

# The Mount Airy News

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## CLIMBS OVER SIX MILES, GROWS UNCONSCIOUS FALLING FOR 5 MILES

### Airman Almost Dead On Land- ing and Is In Hospital Part- ially Blinded. Reached Tem- perature Of 67 Degrees Below Zero

Dayton, Ohio, Feb. 27.—An airplane carrying Maj. R. W. Schroeder, chief test pilot at McCook field, today fell over five miles after reaching an altitude of 36,020 feet, said to be 5,020 feet higher than the world's record.

Tonight the major is in a hospital suffering from shock and temporary partial blindness. Instruments on the machine indicate that it fell more than five miles in two minutes. While still 2,000 feet above the ground, the airplane was righted and glided to a graceful landing. When the plane settled, attendants who rushed toward it found Major Schroeder in the machine apparently lifeless. For a brief time, residents of Dayton were sure a comet had appeared in the sky. They had mistaken the trail of vapor escaping from the machine as it sped downward for "a stranger in the heavens."

Thousands of persons gazed skyward, watching the plane, which had ascended two hours before, plunge downward.

#### His Eyes Frozen Shut

His senses numbed and his eyes frozen shut in a temperature said to have been 67 degrees below zero, Schroeder regained partial consciousness when 2,000 feet above the earth in time to right his machine and prevent it from crashing to the ground, out of control.

The thousands of spectators were unaware at the time that they were witnessing a "drama of the sky." They saw a speck of black silhouetted against the blue, to which was attached a "tail" of grayish color. Gradually the object was enlarged as it sped to the earth. When but a few thousand feet above them, those watching saw that it was an airplane, turning in a tail spin. It was at this point that Major Schroeder regained control of his plane and headed it toward McCook field.

Here Major Schroeder made a safe landing and collapsed.

He was blinded and his limbs were numb, despite the electrically heated suit in which he was encased. He was suffering from the effects of a lack of oxygen. When nearly seven miles above the earth, his oxygen tank became exhausted and it was this which robbed him of consciousness and caused him to fall.

#### Blindness Is Temporary

Mechanics and officers at McCook field lifted Major Schroeder from the plane and he was given first aid treatment, and later removed to the post hospital, where it is said his blindness will be only temporary. It will be several days before he will be able to use his eyes, according to Dr. Howard V. Dutrow, an eye specialist, called into consultation.

The thermometer on Major Schroeder's machine registered a temperature of 55 degrees below zero, centigrade, or 67 degrees below zero, Fahrenheit. Altitude figures from the barograph reading indicated a height of 37,000 feet, and when calibrated by Capt. Harrison W. Flickinger showed an official altitude of 36,020 feet, a new world's record and a variation of less than 1,000 feet.

The mark set by Major Schroeder again gives him the record, which Roland Rohlf won from him July 30, 1919, with an official altitude of 30,000 feet and later increased in a second flight to 31,000 feet. It also breaks the record of Adjutant Casale, a French pilot, who was credited with an unofficial record of 33,137 feet.

#### Dressed For Polar Cold

Major Schroeder was dressed heavier than any polar explorer who ever set forth. He was literally wrapped in flexible electric heaters. His flying suit was lined with fur of Chinese Nuchwang dogs, and between the fur and outer lining, flexible electric heat units, connected by silk covered wires with the dynamo of the engine, heated the entire suit. In a like manner his headgear, gloves and moccasins were heated. Major Schroeder wore an oxygen mask of his own design.

Capt. Harrison W. Flickinger, chief calibration officer of McCook field, said Major Schroeder's record would be first sent to war department officials at Washington and later to officials of the Aero Club of America. The Aero Club of America, recognized by the Federation Aeronautique Inter-

nationale, will be asked to certify the record of the world.

#### Schroeder Tells Of Flight

Between periods of unconsciousness, Maj. R. W. Schroeder tonight told the story of his fight against the wind, cold and lack of oxygen almost seven miles above the earth. That he had shattered the world's altitude record, fallen more than five miles, and narrowly escaped death, did not seem important to him in view of his failure to reach a height of 40,000 feet, the goal he set for himself when he took the air this morning. Relating his battle for life above the clouds, Major Schroeder, lying on a cot in the army post hospital, said:

"I was thinking of nothing but that I wanted to attain a height of 40,000 feet when suddenly the oxygen stopped flowing. Then all at once, it seemed as though a terrible explosion took place within my head. My eyes hurt and I could not open them. I realized I was falling.

"I guess I pulled hard on the stick, for I know I must straighten out for a glide. The plane seemed to ride easy. I opened my eyes, but could see nothing of the ground. I closed my eyes tightly and again opened them, seeing that I was over Wilbur Wright field, close to the hangers. I couldn't land there.

"I tilted my machine for a climb, intended to make sure of a good altitude and then jump for it with my parachute. But at that instant McCook field came into view. I guess I just became an automaton and came down all right."

Major Schroeder announced his intention of making another attempt to reach an altitude of 40,000 feet.

#### Influenza And Its Prevention

There are certain precautionary measures that we can take in hoping to keep down an epidemic of influenza, this we have been doing in Surry county and so far we have been lucky and fortunate in not having an epidemic, but for two weeks we have been on top of the fence, seemingly, each day, that our fate had come to us, after all of our timely known precautions had been put into play, but from reports received by the public health officer, I trust that we can feel safe in saying that we are over the top, but in being too hasty in lifting the restrictions, and the persons, who are recovering from an attack of the disease, not using precautions and taking care of themselves, then, we would lose all that we have been striving for. The life of human beings.

In instituting all known precautionary measures against an epidemic in this county, your County Board of Health has been unjustly criticized. At the time, they felt they were doing the right thing, and now they not only feel, but know they have done the thing, and public sentiment seems to be with them. The idea has been advanced by some of our citizens, as to why a quarantine would not be effective in this disease as in other disease, which would do away with the closing order, but influenza is spread by the discharges from the mouth, nose, and throat and as we know the transfer of these discharges may take place in many and devious ways, the material is often given off in minute particles which are invisible, and it is discharged frequently, unexpectedly, unknowingly, and thus making it impossible for a health officer to erect effective barriers, but isolation, quarantine and disinfection applied to a community in which exists smallpox, measles and cerebrospinal meningitis, does have some effect, in the control of their spread, but the success of prevention lies with each and every individual, so then it falls for the public to become educated, wherein every person may be able to do all in his power to protect himself, and his neighbor. Education must commence in the schools, and results may be hoped for along these lines from the coming generation.

There are, however, some disease in which the methods of prevention are certain in their results. We have what we could or might term as Nature's method, and an artificial method, devised by man. Where immunity is induced as in smallpox and vaccination, nature's method of prevention is utilized, but in diseases which are carried by insects and those spread through intestinal discharges, purely artificial methods are especially useful. With regard to the former it may be said that "no anopheles mosquitoes, no malaria fever" and "no stegomyia mosquitoes—no yellow fever" are slogans which have been proved repeatedly. Of diseases of the intestinal type, we know that well organized preventive measures, logically appli-

ed, will reduce the amount of typhoid fever and other maladies of the group to a negligible quantity. In those so called "filth" borne diseases, the way in which the infectious material is disseminated, are not so numerous or varied, as in the disease of the respiratory type.

In summing up it would seem that the communicable diseases could or might be placed in two groups, those the control of which depends mainly upon education and individual effort, and those in which preventive measures depend mainly upon education and community effort. In either case, education is the foundation upon which all preventive measures must be built.

L. L. Williams, M. D.  
County Health Officer.

#### School Spirit In Mount Airy

In a previous article under this title, the school spirit of Mount Airy was, in a way, compared with that of other towns of similar size, and as stated, if the reader will take the trouble to investigate the school spirit in other towns, and then compare it with the school spirit here, he will find that in most instances it is as good here as in other towns.

The purpose of this article, therefore, is not to praise the school spirit here, but to try to point out some of the things that have a tendency to break down and destroy good school spirit. The chief of these, and the one that is discussed most frequently by the teachers and a good per cent of the citizens, is loose home government, and its effect on the Mount Airy schools. This is what this article will briefly deal with. My attention has been called to it over and over, and to use an old familiar saying, "Where there is much smoke there must be some fire." The veracity of it is evident, and has been demonstrated time and again by the way a number of our pupils play out of school in daylight and loaf the streets at night.

This subject, I believe, is as essential to the good school spirit as President Wilson says Article X is to the Peace Covenant. If children are disciplined at home, all will be well elsewhere. The schools will have little trouble. Truancy will almost be unheard of, and the teachers will get far better results from their efforts. In course of time, the city authorities and state will find in them good citizens.

It is next to impossible to get a child interested in school who has had his way at home. In the first place, he had not been taught discipline, and when the teacher tries to correct him, he rebels, and in many instances, makes punishment necessary. This in turn will give the child a dislike for school, and consequently he will stay out every convenient chance. His missing time will get him behind in his work, and this gives him another opportunity to lose interest. He frequently uses this opportunity to persuade his parents to stop school. Or again, when there is loose discipline in the home, the child many times finds attractions on the way to school, or plans them while up town at night, and deliberately cuts school because he finds it more pleasant elsewhere, and knows he can get by his parents. The bad results of this can be discussed ad infinitum.

Now how can these defects be remedied? There is but one way, and that is for the parent to do his duty towards the child, the school, and the community. The proper place for the parents to help the school with its difficulties is at home. It is a well known fact that if the parents are loose at their end of the line, the school will have a hard time securing control at its end of the line. The reverse of this is true. Too many school children are allowed to loaf on the streets at night in this and most other towns for the good of the school and the child. Here is where he learns most of what he should not know, and here is where he becomes more interested in other things than his school work.

There are many other evidences of loose government in the home, besides truancy, street loafing, and bad conduct in school, but let these three suffice at this time.

It gives me pleasure to state that these remarks are not addressed to a large number of our patrons. There are scores of homes in this town that do have good home discipline, and the results are evident to the teachers, and even to the town authorities.

We sincerely hope these remarks will cause our patrons to take inventory, and if these remarks fit their case, that they will resolve to give us better support the remaining months of the school.

L. M. Epps, Superintendent.

## "Ye Shall Know The Truth, And The Truth Shall Make You Free"

(By Governor T. W. Bickett.)

For many years the State of North Carolina struggled along under the yoke of an unwise and unjust system of taxation. The yoke was not easy nor was the burden light. It produced a sense of irritation that has been constant and universal. The whole State was sore on the subject. Governor Glenn, in his inaugural address, and two years later in his biennial message to the General Assembly, vigorously denounced the folly of maintaining in this State property values ridiculously low and tax rates terrifyingly high instead of maintaining true values and low rates.

Governor Kitchin, in his message to the General Assembly in 1911 and 1913, points out the evils of undervaluing the property of the State.

During the first month of the Craig administration a banquet was given in the auditorium in Raleigh in honor of Governor Craig and Senator Simmons. At this banquet Governor Craig made a speech in which he insisted that the General Assembly of 1913 should not levy any taxes, but should provide for a general reassessment of the property of the State at its true value, and after this was done that the General Assembly should be called into special session and levy a tax based upon the true value of the property of the State disclosed by a general reassessment.

The Legislature did not adopt this course, but appointed a Constitutional Commission to consider, among other things, the subject of taxation. This Commission made its report, and at a special session of 1914 a taxation amendment was submitted to the people and was voted down at the polls that year. When the people voted down the taxation amendment they reaffirmed the present constitutional provision which emphatically requires that all property shall be listed by a uniform rule according to its true value in money.

When the General Assembly of 1919 came to deal with this vexed subject it at once realized that it was impossible to proceed with intelligence or with justice until the actual facts were ascertained. It was known of all men that the old system had failed miserably to ascertain values that even remotely approached the facts. Hence the machinery of the Revaluation Act was devised for the sole purpose of finding out the truth, and the Revaluation Act is bottomed on the declaration of Jesus Christ, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

No matter how fundamentally honest nor how scientifically accurate any plan may be, there will, of course, be some errors of administration so long as it is human to err; but the truth in such a case is to reduce the errors of administration to a minimum and not to hark back to a system that does not even pretend to look for the truth.

The Revaluation Act is finding the facts with remarkable success of a new measure. It is finding and placing on the tax books millions of property never there before. It is assessing the property of the State with wonderful accuracy. The returns that have come in to the State Tax Commission indicate that about 80 per cent of the people are assessing their property at what it is worth; that about 5 per cent are assessing it too high, and the authorities are having to reduce these assessments; that about 15 per cent are assessing their property too low, and the authorities are having to increase it. And just in proportion as the truth appears on the tax books, inequalities and injustices will disappear. This is the ultimate objective of the Revaluation Act. The General Assembly passionately desired to equalize the burden of taxation. It was realized that this could be done only by first finding the facts. True values are always equal values, but the Wisdom of Solomon and the genius of Edison combined cannot equalize a kettle of lies.

Just how the act is wiping out inequalities will be shown by a few illustrations taken from the books.

1. In one of the county-seats there lives upon the same street a lawyer and a widow. The lawyer owns a valuable piece of property in a desirable portion of the town, and this, under the old system, was assessed at \$3,850. The widow had \$12,000 that she received from life insurance policies on her husband. This money was loaned on real estate mortgages which were listed for taxation at their par value of \$10,000. Under Revaluation Act the property of the lawyer was valued at \$15,000, and he can get this amount of money for it any morning before

breakfast. Under the old law the widow, in proportion to her real worth, was paying four times as much taxes as the lawyer. Under the new law this wickedness is wiped out, and both the lawyer and the widow are paying according to what they are really worth. The result is that the lawyer is cursing the Revaluation Act and swearing that he is going to repeal it, while the widow is praising God and the General Assembly of 1919 for its enactment.

2. In one of our piedmont counties the experts of the Tax Commission recently examined two cotton mills. They found that one mill was on the tax books at 17 per cent of its real value, while the other mill was on the books at 65 per cent of its real value. Under the Revaluation Act this vicious inequality disappears. Both mills will be placed on the books at their true value, and this year the 17 per cent mill will pay a great deal more taxes than it has heretofore paid, while the 65 per cent mill will pay a great deal less.

3. In a certain mountain county, and in the same neighborhood, there lived two farmers, one on a twelve acre, and the other on a fifty-acre farm. Under the old law the twelve-acre farm was assessed at \$600 and the fifty-acre farm likewise at \$600. Now when these farmers received their questionnaires the twelve-acre farmer swore that his land was worth \$650. The fifty-acre farmer swore that his land was worth \$4,000. Under the Revaluation Act the two honest citizens, when they had an opportunity to do so, corrected a rank injustice.

4. Down in Wilson county a man had a son and a daughter. In his will he stated that he desired to give them an equal amount of property. He had a farm which, in his will, he said was worth \$10,000, and it is worth it. It will bring that amount on the market any morning, he gave this farm to his son, and then he gave to his daughter, \$10,000 in money. When the sheriff came around he collected from the daughter five times as much taxes as he did from the son. The daughter naturally complained about it, and asked the sheriff why she should pay five times as much taxes as her brother, when their father had given them as stated in his will, exactly the same amount of property. The sheriff explained to her that the land was assessed at only \$2,000, though he admitted that it was worth \$10,000, while the money was assessed at \$10,000, and that he (the sheriff) had no power to change it. The Revaluation Act does change it. It carries out the will of the dead father and makes the son and the daughter equal before the law.

The correction of equalities like those cited above—and there are hundreds of thousands of them in North Carolina—justify the statement that the Revaluation is bottomed on the celestial declaration, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free!"

#### Thirtieth Division Leads In Number Of Medals Of Honor

In an official table of figures corrected to February 6, 1920 prepared by the statistical branch of the General Staff, War Department the 30th. Division leads all other divisions of the A. E. F. in the number of Medals of Honor awarded. This number is twelve, while the 89th. Division comes next with nine. The Second Division leads in the total number of awards, 693. This includes Distinguished Service Crosses and Oak Leaf Clusters as well as the Congressional Medal of Honor, but does not include foreign decorations. The First Division takes second place with 420 decorations from the hands of the American Government and the Thirtieth Division takes fourth place with 319. The 27th. Division which was the fighting mate of the 30th. gets 169. Of the large number of awards of the Second Division 385 went to Marines and Naval personnel serving with the Division. Of all the awards made by the Army 39 per cent were made to officers and 61 per cent to enlisted men. In a great many cases the recommendation was made for an enlisted man and before the award was made he had risen from the ranks and joined the commissioned personnel.

#### School Notice

After making a very thorough investigation of the influenza situation, the Board of School Commissioners of Mount Airy met last night and by a unanimous vote decided that it was both unwise and not safe to open the schools this week. The schools will open Monday March 8th. unless the situation at that time is unfavorable.

Tuesday, Mar. 2nd.—  
Attest: W. F. Carter, Chairman.  
A. G. Webb, Sec'y.

## EXHIBIT SURRY COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSION

April 7th, 1919, to Jan. 15th, 1920.

Total receipts to Jan. 15, 1920, as follows:  
Jan. 10, 1919, Loan from Bank of Mt. Airy, ..... 5,000.00  
June 5, 1919, Loan from First Nat'l Bank, ..... 50,000.00  
June 17, 1919, Auto license tax State Treas., ..... 2,896.99  
Dec. 12, 1919, Proceeds sale County Highw'y Bonds, ..... 153,097.22  
Dec. 3, 1919, Recd. of Sheriff 1919 Road tax, ..... 32,000.00  
Jan. 15, 1920, Total ..... 242,994.19

Disbursements  
Hinkle and Craig, ..... 547.50  
Hinkle and Craig, by J. B. Sparger, ..... 3,387.50  
West-Hill Co., ..... 211.77  
E. F. Craven Co., ..... 299.55  
J. B. Sparger, ..... 6.20  
Granite City Motor Co., ..... 895.72  
A. M. Smith, ..... 707.05  
Southern Stamp Works, ..... 2.33  
J. M. Mitchell, ex-sheriff, ..... 761.35  
Edwards & Broughton, ..... 34.63  
Southern Express Co., ..... .62  
J. O. Hatcher, ..... 125.00  
Manufacturers Record, ..... 34.90  
J. B. Sparger, ..... 16.90  
S. A. Biedsoe, ..... 2.90  
J. L. Russell, ..... 480.41  
West Hill Co., ..... 295.42  
W. E. Merritt Co., ..... 154.65  
Elkin Roller Mill, ..... 101.90  
The Atkinson Co., ..... 23.36  
Banner Mfg. Co., ..... 5.30  
W. H. Gilbert, ..... 30.79  
H. G. Harris, ..... 11.00  
F. D. Holcomb Co., ..... 52.61  
Arnold Quisenberry, ..... 38.43  
Mount Airy News, ..... 14.60  
The Bank of Mount Airy, ..... 5,000.00  
Southern Stamp Works, ..... 2.59  
J. L. Russell, Eng., ..... 453.35  
Southern Stamp Works, ..... .84  
Western Union Tel. Co., ..... 2.75  
Mt. Airy Telephone Co., ..... 1.45  
Herbert Thomas, ..... 15.00  
Willard Ball, ..... 8.00  
T. J. Smithwick, ..... 30.50  
W. H. Gilbert, ..... 31.95  
Rowdy Sutphin, ..... 1.00  
Caleb Alderman, ..... 6.60  
J. G. Cullin, ..... 1.20  
Dick Mays, ..... 24.10  
T. N. Atkins, ..... 20.50  
John Whitaker, ..... 4.80  
W. L. Kirkman, ..... 21.29

Ledger Page No. 2  
Pilot Township Bond, ..... 500.00  
J. R. Edwards, ..... 200.00  
Mathews Merchantile Co., ..... 68.86  
Lin Cook, ..... 163.80  
J. R. Edwards, ..... 386.00  
J. L. Russell, Eng., ..... 664.14  
W. F. Snow, ..... 26.00  
Surry Hardware Co., ..... 8.45  
W. F. Finney, ..... 3.20  
W. J. Snow, ..... 5.00  
Elkin Hardware Co., ..... 3.75  
Surry Wilkes Yadkin Supply Co., ..... 90.14  
Elkin Roller Mills, ..... 207.67  
G. C. Lovill Co., ..... 100.30  
R. J. Banks, veterinarian, ..... 15.00  
W. L. Kirkman, ..... 22.38  
Nora H. Jones & Co., ..... 36.68  
A. L. Ring, ..... 154.17  
The Atkinson Co., ..... 105.60  
G. C. Lovill Co., ..... 12.90  
First National Bank, ..... 233.00  
J. H. Mikels, ..... 130.25  
J. R. Edwards, ..... 496.00  
J. B. Sparger, ..... 150.38  
A. L. Ring, ..... 214.33  
Lin Cook, ..... 76.05  
S. A. Hennis, ..... 12.50  
Manufacturers Record, ..... 11.50  
F. A. Bates, ..... 10.00  
J. R. Hudspeath, ..... 20.00  
J. F. McGee, ..... 36.00  
J. L. Russell, Eng., ..... 367.75  
J. L. Russell, Eng., ..... 233.00  
Mt. Airy Feed Store, ..... 47.12  
J. H. Nickels, ..... 258.13  
Lin Cook, ..... 122.65  
W. B. Smith, ..... 654.78  
J. L. Russell, Eng., ..... 305.15  
W. G. Bell, agent, ..... 2.42  
Secretary of State N. C., ..... 9.20  
M. C. Gentry, ..... 12.00  
J. B. Sparger, ..... 17.00

Ledger Page No. 3  
E. F. Craven Co., ..... 32.50  
A. H. Wolfe, ..... 20.00  
A. J. Key, ..... 17.00  
F. A. Bates, ..... 16.00  
I. F. Armfield, ..... 103.00  
H. P. Loftis, ..... 3.00  
C. E. Stone, ..... 6.55  
W. H. Reid, ..... 8.04  
W. L. Kirkman, ..... 502.00  
Robert Jones, ..... 3.50  
J. A. Jackson, ..... 260.00  
W. T. Snow, ..... 18.00  
W. T. Snow, ..... 18.00  
D. B. Whitaker, ..... 34.30  
J. H. Mitchell, ..... 178.90  
J. L. Russell, Eng., ..... 30.00  
J. E. Edwards, ..... 317.00  
West Hill Co., ..... 310.00  
Elkin Hardware Co., ..... 51.00

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