

**Mount Airy News**

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**THE DAYTON TRIAL**

The battle of the intellectual giants has been on at Dayton, Tenn., for a week or more now, and if the public is wiser as the result is a question. The local setting of the trial, a mountain town of 1500 people where almost every one was positively opposed to evolution, gave serious thought to many as to whether peace and order would be the rule, or whether a real flat or gun fight would develop as the result of the strenuous atmosphere surrounding the trial. Rather has the whole town taken on an air of levity. Pretty girls go about the streets with cards pinned on their breasts with words that declare, "You can't make a Monkey of me." A lady visitor to the town to see the show brought along her big min-like ape who was trained to drink his coca-cola with all the dignity of his mistress. Together they strolled about the streets to the amusement of the loitering throngs.

William J. Bryan has been one of the big attractions. He has made speeches to the crowds at various times, and has stressed the fact that christianity is being assaulted and that he is coming to the rescue. He sees grave peril in the situation. Those who are against him are infidels and would-be destroyers of the church. Some writers claim to see that a strong feeling of hostility is being developed between the two factions—the Scientists and the anti-evolutionists.

The progress made at the trial indicates that it is a legal contest that will go finally through all the courts to the Supreme Court of the United States where it will be settled beyond question in favor of the Scientists. The anti-evolutionists are certain to win in Tennessee, but not in the highest court.

**THE SUPPLY OF WATER HERE**

The folks in this town are short on a supply of water. The rains have not come and the springs have ceased to flow as plentiful as in normal times. The little creek that heads back in the woods west of town is not delivering as much water as our folks need.

All this brings to mind the fact that this is a two sided problem. This town owns its own water system and is supposed to be selling water to the tax payers at cost. They are not supposed to use water only for legitimate purposes. Now, this term, legitimate purposes, is a very wide term and could be made to cover much territory. No one questions the right of the tax payer to wash his automobile, water his cow, his lawn, his flower garden and do a hundred other things with the water. But the tax payer has a right to enter an objection to a wanton waste of water where it does no one any good, not even the man who wastes it. The writer knows of a case where, some years ago, a citizen neglected to remedy some defect in his yard spigot and permitted it to run a constant stream of water at all times, thus running his water bill up as much as three or four dollars a month more than it should have been. The citizen was so indifferent about the matter that he paid the bill for the wasted water and seemed to think nothing of it. Now, has the town any right to permit a citizen to waste the water in this way even if he is paying for it? We think not.

We suspect that if an inspection of the town was made and all useless waste of water stopped and all citizens informed as to what purposes water can be used it would go a long way in helping to solve the present trouble.

**THE DROUGHT**

At this time, Monday, July 20th, this section of the country is suffering badly for want of rain. For many weeks the rains have been local showers. Not a general rain has been in this part of the state this summer. The result is that in some sections the prospect for a crop is good and in other sections extremely bad. A general rain could yet do much to improve conditions but the crops are too nearly matured in many sections for a full harvest to now be the rule. It is proving to be what the farmers call a dry year.

Friends of T. J. Smithwick will be pleased to learn that he has returned home after being a patient at Martin Memorial Hospital and that his condition is greatly improved and he is doing nicely.

**Grading the Fancy Gap Road**

O. B. Webb, of this city, visited friends in Hillsville Monday and while there talked with leading citizens of Carroll about the road work that is now in progress in our neighboring county. The county has \$200,000 on hand for road work and the state has already accepted one-half of this to use on the Fancy Gap project for the present. There was some talk among the citizens of Carroll to use the remainder of the money on the Danville Pike leading from Hillsville toward Stuart, but at a meeting of the supervisors last week they voted to hold the remaining \$100,000 in hand to be turned over to the state as it is called for to be used to complete the Fancy Gap road to the state line. It is almost the unanimous idea of the leading citizens of Carroll County to get the road from Hillsville to the state line completed before beginning any other project in the county.

The convict camp is located on the road three miles this side of Hillsville and about 75 convicts are now grading the new route from Hillsville to the top of the mountain. The route is practically a new one, following the old road only a very few places and it shortens the distance from this city to Hillsville about three miles.

In the meantime the much promised hard-surface of the link of the Fancy Gap road that is in North Carolina—promised of both Mr. Doughton while he was our district commissioner and Mr. Hanes who is now our representative—goes by default and no definite news is available as to when the work on this end of the road will be begun. As it is the Fancy Gap road—North Carolina's end—remains one of the worst state roads leading out of this city, instead of being a creditable highway.

**City Adopts 1925 Budget and Names \$1.40 Tax Rate**

The board of city commissioners officially adopted the budget for 1925 at a special meeting held Monday night and made a tax levy of \$1.40 to produce the necessary funds to care for the expenditures for the coming fiscal year. The budget calls for the expenditure of a total of \$110,800.00. Of this amount \$50,000 will be used to pay off bonds and interest on same; \$24,000 goes into the school fund; \$15,000 will be used for street work; \$10,000 will be required to maintain the police and fire departments; and the remaining \$11,800 is necessary to care for numerous miscellaneous items listed in the budget as published in The News on July 9th. Of the \$1.40 collected on the \$100, 26 cents goes for general purposes, 35 cents is turned over to the school fund, 75 cents is used to pay the interest on improvement and school bonds, and the remaining 6 cents creates a sinking fund to pay the serial bond that yearly are coming due.

At the meeting Monday night H. Schafer, appeared before the commissioners and protested against the action of the board at a previous meeting in condemning the small tenant house on South Main street owned by Mr. Schafer. The sanitary officer and health officer were both present and stated to the board that this property was in a very unsanitary condition, making it unsafe for the occupants and those adjoining and that in their opinion the only remedy to remove the conditions was to tear down the building. The new charter of the city gives the authorities wide powers in regard to health and sanitary matters and the board refused to rescind its former action but let the order stand for the removal of the building.

This piece of property is a very valuable building site located in the heart of one of the most exclusive residential sections of our city and its dilapidated and unsightly, as well as unsanitary appearance, has been an eye-sore to all those in that section. The action of the board will meet with the hearty approval of all those who have been striving to make Mount Airy a beautiful and healthful place of abode.

**Co-op Picnic at Pilot Mountain**

Plans are going forward for a big gathering of farmers, friends and members of the Cooperative Association in a general picnic to be held at Pilot Mountain Saturday, this week. The public generally is given a cordial welcome to attend and bring baskets as dinner will be served on the picnic grounds. An interesting program has been prepared with Congressman H. S. Ward, of Washington, N. C., as the principal speaker. Besides Mr. Ward head officials of the association will be present. Following the exercises at the picnic grounds there will be a ball game and other forms of amusement for the crowd.

Mrs. C. H. Hanes has returned from Piedmont Springs accompanied by Mrs. James Fox and little son of Rocky Mount, who were also visitors at Piedmont.

**Early Ashburn Appeal for Pardon Refused**

Gov. A. W. McLean this week refused to grant a pardon to Early Ashburn, of this city, now serving a 15-year sentence in the state penitentiary for infanticide. Several weeks ago Ashburn published a notice that he would apply for a pardon and since then his case has been investigated by Pardon Commissioner Sink whose recommendations to the Governor caused him to refuse to interfere with the sentence of the Surry Superior Court which sent him to prison. No effort has been made to secure a pardon for his accomplice in the crime, Mrs. Essie Handy, who is serving a term of five years for the same offense.

With the refusal of the Governor to take any action in Ashburn's case his prospects for any immediate release from prison are anything but bright, as a second effort before the same official is usually fruitless unless something new virtually affecting the case is uncovered.

**City Water and Power Plants Suffering From Drouth**

The truth this section is passing through continues unabated and the city power plants are still running on short time, they being supplemented by electricity generated at the Mount Airy Furniture Co. This plant furnishes power from six o'clock until midnight and in this way the power dams are permitted to fill up with water allowing them to run a portion of each morning and afternoon.

For a time the water supply of the city was seriously threatened as Supt. Whitlock observed that the consumption was far greater than the supply. Last week he issued a warning to the people of the city of the situation calling upon them to conserve all the water they could, and not to use it for other than household purposes. He states that the public faithfully observed this request and for this reason the water supply is holding out, but this economy in the use of the water must be still observed if the city is to have a sufficient supply. The water supply of many of the towns of the state is in a like situation and in some places it has been necessary to cut off its use for a few hours every day in order to keep a supply ahead, but Mr. Whitlock says this will not be necessary in this city if the people will carry out the instructions of the water and light commission.

**Only Three Cases Before Recorder**

Monday was a light day in the Recorder's court Judge Lewellyn having only three defendants before him. R. O. Smith, of Greensboro, made good a check for \$92.60 which he had given J. E. Ayers and was let off with the cost in the case charging him with giving a worthless check.

Forest Heath entered a plea of guilty for an assault upon a woman and was given 12 months on the roads, but sentence is not to take effect if he leaves this section. He immediately left and found employment in Thomasville.

V. B. Keen, sign painter, was bound to Dobson court for larceny of paint brushes and paints from the home of P. D. Webster, belonging to Mr. Webster's son, Paul. The home was broken into several weeks ago and recently the missing articles were found in the possession of Keen. Being unable to furnish a \$500 bond he was sent to Dobson jail to await trial in October.

**Col. Waugh Passes Away at His Home in Dobson**

Funeral services for Col. Luther G. Waugh, aged 78 years, one of the few remaining veterans of the War between the States, were held in Sunday afternoon at the Methodist church in Dobson in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends. Rev. Mr. Hipp conducted the services. Colonel Waugh passed away at his home Saturday evening following an illness of several months from a malignant form of cancer. He was the son of the late Col. Harrison Waugh and Mary Graves Waugh. He received his education at Emory and Henry, Virginia. After securing his law license, he located at Dobson, where he successfully practiced his profession. He was a familiar figure at the courthouse and on the streets of Dobson. As a young man, and later in life he was the leader of the Democratic party in Surry county, and in 1889 he represented Surry county in the lower house of the general assembly. He was unmarried.

Surviving are two half-sisters, Mrs. J. R. Lewellyn, of Dobson, and Mrs. Cora Woltz, of Pilot Mountain, and one half brother, J. J. Waugh, of Illinois.

Interment was made in the Dobson cemetery. The pall bearers were S. R. Coalson, Dr. F. M. Norman, Glenn Bledsoe, W. E. Gillespie, J. D. Cooper and Henry C. Hampton.

**Claims Ku Klux Are After Him**

V. B. Keen, local sign painter, now resting in Dobson jail on a larceny charge, on Monday turned over to Chief of Police Lawrence a letter he claims he received through the mails which was signed "Ku Klux Klan." The message informed him that this town was too small to hold a married man who rode around with the girls and advised him to move along. It was printed in large letters by some one who is very handy with a marking pen and was mailed in a regular government envelope, being dropped in the local post office. The police had no clue from which to work and the circumstance has been dismissed.

Since Keen was under a charge of larceny at the same time of the delivery of the message to the Chief the opinion has been expressed that Keen prepared and mailed the letter to his own address and then brought it into use hoping that the officials would get unduly excited over the probable violence that was about to be visited upon him and for that reason allow the charge of larceny to be dropped and let him leave the city. But the officers refused to get excited and the hearing of Keen took place before Judge Lewellyn Monday morning and he was sent to Dobson jail in default of a \$500 bond. He is charged with the larceny of about \$35 worth of brushes and painting materials from the home of P. D. Webster on South Main street. It is claimed that much of this material was found in Keen's possession which constitutes the evidence against him. It is known that there are a large number of Ku Klux members about this city but this is the first instance in which it has been charged that they have been engaged in any active outside work of any nature and Keen's claim that they were after him excited very little interest.

**Masons Enjoy Watermelon Feast**

The regular meeting of the Masonic lodge in this city Tuesday night was featured by a watermelon feast prepared by the refreshment committee. Following the usual business meeting the members were ushered into the reception room where they were served with ice cold melon, Millard Patterson and Dwight Cooke being kept busy carving the juicy slices. Appropriate talks were made during the evening by Rev. C. D. Crouch of the Moravian Church and Rev. Mr. Marshall, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church.

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