

The Mount Airy News.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF AUTHENTIC NEWS DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY

ESTABLISHED 1880

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA,

JUNE 4, 1926.

\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

\$1,500,000 CONTRACT AWARDED MOUNT AIRY QUARRIES

Papers Signed Last Friday Giving
North Carolina Granite Corp.
Largest Order in its History

THREE YEARS OF WORK

Company to At Once Enlarge Plant—Two Big Sheds to
Be Built and Power Plant More Than Doubled—Com-
ing of Southern Power Proved An Important Factor,
As They Will Furnish 1,200 Horse Power.

LOCAL LABOR TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY

Stone to Be Used in Construct-
ing Bridge Across Potomac
River—One Item Calls For
Cutting of 2,156 Balusters
From Mount Airy Granite.

After weeks of negotiating The North Carolina Granite Corporation of this city was last Friday afternoon awarded a contract for a large part of the granite to be used in the construction of a memorial bridge across the Potomac River at Washington City. A month ago the press reports told that this company had been awarded the contract, but this proved to be an error at the time. What did transpire was this: The Fine Arts Commission held their meeting and recommended that Mount Airy granite be used and that the local company be awarded the contract for the cut stone. Following the decision of this commission it was published that the contract had been executed when in fact four other commissions had to go over the contracts and plans and also approve them before they could become valid. The final binding contract was signed in Washington City last Friday afternoon at five o'clock by Mr. J. D. Sargent, president of the North Carolina Granite Corporation, giving to this company a job of cut stone work amounting to \$1,522,133.00. For weeks rumors were afloat prior to the signing of the contract that it had been secured, but Mr. Sargent all the time informed The News that as soon as his company should be awarded the work the public would be given the full particulars, and so immediately upon his return to this city he at once gave all the details of interest to a reporter of The News.

For several years there has been under consideration the construction of a bridge across the Potomac River which would connect the Lincoln Memorial with the Memorial that was recently completed in Arlington cemetery. Legislation by congress has assured this project and the various commissions are now working out the plans and placing orders for the materials. The bridge will cost \$15,000,000.00 to complete and it is estimated to require ten years to finish the job, and will be considered the most beautiful bridge in the world, nothing even in Europe rivaling it in beauty and magnificence.

The bridge will be 2,138 feet long and is so designed as to harmonize with the Capitol, White House, Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Memorial, as it is in line with all these structures, and connects the Lincoln and Arlington Memorials. One interesting feature about the work that will have to be done by the Mount Airy concern is the cutting of 2,156 stone balusters. These go along the sides of the bridge with a stone gap above them and are nine by nine inches and 34 inches high, each having a large amount of molding and carving work on it.

A portion of the granite work that lies near the water's edge was awarded a Georgia concern, but owing to the fine quality and texture of Mount Airy granite it was selected to be used where it is exposed to the public view. All granite to be used will be the finest grade of cut stone and nothing but work of the monumental type will be used. During the coming summer and fall workmen will be busy preparing the foundations for the bridge and the first stones from the Mount Airy quarries will be set

in August, 1927, and the present contract calls for complete delivery by August, 1929. Upon the completion of the present contract it is estimated that there will be an additional million and a half dollars of granite work to be contracted and in view of the success of Mr. Sargent in securing the first contract it is nothing unreasonable to suppose that he will succeed in securing the remaining work to be let out three years from this date.

In order to carry out the contract and supply the stone as requested it will be necessary for the company to spend about \$200,000.00 in expanding its plant, increasing the shed room and installing more cranes. About 40 machinery men were in conference with Mr. Sargent all day Wednesday negotiating with him the purchase and sale of two large air compressors, these two machines alone costing about \$36,000.00. Two large sheds will be built at once. One of them will be an addition to the sheds of the Sargent Granite Co., and will be 68 feet wide and 150 feet long. An entirely new shed will also be built on the ground near the North State Granite Co., 64 feet wide by 250 long with an ell to hold the machinery.

The air compressors to be installed will be driven by electricity secured from the Southern Power Co., these machines alone using 1,000 horse power. The air compressors that now supply the needs of the company have an output of 4,000 cubic feet per minute, while the new machines will put out 5,000 cubic feet per minute, thus more than doubling the air capacity of the plant. Other motors that will be added will increase the amount of power to be used that will be supplied by the Southern Power Co. to more than 1,200 horse power—considerably more power than the combined plants of the Town of Mount Airy are now generating. Mr. Sargent says that the fact that ample power could be secured from the Southern Power Co. was an important factor that entered into his success in securing the large contract, for without the power he would have been greatly delayed in the installation of steam boilers and engines necessary to generate his own power and at a cost that would have made the price of the contract much larger.

In accepting the contract Mr. Sargent says his company has kept in mind that it must also carry on its regular line of business. The annual business of this company is now around one million dollars and this single contract calls for an increase of about 50 per cent in the regular force in order to get out the work on time. At present there are now working in the cutting sheds of the quarry 248 stone cutters, and about 450 laborers are used in the quarrying of the stone and other work about the quarry. The number of cutters now employed is greater than ever before in the history of the business, one interesting and encouraging feature being that 98 per cent of those employed at the quarry are local people—people who were reared here, have their homes here and who have proven loyal and efficient workmen in every instance.

In the execution of this contract Mr. Sargent says that a large number of additional employees will have to be added, but that he expects and hopes to be able to secure practically all his labor from this section. In many instances he will have to train raw recruits by this he stands ready and willing to do in order to give preference to local people. He says that never before in the history of the business has there been such enthu-

asim and loyalty and efficiency among the workmen as is manifest at this time, and with this condition existing he sees no occasion for his company not being able to fill its contract in the scheduled time and be in a splendid strategic position to enter the bidding for the remaining work that will be open for contract three years, from now.

Since coming here about 15 years ago Mr. Sargent has been able to make the North Carolina Granite Corporation one of the leading granite industries of the nation. The business has grown until its product is found in many of the leading structures of the country and Mount Airy granite has been kept extensively advertised until it is recognized by leading builders as one of the finest stones obtainable for building purposes where quality of texture and beauty of appearance is desired. The company is practically owned by North Carolina citizens, the principal stockholders being C. B. Keese, of Martinsville, Va., for years a resident of Mount Airy, W. F. Schaffner and Col. F. H. Fries of Winston-Salem and Mr. Sargent of this city. Mr. Sargent is president of the company and Mr. Schaffner is vice-president. The other officers of the company are: W. R. Simpson, secretary and treasurer; C. Binder, general manager; J. R. Sargent, general superintendent; Frank Walker, assistant superintendent; R. C. Browne, cut stone superintendent. The following compose the board of directors: J. D. Sargent, W. F. Schaffner, W. R. Simpson, C. Binder, J. R. Sargent, C. B. Keese and Col. F. H. Fries.

RURAL MAIL CARRIERS TO MEET AT SANFORD

It is Expected That 500 From
All Over State Will Gather
There July 5-6.

Sanford, May 28.—Sanford will occupy the topmost rungs of the ladder July 5 and 6 when the usual routine of the town will be abdicated in order that the city may play host to her fullest to 500 rural mail carriers gathered here in convention from all over North Carolina. Nothing will be left undone to make the occasion for the carriers an event memorable in the lives of those who will honor the town with their attendance.

In the face of the fact that the gala celebration previously planned for July 4 has been set aside in order that the carriers may be more appropriately entertained, the public is looking forward to the two July days with no small degree of interest.

A number of good speakers, including Frank Page, chairman of the state highway commission, the first assistant postmaster-general and several departmental heads from Washington are expected to be on the program.

One feature of the occasion that is being looked forward to with pleasure by the carriers is the itinerary that will be taken through the Sandhill peach orchards. The carriers will be given an opportunity to adequately size up the part that Central North Carolina and the Sandhills are playing in the life and activity of the state.

THREE AMERICANS HELD FOR RANSOM RELEASED

Laredo, May 29.—Three of the five Americans kidnapped in Mexico by bandits and held for ransom have been released. H. B. Braden, mining engineer of Laredo, who with Jules C. Gallagher, of San Antonio, was seized May 18 at Braden's mine in the state of Durango, telegraphed his wife today that he had arrived safely at Mapimi, Durango. He said he was sound and well. The telegram, however, gave no news of Gallagher. Two American employees, Briggs and Greeley, who were captured Thursday by bandits in the Tampico region, have been liberated, say advices from Mexico City.

John W. Shanklin, of Canyon City, Texas, whose death had been threatened by bandits holding him for ransom in the state of Vera Cruz, still is in the hands of his captors so far as is known. Although the bandits threatened to kill him last Thursday if the ransom was not paid at that time, officials in Mexico City, in the absence of any direct word as to his fate, expressed the belief that Shanklin is alive.

Store Robbed Before Man's Eyes.

A group of Nomads, presumably gypsies though thought by some who saw them to be of American Indian origin, passed through the county this past week and were accused of several petty thieveries along their route.

They entered the Vernon store at Orchard Hill five miles east of Lowgap on the Mount Airy-Lowgap road and called for pop, giving money which required change and thus located the cash drawer.

A few minutes later they returned in larger numbers and a part of the group entered Mr. Vernon to the rear of the store with unintelligible jargon, pretending to want something and to tell his fortune, another group remained in the front of the store and looted the cash drawer while their confederates detained the owner in the rear.

As soon as Mr. Vernon discovered what had happened he got Deputy Floyd Ramey and they followed the wanderers overtaking them at Lowgap where under threat of arrest they admitted the theft and handed over the amount of \$7.50 and were allowed to go on their way.

It is rumored that the cash drawer at the Elevins store south of Lowgap on Fish River was robbed in much the same way.

Rev. J. H. Carter Enters The Evangelistic Field.

Elkin, May 17.—Rev. J. H. Carter, of this place, who, for the past two years, has been pastor of the Presbyterian churches at Wilkesboro, Elkin and Yadkinville Sunday morning resigned the pastorage of these churches to enter the evangelistic field. This action was made possible through the generosity of the First Presbyterian church of Greensboro, which is furnishing the funds to finance the three months' evangelistic campaign upon which Mr. Carter will enter about June 1.

His first series of meetings will begin at North Wilkesboro the first week in June, at the close of which he will go to Ashe county, then cover much of northwestern North Carolina. Mr. Carter will be accompanied by a trained singer and several Christian chautauqu workers throughout his campaign. He will be provided with a large tent and the necessary equipment by the North Carolina Synod's committee and is looking forward to a wonderful success in this work. He has not definitely decided that he will continue in the evangelistic work at the close of this campaign or whether he will accept a call to one of the numerous churches that have been demanding his services. He will continue to make Elkin his home until the close of the summer's campaign.

Receivership Is Asked For Winston Bank.

Winston-Salem, May 29.—Judge J. T. Shaw at Lexington today named the Wachovia Bank and Trust company, of this place, as temporary receivers for the Merchants Bank and Trust company, also of this city, the doors of the latter institution having been closed April 27, by the state corporation commission.

In a statement issued late this afternoon Bank Examiner Latham, explaining his investigation of the bank's assets and liabilities, says:

It was found that the assets of the bank, which has been classed upon appraisal as slow or doubtful, made it impossible for the directors and stockholders of the bank to make such an arrangement as would discharge in full the liabilities of the bank. From the best sources available it was determined that between \$700,000 and \$800,000 of the assets of the bank were slow or doubtful.

From these figures it is easy to determine that upon the appraisal made, creditors of the bank cannot be paid in full, and for that reason the corporation commission found it necessary to consider the appointment of a receiver for the purpose of liquidating the bank.

Homes Wanted For Children.

How would you like to have a tiny little two year old girl to love and rear as your own child? Just at present, Welfare Officer, Fred Armfield has a number of Surry County girl children between the ages of 2 and 13 years who need homes. Already a number of Surry County homes have adopted or taken children on trial and in most cases it is satisfactory to both the children and the prospective parents.

If you will give a girl a home get in touch with Officer Armfield at once

OBSERVANCE OF GAME LAW TO PROTECT FISH LIFE

TO FORCE PROHIBITION ACTION THIS CONGRESS

Drys Are Aroused by Attacks Of Wet Group.

Washington, May 28.—Aroused by the repeated onslaught of the wets, some of the outstanding dry leaders are preparing to force the issue in the senate at this session on the administration bill for tightening up the Volstead act.

The wets said today they are ready for the battle and will press several amendments, including those for a national referendum on the prohibition question and translating into law the language of the 18th amendment, permitting the manufacture and sale of beverages "non-intoxicating in fact."

While lines are being drawn for this fight the uproar over President Coolidge's executive order authorizing the employment of state and local officers as federal enforcement agents continues. The order was defended today in the senate by Senator Blease, Democrat, South Carolina who declared that the fewer federal prohibition agents there were in the state the better for law enforcement.

The senate judiciary subcommittee appointed to inquire into the legality of the order, failed to meet today, but Chairman Cummins hopes to have a session not later than next Tuesday. There is little probability that any hearing will be held.

FIVE GIRLS BURNED IN ROCKFORD BLAZE.

Eight Other Persons Injured, One of Whom May Lose Sight, in Illinois Fire.

Rockford, Ill., May 28.—Five girls were burned to death and eight persons were known to have been seriously injured in a fire late today which swept a building occupied by the Sutton Top Shop.

The bodies were burned beyond recognition. One of the injured girls, Catherine Wood, was burned so severely about the face that it is feared she may go blind. Others suffered sprains and injuries in escaping from the second floor of the building. John Sutton, head of the firm, was seriously burned when he insisted on attempts at rescue until forcibly restrained by the firemen.

All but five of the 13 girls employed on the second floor succeeded in finding their way out of the smoke-filled room down the only stairway. The bodies of the five were found by firemen who fought their way into the building.

The fire started when a strip of celluloid being sawed in a machine on the ground floor burst into flames.

Dodge Owners To Pay \$20 For License Tag.

Raleigh, May 26.—Fifteen thousand Dodge automobile owners will stand for an increase in license taxes aggregating \$125,000 as the result of the Department of Revenue's ruling moving that make of car into the class of machines with a horsepower in excess of 24.

Heretofore Dodge owners have paid \$12.50 for their license plates. In the new classification they will pay \$20 although having a horsepower fractionally above. The Dodge previously has been assessed along with the cars having 24-horse-power or less.

The department recently decided to count fractions with the result that the Dodge and three other makes not so numerous in the state have been boosted to the higher classification.

Dry Officers To Carry Gas Bombs And Gas Masks.

Newark, N. J., May 29.—Gas bombs and gas masks will be part of the equipment of federal prohibition enforcement agents in this territory, Captain Jesse L. Thompson, deputy prohibition administrator, announced today.

An attack by a mob of 100 men on agents while conducting a raid in Union City caused him to order the war-like equipment. Captain Thompson said.

One agent is under a physician's care and another is off duty as the result of the beating received from the mob.

Fish Law For This Section.

Fishermen about this city have called this newspaper's attention to the law governing fishing in the streams of this county. There is no question but that some time in the future our mountain streams will become a great source of food and revenue for our people, but before this can become a fact our people at the same time must realize that the fish must be given protection that will enable them to multiply and produce. There are already sufficient laws on our books to afford the proper protection but many people fail to realize the importance of their observance and continue to resort to the old methods of trapping, seining and in some instances dynamiting the streams. This keeps the streams depleted of fish and until this practice is stopped there is little hope for the development of the fish life in this country. Public sentiment is gradually shaping against these primitive methods of destroying the fish life in our streams and will finally win in the effort to make the fish industry one of the assets of the state.

The following is the state law that applies to this county in regard to fishing, taken from section 84 of the rules and regulations of the Fish Commission:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to set, fish with, or have set or fished with in the following waters, any kind of net or trap for the purpose of taking or killing fish; or to buy, sell, offer for sale, or have in possession fish taken from the Yadkin river and its tributaries from the South Carolina line to its source, except as herein provided. Provided that fish may be taken with haul nets, dip nets, stake gill nets and fish traps without wings or hedging, from the main waters of said stream from Jan. 1st to May 20th of each year; that no traps or nets can be set within 50 yards of either side of the mouth of any tributary emptying into said river. Provided that fish may be taken from the above named waters at any season of the year with hook and line when not more than three hooks and lines are used by each person fishing; that it shall be unlawful to catch black bass in any of the streams above named by any means from April 15 to July 1st in each year."

Violations of the above regulations are misdemeanors and are out of the jurisdiction of magistrates.

War Trophy Is Placed On Wilkes Court House Lawn.

Wilkes Journal. A huge Belgian gun, weighing three tons, has been placed on the court house lawn in Wilkesboro. The big artillery piece was unloaded Friday and placed on the walk immediately in front of the court house. This war trophy was secured for the town and county by the efforts of Mayor H. A. Cranor and Attorney F. B. Hendren.

This particular gun was captured early in the war by the Germans from the Belgian army. Later in the great conflict it was recaptured by the American Expeditionary forces. Thus, this gun saw service by the Belgians, the Germans and the Americans during the World War. The trophy was shipped here direct from the Raritan Arsenal at Metuchen, N. J., the freight costs for that distance being \$218. Since it has been placed on exhibit it has caused a great deal of comment and much interest is being manifested in it. At an early date it will be painted.

German War Trophies Are Now On Exhibition.

Taylorville Times. The German trophies, awarded to Alexander county by the War Department, have arrived and are on exhibition at the LeGette Store in the Campbell Hotel Building. In the lot are two machine guns, and about a dozen rifles.

M. Charles LeGette, and ex-soldier, in the World War, takes great pleasure in showing them to his friends and any one interested. It has not been fully decided where they will be placed. We hardly think it would be wise to place these trophies on the Court Square, unless some provision was made to protect them from the weather. Those having them in charge will decide on some plan of placing them in a desirable location.

Irate Parent—'I'll teach you to make love to my daughter, sir!
Would-be Sailor—All right, I wish you would. I don't seem to be getting anywhere.