it.

In brief, the farm woman is now demanding, and receiving better things in the order of their nearness to her daily life—first, things in the house for her housekeeping; secondly, things in the house for her children's happier and fuller home life; and, thirdly, things out side the house, in the neighborhood, for the better and fuller community life of herself, her children, her husband, and her neighbors. This is the outline of the rural uplift which is gathering force every day.



## THE DREAM COME TRUE

A year ago we had dreams of a better system of streets for this town—we had been dreaming about better streets for years, but it looked to us like the time had come for a realization of the dream. The mud then was shoe top deep on Main Street where hundreds of wagons unloaded the products of the farm every day. So we had our cartoonist to make the above picture which appeared in the same space it occupies now. This was done with a view to creating a public sentiment in favor of a better system of streets. We had hopes that the dream would come true, but at that time men who should have encouraged us in our effort to create a public sentiment actually sneered and laughed at the idea. And so it is with no little pride that we have seen the dream come true at so early a date.

By the time this paper is read the Main street of this town will be almost finished, and it looks fully as well as the above drawing of the artist could predict. All that part of Main Street where the bulk of the retail and wholesale business is done is now a credit to our town and would be a credit to any city in the state. The work of putting it down has been done by men who knew the business and nothing has been left undone to make it a first class job. Mr. C. M. Miller, one of the best surveyors in the state made all the surveys and made them as they should be made and not as some individuals wanted them, as has too often been the case in the past. Mr. Roy Brown, of Winston-Salem was employed to come here and take active charge of the work. Mr. J. W. Jones was the contractor and is an experienced workman in stone and cement and has given it his personal attention from the beginning.

At first the street was graded properly, then a cement bed of rock and sand was laid five inches deep and on this a layer of stone, egg size, was placed and covered with hot tar. After rolling with the heavy steam roller another layer of small rock was covered with tar and this covered with fine stone. Altogether the bed of rock is nine inches thick, five inches being of cement and the top layers bound together with two coats of tar. The tar is a preparation made for the purpose that will not get too soft in hot weather, and at all times it is supposed to serve as a binder to keep the rock in position.

From the first Mr. J. A. Yokley has led in this movement and he has had the hearty support of the other commissioners. Mr. Yokley has spent much of his time during the past few months looking after the details of the work and seeing that it was properly executed, and it is due to his efforts in the main that the town has been able to make this progressive move at this time.

It is admitted by every one who is entitled to an opinion that the work of making the street is a first class job and a credit to our progressive town. It has cost our people, all told, as much as eight or nine thousand dollars and half of this sum will be paid by the men who own property along the street. And be it said to the everlasting credit of the property owners that we have not heard of a single man who has not cheerfully cooperated with the town and met his part of the expense like a public spirited citizen.

And so the dream has come true.

## Resolutions of Respect.

Whereas it has pleased our Heavenly Father in His wise providence to remove from our midst our esteemed brother John B. Jackson; therefore be it resolved:

First, That we bow in humble submission to His divine will.

Second, That in his death the Blue Ridge Council No. 73 Jr. O. U. A. M. Mount Airy, N. C. has lost a loyal and faithful member.

Third, That his loyalty and devotion to duty be commended as worthy of emulation.

Fourth, That we extend to the bereaved widow and children our

deepest sympathy in this their irreparable loss and commend them to a loving and merciful God who alone can comfort the broken hearted.

Fifth, That a copy of these resolutions be recorded in the minutes of our Council, a copy sent to the family and copies furnished the local papers for publication.

E. C. Bivens,  
J. W. Eamp,  
R. V. Devorle,  
Committee.

All goods bought at Knights is guaranteed to be as represented.

## Wesley Edwards is in Bad Health Taken to Farm.

Richmond, Va., Nov. 21.—Wesley Edwards, one of the men engaged in the shooting up of the Carroll county court March 14, 1912, now serving a term of 27 years, has been removed from the penitentiary to the state farm.

Sidna Allen and the other members of the clan—there are three behind prison walls, besides Wesley Edwards—are reported to be in good health.

Dr. Mann said that in case Wesley Edwards improved—and he saw no reason why he should not—he would be returned to the prison till he shall have completed the time for which he was originally sentenced. The time that he spends in the hospital at the state farm will count in his confinement as though he were in the penitentiary.

The change was made to prevent possible development of tuberculosis. In the spring of the year the prisoner was attacked with measles, and since that time he has suffered several attacks of pleurisy, and these have served to materially reduce the stalwart frame of the once hardy mountaineer.

Dr. Herbert Mann, penitentiary surgeon, asked regarding the removal of Wesley Edwards, said that he had ordered the man removed because he was afraid that complications might follow. He admitted that the prisoner is much worn, that confinement is telling on him, and that attacks of measles and pleurisy have left him in a weakened condition. To guard against development of any pulmonary trouble he deemed it best, though Edwards is a long-term prisoner, to order that he be taken up to the state farm in Goochland county.

Wesley Edwards has been working in the shops for more than a year, and so far as is known he has made a model prisoner. He was arrested in Iowa several months after the shooting took place while working as a street paver. He resisted arrest and the officers were given a busy engagement in getting him to the police station.

## Valuable Land for Sale.

I have about 25 acres of land in suburbs of Mt. Airy on Fancy Gap road. This land lays well. Has had twelve thousand loads of manure on it in five years. Been used for trucking. is in high state of cultivation.

O. V. Belton.  
For further particulars, see Robert Belton.

## Spencer Young Lady Chose the Tar Heel.

Spencer, Nov. 22.—With tragic declarations of love, pathetic appeals of devotion and the vow that "thy people shall be my people, and what is mine shall be thine, and thine mine," pretty Miss Maude Tucker, of Spencer, on Thursday became the blushing bride of C. R. Cates a well known young man of this place, whom she chose in preference to Earl Ferris, of Indianapolis, while the two men stood side by side in one of the principal streets of Spencer. Each vied with the other for the heart and hand of the young woman, each pressing his claim for a place at her side. While in this attitude and facing the two suitors, Miss Tucker took her place by the side of the Spencer man and the three walked to the parsonage of the Spencer Baptist church, where the marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. J. L. Vipperman. Mr. Ferris came to North Carolina Thursday morning for the purpose of marrying Miss Tucker. He was surprised to find his claim for a bride strongly contested by Mr. Cates who has been for months an admirer of the bride.

## Name Omitted From Tombstone, He Sues.

Maysville, Mo., Nov. 22nd.—Because his name was omitted from the stone marking the grave of his wife, Joseph D. Pickett sued the wife's children for \$10,000. He lost the case in the De Kalb County Circuit court here, but has appealed to the Supreme court.

Pickett and Ollie S. Delvee were childhood sweethearts in this neighborhood. Pickett enlisted for service in the Civil war and became a sergeant in the seventeenth regiment. After the war Pickett returned home and found that his old sweetheart had married Edwin L. Pierce. Pickett later married. In 1898 Pierce died. Pickett divorced his wife and later married Mrs. Pierce against the wishes of her children.

Pickett and the former Mrs. Pierce had lived together ten years and nearly four months when she died. The Pierce children took possession of all her belongings except the property left to Pickett by her will, and she was buried in the Maysville cemetery. Then the children decided to bring the body of Pierce, her first husband, from Winslow and bury it beside her grave here. The monument which had stood on Pierce's grave also was brought here and this epitaph was added to the inscription on it relating to Pierce.

Ollie S. Delvee, wife of E. L. Pierce born in Franklin county, Mass., July 24, 1851; died March 29, 1912.

Pickett thought the added inscription should have shown that he was the husband of Mrs. Pierce and alleged he had been damaged \$10,000, inasmuch as the omission of his name from the monument, standing in plain view of the general public, caused him great anguish.

## Two Troop Trains Blown Up.

El Paso, Tex., Nov. 22.—Two federal troop trains, en route from Chihuahua to Juarez, were blown up at Rosenharia, 66 miles south of Juarez, this afternoon by dynamite mines placed along the railroad track by the rebels. This was the statement given out tonight by General Francisco Villa, who returned to Juarez from Rosenharia where his troops are awaiting the federal's approach. He said there were 1,506 federal on the train destroyed and that the loss of life was enormous. The rebels assert that they captured one of the trains.

## Notice of Land Sale.

The undersigned have for sale, at very reasonable price a tract of land, of 31 acres or more, with one and one-half acres of Mt. Airy. This land is fine tobacco land and can be bought at a bargain. Located on a public road which will shortly be graded and gravelled. If interested see either of us.

J. A. Jackson,  
and J. H. Folger.