

# The Mount Airy News

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## Local Tobacco Market Stands With Leading Markets of State

State Department Figures Show Tobacco on Mount Airy Warehouses to Bring As Good Price As Competing Markets—November Average Expected to Reach 30 Cent Figure.

The state department of agriculture last week announced the sales of tobacco made by the various markets in the state during the month of October and their averages. The statement is of special interest to our people as it proves the claim that has been made for the Mount Airy tobacco market that as good a price could be secured here as on other markets. The average for Mount Airy for October was shown to be 24 cents per pound and is in line with that secured by other markets.

Until this announcement was made by the state authorities there was some doubt in the minds of the public as to what the local market was doing, and various claims were being made by paid drummers for other markets, but the report of the state authorities puts the Mount Airy market right at the top with other competing markets. The report of the state is absolutely authentic and can be relied upon as being accurate. The ones making up these reports have no interest in the matter, they have no favorites and the figures that are given out speak for themselves.

Last year the Mount Airy market suffered some loss of trade on account of a bad crop in this immediate section, and this condition caused the average to fall three or four cents below the average of other markets, but the report for October shows that with an average crop of tobacco our warehouses can get the farmer as good an average as any other market.

During October a large lot of primings and tips were marketed which kept the average below what November will show. And now with the low grades out of the way and the higher grades coming in the Mount Airy market will average close to 30 cents. Warehousemen tell us that all grades of tobacco are selling strong and they are advising the farmers to bring their tobacco on as fast as they can prepare it for the market.

Below is the statement of the average price per pound that was made by some of the markets of the state for the month of October as reported by the state department:

Aberdeen,	27 Cents
Burlington,	22 Cents
Carthage,	22 Cents
Durham,	26 Cents
Elkin,	24 Cents
Henderson,	24 Cents
Madison,	21 Cents
Mebane,	24 Cents
Mount Airy,	24 Cents
Oxford,	23 Cents
Reidsville,	25 Cents
Roxboro,	24 Cents
Stoneville,	20 Cents
Winston-Salem,	24 Cents

## Road Celebration at Christiansburg, Va.

The opening of traffic of the Christiansburg-Elleston link of the Lee Highway which marks the completion of the first east and west hard surfaced highway across the state of Virginia was celebrated in a rather big way at Christiansburg, Va., Wednesday.

The town was decorated and thousands of visitors were present. The program included motorcades from cities along the Lee Highway and a parade two and a half miles long of beautiful floats was a feature of the program together with historic pageants.

Roanoke College, Salem, Va., represented the Roanoke College Musketeer Guard of Civil War days and Sullins College, Bristol; Martha Washington College, Abington; and Radford College were all represented either by floats or groups of students. Governors of West Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Kentucky were all invited to be present for the celebration.

Christiansburg's oldest house, once a tavern where Andrew Jackson often stopped on route to Washington, was decorated for the road celebration. It is now the home of Miss Mary Craig and has been in her family since the land was granted to her grand parents by King George III.

## Time of Return Mt. Airy Missionary From Japan Near—Away 7 Years

I will once more avail myself of your cordiality in allowing me the use of your columns for the purpose of letting our friends of Mount Airy know that we are still in good health and at work on the same job given us when we reported back for service six years ago.

We had a pleasant summer vacation in Niinooka, Gotemba, as usual. For the third time we were managers of the Gotemba Club. And for the third consecutive time the Southern Presbyterians were our guests at their Mission Meeting. The men, women and children in attendance numbered about sixty. That they are a fine lot, and that we get much pleasure out of our association with them, has been stated before, but will bear emphasizing again. They mix well with Methodists. Three of these missionaries' daughters have married Methodist preachers, and one of the sons, now a missionary himself, married a Methodist preacher's daughter from Virginia. Love is not too blind to jump over denominational lines. We do not fear these matrimonial complications.

Grady, our sixteen year old son, who graduated in the high school department of Canadian Academy last June, is back in the same institution again studying music and some special studies, and is studying shorthand and teaching some in the city, receiving good pay according to the time given to teaching. He still takes interest in athletics. He has played every position in baseball but is best known in newspapers as the little southpaw pitcher.

Grady is ready to enter Duke University; but since we are to return

to America next year on furlough, he is waiting to go with us. His special study and experience will stand him in good stead. We are all counting the months till time to go back to the States, to borrow my wife's phraseology. On the other, I have no pleasure in leaving my work here and going where I am but a pilgrim. But the folks at home treat us well, and it will be pleasant to see our own children and other loved ones there.

The visible results of the work on Uwajima Circuit are greater this year than last year. But we are greatly hindered by the illness of one of my native preachers who is the only preacher in a large county. We are to leave soon for our District Conference which is to convene in Saganoseki, the 18th instant. We will have to ride all night by boat probably called up for breakfast by four o'clock. The time of our Annual Mission Meeting is not definitely known yet by the writer.

Uwajima, Ehime Ken, Japan, October 15, 1926.

J. W. Frank.

## Oyster Supper at White Plains

An oyster supper will be given at the White Plains high school Saturday night, November 20th, six to ten o'clock P. M., for the benefit of the school. They will serve oysters, salads, sandwiches, and other good things to eat. Splendid music will add to the enjoyment of the occasion and a general good time is expected. The public is cordially invited to come and take supper.

## Happenings Twenty-one Years Ago

Interesting Items Gleaned From the Files of The Mount Airy News 21 Years Ago This Week

Mr. Cullen Merritt returned from South Carolina Monday. He has been down there on a hunting trip and brought back a fine large deer.

Mr. Clem Wrenn will teach the 7th grade in the graded school until a teacher can be secured.

Rev. J. A. Cook and his family will leave town in a few days and will make Asheville their home where Mr. Cook has charge of one of the best churches in the state.

Rev. J. E. Abernethy is the new preacher for Mount Airy station, L. T. Cordell the new Presiding Elder and D. C. Ballard is on the Mount Airy circuit.

The city fathers Tuesday night elected G. B. Cody chief of police and Fred Johnson first policeman.

E. S. Lundy, of Fancy Gap, was in town Monday and told us he has a fine milk cow that he wishes to sell. She gave three gallons all the summer and he will take \$30 for her.

Dr. R. D. Haymore starts today for Wakefield, N. C., where he will preach the dedicatory sermon of a new church just completed—at that place.

O. G. Baker, of Paxton, Ill., is in town trying to sell a fine stock horse. The animal is a beauty and is of Norman coach stock. It will take \$3,000 to buy him. He is bay in color and only four years old.

Mr. Council Smith, of Ararat, Va., tells of a hen that he owns that he knows is 15 years old and has raised two and three broods of chickens each year for 14 years and she shows age very little now.

Miss Ella Greenwood is at Booneville visiting relatives.

Misses Addie Greenwood, of Round Peak, and Ora Armfield, of Low Gap, were in town Wednesday shopping.

They say it takes a wagon load of liquor to do Mount Airy a week—a two horse load at that. In conversation this week with two men who know this town from a to z they both state it is a fact that men who do the business of the town are not even addicted to the habit of taking a toddy. One of the men said that he knew that the men who do business here on Main Street almost to a man are total abstainers and the same is true of the men who run the large manufacturing plants. And it comes to this: If it takes a two horse load of liquor to do this town a week that money comes out of the pockets of men who are not financially able to buy a drink—it takes all they can

make to provide for their families. If this is true, and we think it is, every man who loves his country should use his influence to crush out the habit of drinking intoxicating liquors.

Begin now to get ready for all Methodist preachers in the country are coming to Mount Airy next year. Mr. A. H. Merritt, of this city, is due the credit for inducing the Conference to make this city its next meeting place. Several other towns wanted it and had strong delegations there but our man, Mr. Merritt, was too much for them. One of the state papers reported it this way:

"The hit of the morning was made by Mr. A. H. Merritt, of Mount Airy, and the occasion of the hit was the choosing of a location for next year's conference. Mount Airy, Salisbury and Asheville were presented for choice but after Mr. Merritt's speech in behalf of Mount Airy there would have been no hope for New York or Paris in competition with him.

"After setting forth Mount Airy's need of the spiritual light which a Conference would bring to it Mr. Merritt began to expatiate on the attractions of the region he represents. Mount Airy could not offer much in the way of fine houses or buildings, he said, but it could offer all in the way of hospitality. But probably the most notable attraction there was its cabbages, which were the finest in the world. Here Mr. Merritt was interrupted with roars of laughter but when order was restored he resumed his task of proving his point by stating that a man who was traveling in Scotland wrote back telling of the wonders of the place. He stated among other things that there grew there the finest cabbages produced anywhere in the world except in Mount Airy, N. C.

"How about chickens?" was demanded and in reply Mr. Merritt announced that Mount Airy kept a goodly share of all the beehives, sheep and pigs that were driven through the place for export—that she kept all the turkeys and that as for chickens—she had chickens and chickens and chickens!

"When Mr. Merritt retired Salisbury and Asheville's chances retired with him and it was decided, when the delegates stopped laughing enough to decide anything, that Mount Airy should have the vote unanimously."

## Hillsville Road Gets Additional Funds to Finish Building Road to State Line

Allocation of State Funds Gives Carroll County \$125,000 to Be Spent in 1927 in Building Road Down Fancy Gap—Two Bridges to Be Built Across New River.

## MINISTER SENT BACK TO FLOCK BY WAKE JURY

Direction of Bullet Was Strong Point of Defense During Two-Day Murder Trial.

Raleigh, Nov. 14.—Sunday morning deliberations of the jury in Wake superior court brought an acquittal verdict for Rev. George Wood, Universalist minister and Lenoir county deputy sheriff, after a two-day trial on a charge of murder for the killing of J. B. Vickers, of Charlotte, state prison convict.

The verdict came at noon, and Judge Bond, lawyers in the case, and the defendant were called to the courtroom to receive it.

## Close Decision.

The jury took the case at 5:30 yesterday afternoon and shortly afterwards it returned to the courtroom to ask his honor to repeat the distinction between second degree murder and manslaughter. Court spectators then looked for a conviction of manslaughter, reports had a majority of the jurors standing that way, and attorneys for Wood hoped for a mistrial at best. But as the night wore on and no verdict came, Judge Bond found the jury in a deadlock and he sent it to bed.

This morning's deliberations brought it quickly around to the defendant's side of the case, and a verdict of not guilty. Wood received the verdict without emotion, but he moved to the jury box and shook hands with each juror.

## Hard Fight.

The minister and his counsel had to fight their way through to an acquittal against major difficulties. The state had all the eye witnesses to the actual shooting on the afternoon of August 31. The eye witnesses, most of them women, all contended that Wood shot the convict while the latter was holding his hands aloft and crying out in surrender. Wood had to rely upon his own testimony, and that of a convict, to support his claim that the shooting happened when Vickers grabbed for his gun.

But there was one weak spot in the state's evidence. The state witnesses thought the gun was pointed on a level. Physicians testimony showed the fatal bullet veered down and into the man's stomach at an angle of nearly 45 degrees.

The state thought a button might have caused the ball to glance downward but the defense, which made much of the point that a gun pointed straight ahead will not send its bullet downward, contended that Vickers pushed the gun down when he grabbed it.

## Back To Church.

John G. Dawson, of Kinston, who was Wood's chief counsel, sent his client back to Lenoir county and to his country ministerial charge there this afternoon. Wood is well thought of in Kinston and Lenoir county, and a host of the town and county's most prominent citizens came here to testify to his good character.

The shooting, which cost Vickers his life and Wood a desperate legal fight, occurred as the aftermath of an attempt to escape by Vickers, who was at the time being returned by Wood to the state prison from Spartanburg, where he had been recaptured after a successful break from a guard from the streets of Charlotte two weeks earlier. He was under a sentence of 10 years for murder, having been sent up from Mecklenburg superior court early in the year for slaying a man by the name of Rogers.

## Food Sale.

The Nannie M. Brower Circle of the Missionary Society of the First Baptist Church will hold a food sale at Whitman's music store, Tuesday, Nov. 23rd, beginning at 9 o'clock. Candy, cake, cranberry jolly, plus all kinds of Thanksgiving cooking will be on sale. Your patronage will be appreciated.

The Virginia Highway Commission has announced its appropriations of road money for the year 1927, the total amount to be provided in the state being nearly eight million dollars. This money is secured from tax levies, and follows Virginia's plan of pay-as-you-go.

Of the above sum Carroll County was allocated \$125,000 to be used in completing the road that is now being constructed from Hillsville down the Fancy Gap to the state line four miles above this city. The road is now graded to the top of the mountain and being rocked, steam shovels are in the mountain at work and a force of hands is grading the road between the line and the foot of the mountain. The shovel is at work near the place known as the half-way branch, and is digging great holes in the side of the mountain in order to provide a fifty foot highway down the Fancy Gap. A concrete culvert 60 feet long is being built in the hollow below the half-way branch and a fill about 25 feet high will be made there in order to take the curve out of the road at that point.

For some months traffic on the Fancy Gap has been partially closed on account of the grading work, but the work has progressed until travel is now more satisfactory over this route.

Hillsville is now connected with the Lee highway over in Wythe County by a rock road, North Carolina is building a rock road from this city to the state line, which is practically complete, Bland County is connecting with the Lee highway with a rock road, in a few months Bland will also begin the work of completing a connecting link with Bluefield, and from that point hard surface roads lead in various directions connecting with points on the Great Lakes. With the work in Bland County complete Mount Airy will be less than three hours drive from Bluefield, traveling over a rock road all the way.

This route is the one that is being advanced as the proper one to adopt as the Lakes-to-Florida highway, while some of the special correspondents continue to speak of the road over through Grayson and Alleghany as the official route. As a matter of fact neither route has been adopted and the officials of the association have stated that no route will be adopted as the Lakes-to-Florida highway until a road is completed over the mountain that will stand year-around traffic. Just the same the route through Grayson and Alleghany is being advertised as the official one, and over at Brooks Cross Roads, 10 miles below Elkin, the Standard Oil Company has a large electric lighted sign with a map of Route No. 26, from Charlotte to Sparta, and has emblazoned upon it the title:

"Scenic Highway, Hardsurfaced. To Elkin, Roaring Gap, Sparta and North. Lakes-to-Florida Highway."

Besides being a sign of considerable size it has an electrical equipment which makes it visible at a great distance at night.

The Virginia authorities are mapping out a plan of state road work for Grayson County that will take three or four years to complete. Contract has already been awarded for a bridge over New River to be built near Dickerson's ferry four miles from Galax on the Independence road. And this month another allocation of funds was set aside for the construction of a bridge across New River near the state line which will connect Independence with Sparta.

## Last Fire 600 Years Ago!

"Going back to Aun (France) from which this letter is written, it is a town of 1,200 people. I did not see any college-cut clothes or movies but plenty of insurable values, and many houses have name plates over their doors indicating the company insuring them. Needless to say there is not a shingle roof or a wooden building in the town. The last fire I heard about was the church, which was burned in a civil war about six hundred years ago. One house here the date 1462. Altogether it looked to me like a good town from a fire insurance standpoint."