

Chamber of Commerce Members to Be Solicited March 25

On That Date Numbers of Canvassers Will Work to Put Over Drive for Members—Citizens Expected to Respond Heartily.

Mount Airy has taken a forward step with other leading towns in North Carolina, and is organizing a Chamber of Commerce to help build the town. We have in Mount Airy our Civic Clubs, our Merchants Association, Commercial Club, Womens Club and other organizations, but no town can build and be advertised properly without a Chamber of Commerce. Thursday, March 25, a group of citizens interested in the up-building of Mount Airy, and interested in seeing Mount Airy grow, will launch a drive for membership to compose the Chamber of Commerce and it is the duty of every citizen approached by this membership committee to join the Chamber and in that way do their bit towards making Mount Airy a bigger and better town.

There is quite a bit of work that an organization like the Chamber of Commerce can do in Mount Airy, that no other organization or individual citizen can do, such as getting play grounds for the children, building a new hotel which is badly needed in Mount Airy, helping to bring new industries to our city, advertising our section in a way that will make our town well known to every individual citizen in North Carolina, and other things too numerous to mention. Someone will call on you March 25, soliciting your membership for the Chamber of Commerce. Be loyal to your town and do yourself justice by gladly joining the Chamber and give the solicitor the names of some of your friends that you believe will be glad to join.

Remember Thursday, March 25, is the day for the drive and it is a drive that means much to Mount Airy and this section of North Carolina. If Mount Airy is successful in securing enough members and sustaining members to raise at least ten thousand dollars, which is the goal sought by the organization, we will all see Mount Airy grow and take its place among other leading towns in North Carolina.

Health Dept. Has Launched Clean Up Program

The Health Department of Mount Airy is doing a great work, but there is a great deal that remains unfinished. This next week the health department will call on all people that have stables and other unsanitary houses around or near their premises, to tear them down or put them in a sanitary condition, in compliance with the town Ordinances which provide that all stables and the like shall be equipped with hard surfaced floors and be cleaned out daily, and the contents be placed in fly proof receptacles which will meet with the sanitary laws of the state.

We hope the citizens will co-operate with the Health Department in this work and not make it necessary for them to prepare bills of indictment to enforce the health ordinances of the town. If you have a stable, hen house, out house or any other unsanitary house near your residence, begin now to clean them up and save the Health Department the unpleasantness of calling on you and requesting you to do these things.

The Health Department also requests that all back yards be kept clean and sanitary, all rubbish, brush and other unsanitary matter must be picked up and the premises put in an orderly condition, free from fly breeding places and places where mosquito's will breed. The Health Department is counting on the citizens to co-operate with them, which we are sure the most of them will do.

Child Takes Overdose of Sister's Medicine

Salisbury, March 17.—Following an over-dose of medicine prescribed for a younger sister, and to be taken by drops in a very small quantity, little Emma Lee Hackney, the three-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Hackney, residing at 608 Carolina avenue, died early today, 10 hours after it swallowed the medicine.

It is said the child took the bottle from a table and drank perhaps a spoonful Monday afternoon. Later the child took its usual nap and awoke violently ill and continued to get worse until the end.

Talks By the County Agent

By H. E. White,
Surry County Farm Demonstration Agent

It may be of interest to know the recommendations made by Mr. H. E. Niswonger, Extension Horticulturist, after personally examining the orchard of E. C. Bivens on the Fancy Gap road:

1. "As the buds are swelling, make an application on each apple tree of nitrate of soda, the amount equal one-half the diameter of the tree. For example, if the tree is eight inches in diameter at the ground use four pounds of nitrate of soda, scatter this in an area beginning several feet from the trunk extending to beyond the drip of the branches.

2. Have all grass and weeds dug from around each tree, in order to prevent possible future injury from field mice. Their damage can be reduced by keeping the tunnels broken up and weeds and grass removed and from growing around the trees.

3. Clean cultivate the orchard as soon as the ground can be worked in the spring, maintaining a dust mulch to about the middle of June at which time broadcast soybeans at the rate of one bushel per acre. This to be turned under in the fall or the following spring. If not desirable to turn under in the fall, broadcast rye on top of the soybeans at the usual season for sowing rye in your county. The following spring turn rye and soybeans. You can increase the growth of both rye and soybeans by using ground limestone and acid phosphate at the rate of two tons of the former and 200 lbs. of the latter per acre.

4. On the part across the road where the orchard is terraced, I suggest an acre or two being tried with sweet clover. In order to get a good stand of sweet clover the ground should be limed at the rate of two tons per acre. Sweet Clover seed should be inoculated and sown at the rate of 15 pounds per acre, either in the spring or late summer, scarified seed being used.

I hope orchard owners will give the above recommendations serious consideration.

In reference to a letter from Mr. Niswonger 20 he says in part—"with reference to the dry mix material which is being used as a substitute for the self boiled lime sulphur in the control of brown rot on peaches, Page & Buchan, Aberdeen, N. C., are quoting me a price of \$4.00 per 100 lbs. This material is mixed at the rate of 12 pounds to 50 gallons of water. This price is f. o. b. Aberdeen, N. C. I would suggest that you have someone in either Mount Airy or Elkin handle this material for the fruit growers in case they do not care to use the self boiled mixture."

Mr. R. W. Graeber, Extension Forester will be in this county March 25 and 26 to put on some more demonstrations. He was in the county in December and gave two demonstrations. Here is his schedule for the two days:

Thursday morning, March 25—Albert L. Bunker, 10.00 A. M.

Thursday, March 25—H. T. Moore, Union, 1.00 P. M.

Thursday, March 25—John Richards, Dobson, 4.00 P. M.

Friday morning, March 26, Klondike Farm, Elkin, 10.00 A. M.

All who are interested in increasing the profits from farm forestry are invited to be present and take part in the discussion. These demonstrations are very practicable and are well worth attending for the care of farm forestry is new in this county and a lot of our farmers are interested.

On March 29 and 30 Mr. E. L. Blair, Extension Agronomist will be in the county to take up any problems of field crops, permanent pastures, growing of clovers. If you are interested in this get in connection with us so we can take care of you. We need a big increase in the sowing of permanent grasses so we can have grazing and be in a good way to make profits out of dairying.

Agreed on Three, Have Triplets

San Diego, Calif., March 13.—When Mr. and Mrs. Grant Buehl married they agreed that three children, two boys and a girl, would be the right size for their family. For eleven years there was none, but yesterday triplets arrived—two boys and a girl. The mother and children are doing well.

Judge Lenient to Well Digger

Westfield Citizen Succumbs to Fumes From Foul Well and is Brought to Court for Taking a Drink

Westfield, March 22.—Everything has been quiet here for the past few days, only one case for the Recorder's Court, one of our good citizens was up for being intoxicated, he produced evidence that one of his tenants complained of something being wrong in his well and he proceeded to clean it out and found five possums, one rabbit and one cat all dead; he had to enter the well to clean out the bottom and while there they spilled a sufficient quantity of water on him to make him very wet, and on being drawn out of the well his friends advised him to drink about one half pint of whiskey and after sitting by a good fire for about 30 minutes he got warm. His Honor dismissed the case and taxed the plaintiff with the cost.

Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Gilmer, of Walnut Cove, spent Saturday night with his sister Mrs. R. T. Joyce and a very interesting event took place; Mrs. Jeff Payne heard of Mrs. Gilmer being here and called on her, Mrs. Gilmer was Miss Maude Armfield and Mrs. Payne was Miss Dovie Lowe, and 46 years ago they went to school together in Mount Airy to Miss Mary Foy and had not met since leaving school. They remembered many pleasant little incidents and had quite an enjoyable meeting. Both are fine looking and what you would call rather portly, and both the husbands are rather thin.

Mr. and Mrs. Roland Christian, of Winston-Salem, spent Sunday with Mrs. Shelton.

The chicken business is still flourishing, one of our farmers can't supply the demand he has for eggs at 60 cents and all the 2 lb. chickens are ready cash at \$1.00 each.

Wheat is looking well for the time of year, the interest in the tobacco crop is not so bright.

Good progress is being made on the road from Asbury to the Virginia line, they expect to finish it in 90 days. When completed it will be a very important road as a southern outlet for that mountain section.

Lots of flu and pneumonia in this neighborhood, but the situation is improving.

Mr. John Lowe's well has gone dry for the first time since it was made forty years ago.

Our citizens will be glad to welcome Mrs. Roy Pell and little daughter having been about three weeks at the Mount Airy hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. John Marshall expect to move to their farm this week, making extensive arrangements for the chicken business; large quantities of hens were shipped from here last week, the price was 30 cents one day.

Meedames S. P. Christian and R. T. Joyce went to Danbury Sunday to see Mrs. Christian's brother who has been sick for some time but is improving.

There is some prospect of a phone line to Mount Airy, hope it will develop, don't suppose there is a place in North Carolina more in need of such communication.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Smith, Mr. Eugene Paddison and mother Mrs. J. R. Paddison visited Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Joyce Sunday evening.

Is Guilty of Beating Little Boy To Death

Baltimore, March 16.—Ralph T. Coursey, 32 year old trolley car conductor, today was found guilty of second degree murder in Baltimore county circuit court at Towson for beating to death his five-year-old foster son, Eldridge. He was sentenced to 18 years in Maryland penitentiary, the maximum under the Maryland law.

The verdict was returned and sentence pronounced by a bench of three judges, who took the case without argument late this afternoon and deliberated but briefly.

Coursey spent the afternoon in the witness box vehemently denying his wife's accusation that he flogged her child to death on February 6. Mrs. Edna May Wright Coursey, herself convicted last week of manslaughter and now awaiting sentence, testified against her husband yesterday. She has moved for new trial.

As the prisoner was led from the courtroom, he maintained the composure that has marked him throughout the trial since his arrest the day Eldridge died, his body covered with welts and bruises.

"Who Has Blundered?" Discussed By Prof. Coon

School Situation in Junction Neighborhood of Mount Airy Gets Attention of Noted State Educator—Discussion Still Leaves Number of Children Out of School.

Editor The News:

In your issue of the Mount Airy News of March 18, 1926, you publish an editorial on the subject, "Who Has Blundered?" In that editorial you wonder how many children in North Carolina are in the situation of the 35 Junction settlement children who are within one half mile of the Mount Airy North Main Street school, within one and one half miles of the Tesh school, but who are required to attend the Salem school three miles away. You also leave the impression in that editorial that the situation in which those Junction children are placed is due to the attempt to run the schools by way of Raleigh, saying that your local school authorities "blame it all on the folks down at Raleigh."

Dearly beloved, I trust you will not take it amiss or mistake my motives if I submit just a few remarks on your editorial as a text.

1. That situation in which those Junction children find themselves is due to nobody "down at Raleigh." The constitution says each county shall be divided into a convenient number of school districts and the duty of making those school districts has been wholly imposed by law on the county boards of education since 1881 and before that time on the county commissioners from 1868-1881. The present school law in article three, section 28, says that "it is the duty of the county board of education to provide an adequate school system for the benefit of all the children of the county, as directed by law. The board of education shall so district the county and locate the schools that elementary and high school instruction may be available for all the children of the county."

And the law does not stop there, but goes on to make it the duty of all county boards of education to call in the school committeemen and acting with those school officials to work out a county plan of school districts for the development of the school system to the end that money may not be wasted in building useless school houses or neglecting to provide adequate school facilities for all the children of the county.

Therefore, I cannot imagine how any local school official in Surry county can keep a straight face while he "passes the buck" on the shoulders of the State Supt. of Public Instruction for the plight of those Junction children.

2. Some years ago the General Assembly at the instigation of Mount Airy citizens had a special act passed creating the Mount Airy Graded School district, separate and independent of the county system of schools. As no general law can now interfere with the Mount Airy school district thus created, it follows that the county board of education of Surry county is stopped from locating those Junction children in the Mount Airy School district. However, the general school law provides amply and adequately for the enlargement of all school districts, whether independent like Mount Airy or whether they be special tax districts. Those Junction people can vote themselves into the Mount Airy district, if they are willing to pay the Mount Airy special school taxes and can get the consent of the school officials of the Mount Airy school district. There is no question about the law being as I have indicated. Hence, I am emboldened to say that any Mount Airy citizen who is suffering in his mind about the plight of those Junction children has already provided by law a wide open and plain way to bring relief to those Junction children who must now walk three miles to school over muddy roads.

3. I do not know enough about the structure of your local districts to talk about the Salem district, the Tesh district and the Junction area with assurance. At this distance, I imagine the reason those Junction people are not included in the Tesh district is that that district is a special taxing district and that the Junction area is outside the Tesh territory. However, the school law provides for enlarging special taxing districts and for consolidating special taxing districts. But the point I am making is that the school law has

amply provided for the remedying of the situation you complain about. The remedy must be applied, however, by the local people concerned. And that is good sense and good democracy.

4. In case none of the remedies mentioned above is available for the relief of those Junction children, then I would remind everybody concerned that the school law does not compel any child to walk more than two and one half miles to school. That same school law gives ample authority to the board of education of Surry county to provide transportation for those Junction children to that Salem school. That course can not be nullified by way of Raleigh. Those "folks down at Raleigh" can have no veto power over any of the remedies I am suggesting for the relief of those Junction children. And I am confident, Mr. Editor, that there is not a North Carolina child in the plight of those Junction children who is not in that plight on account of the selfishness of the local people or their hatred of paying school taxes. I have yet to find a case such as you describe which is not due to hatred of taxes or to the failure on the part of the local people to act as good citizens ought to act. I have not found in all my long school experience where any child has been put in the plight of those Junction children by way of Raleigh. The trouble is not at Raleigh. It is in Surry county. The school law, as I have shown, provides ample relief for that Junction area.

Finally, Mr. Editor, I hold no brief for Raleigh. But I do say that it becomes people to say mean things about Raleigh, when all that is needed is to apply the adequate means which their own General Assembly has provided to solve their own school problems.

Charles L. Coon.

FORBES ADMITTED TO LEAVENWORTH

Former Director of Veterans' Bureau Starts Serving His Two-Year Term

Leavenworth, Kans., March 20.—Charles R. Forbes, hero of the World War and former head of the Veterans' Bureau, today became a prisoner at the United States penitentiary. The man who was once entrusted with \$33,000,000 to spend in salvaging the human wreckage of the World War began serving a two-year sentence for conspiring to defraud the government.

Although only 47 years old, Colonel Forbes appeared to Warden Bible to be a much older man. He limped as he walked slowly through the prison gate. A stroke of paralysis a year ago has stopped the lively step with which Forbes once marched as a drummer boy in the Marines and later led a signal battalion in France.

After physicians' report next week about the state of the prisoner's health, the warden will decide what kind of work he will assign him. He weighed only 150 pounds, while his normal weight was around 225.

Forbes had little to say except to assure his keeper that he will "make the best of it." He said his nearest relative is his 90 year-old mother who lives in Plymouth, Mass.

The former chief of one of the largest bureaus of the Federal government was convicted last year in Chicago. He and John W. Thompson, St. Louis and Chicago contractor, were found guilty of conspiring to defraud the government. Thompson, who is 70 years old, is in a St. Louis hospital, too ill to begin his two-year sentence. Elias Mortimer, who said he was Thompson's representative in dealings with Forbes and gave the original information which resulted in the indictment of Thompson and Forbes accused the Veterans' Bureau director of stealing Mrs. Mortimer's love. The trial of Forbes and Thompson brought forth testimony about fraud in the awarding of contracts for veterans' hospitals.

The soldier who won a Distinguished Service Cross for bravery beyond the call of duty in France tonight was behind prison walls for the second time in his life. He was imprisoned for desertion from the Army when he was 22 years old.