

The Mt. Airy News

J. E. JOHNSON & SON, Publishers

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One year \$1.50

Circulation Books Open to All

Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice at Mount Airy, N. C., under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

NO PLACE FOR IMITATION GRANITE.

One unfortunate feature about the contract that was awarded last week for the construction of the new water system is the fact that the city will use IMITATION granite for trimmings in the main building that is to be constructed. The architect who has drawn the plan has submitted to the city a modern system which the city adopted. One of the units of the system is a modern building in which to house the chemical laboratory, engine, motors, pumps and filter equipment. When the system is completed the city will have one that it should justly be proud of, and our citizens approve of the creditable structures that are ready to be built.

But it would be passing strange to the public's mind—to the visitor in our midst—to be informed that we were using IMITATION granite for trimmings in the buildings. When architects and contractors visit our quarries to give orders or to look over our stone they at once drive over our city and observe how our stone shows up in actual work. When completed we will be proud of our new water system but it would be embarrassing to inform the world that we are using an imitation material when granite quarries are right in our midst.

Even should the cost be a trifle more our authorities should look further ahead and see the moral effect it would have to fail to use the natural resources that are here at our command and which we are every day urging other communities to use. The quarry industry of this city pays out to its employees twenty thousand dollars every week—every cent of this money coming into our town from other cities and states. And every cent of it is expended here with our business people.

In an interview with Mr. Sargent, president of the North Carolina Granite Corporation, he stated that he was indeed very anxious to see Mount Airy granite used in Mount Airy's public buildings. His interest was not from a point of profit, for he stated that his company would sell the product to the city at actual cost, but he said it was discouraging to point out to his prospective customers from other cities local public buildings where imitation materials were being used.

If the selection of the imitation material was based on the ground of economy, those in charge might have gone further and made a greater saving by building with red tile or plain brick, instead of pressed brick. But we want a nice structure in keeping with the progress of the town and it will certainly be out of keeping with our surroundings without the use of genuine Mount Airy granite.

WINTER AND THE POOR.

When the winds blow cold and work becomes slack then the poor folks often come to want. It is surprising how many people live from hand to mouth, and it is those folks who sometimes find the wolf at the door when winter comes. One day last week a lady here faced a plea for enough to buy a load of wood for a widow with three children. The lady thought the town had a fund at the office of the county health officer and honestly sent the person there thinking that she was doing the proper thing. But there is no fund there. Neither is there any fund anywhere in the town to be used for the poor. And so if you turn a deaf ear to the pleas of those in want you are doing it with your eyes open. The town and the churches have always helped those in need. There are individuals here by the hundred who will aid the poor when they know of the needs. There is always much charity work done here in the winter time, but there is no organized effort to carry on this work. There is not a preacher in the town who will not aid by calling on his members for funds when he thinks it is a worthy cause. The Chief of Police will aid any one and the town meet the expense if the cause is worthy.

The professional beggar complicates the situation. No one wants to assist the professional beggar who should find a job and quit his begging. It is hard sometimes to distinguish the worthy cause of need from the unworthy ones. It would be a very safe rule to give the poor the benefit of the doubt and be careful how they are sent away empty handed.

WHY WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS.

Most people could give their idea of why we celebrate Christmas. There is a reason or the race would not go on, year after year, for centuries keeping this day a time to rejoice. Some one has said that mankind has always formed pattern ideas, ideas that become to the minds of men a form of guide in their lives. This is illustrated by the pattern idea that we have held for ages about transportation. The great pattern idea here is the wheel. First mankind used the wheel for a cart, then for four-wheel vehicles, then for railway trains, automobiles, carriages and so forth. But the wheel is the main idea back of all this effort of the race to solve the problem of transportation.

In the world of thought the race has had its pattern ideas in all ages. Moses gave the Jews a pattern idea, and nothing has yet replaced the teachings of Moses with the Jews. To them he is their great pattern idea. Mohammed gave a large part of the race a pattern idea and we see what it has done for its followers as demonstrated in Turkey and parts of Africa. Two thousand years ago a carpenter in a small Jewish city enlarged on the teachings of his time and gave to the small number of followers about him a new conception of the truth. This man known to the world as Jesus of Nazareth, gave a pattern idea that has far surpassed any conception of the truth yet known to men.

His teaching is largely made up of what we would today call stories in which he illustrated the ideas he wanted to impress upon the minds of the folks about him. One day he told how a man was robbed and left wounded on the road, and how a man came along and ministered to his needs and carried him to a hotel and paid his bill and left with the promise to meet any further expense that might be necessary to restore him to health. Another time he told how a boy went away from home and soon squandered his money and came to want after living a wild and dissolute life. The boy saw his plight and returned home to his father in a penitent mood and was given a warm welcome. The lessons taught by these and many like stories have formed the basis of the thought of the followers of Jesus and have been the cause of establishing hospitals, orphan asylums, and work of charity in a multitude of forms. The great pattern ideas formed by Jesus are the basis for his prominence among nations today and are responsible for the untold good that has come from applying his teaching to the everyday affairs of men. It is because these pattern ideas mean so much to the race that we celebrate Christmas. It is but natural that we should celebrate. Most folks know all this, but a reminder will help many who have not given the subject much thought.

TRAINING CRIMINALS FOR PRINTERS.

Down at Raleigh they have put a printing office in the penitentiary, one object in mind being to train criminals for printers once they are out in the world again. The organizations of printers are up in arms against any such. Why not train the criminals for school teachers or preachers? Men go so far in crime that they are forever unfitted for some callings in life. The man who has once worn the stripes as a rule is no man to try to lead the people in any line of thought. One can hardly think of an ex-convict being a teacher or an editor or a preacher. He might be, but hardly ever is. Neither would an ex-convict be at home among a bunch of printers. They are no saints, but printers are a high class of labor and they come in close touch with the intelligent part of a community. They are often placed in a position of trust and aid in helping others do a high class work that an ex-convict would hardly be expected to do. We are not surprised that there should be resentment at the effort of the State to train convicts for printers.

New Fire Truck Now In Use.

The new American La France fire engine recently purchased by the city was unloaded Monday morning by an expert from the factory, tested out and is now in use by the city fire department. It received its first call for duty Wednesday morning in answer to a fire that broke out in the rear of a cafe on Franklin street. Both trucks answered the alarm and the fire was extinguished with the chemical tanks.

The new truck is the latest fire fighting machine that is made and is equipped with a pump of 750 gallons a minute capacity. In the tests made Tuesday it actually put out 812 gallons at a nozzle pressure of 150 pounds—more than twice the tank pressure. The truck is equipped with a chemical tank, ladders and 750 feet of hose. It is driven by a six cylinder engine, 120 horse power, and can make 60 miles an hour in answering a call.

Don't Forget The Sheriff.

In the excitement that has been on for the past week Sheriff Haynes reminds us that we must not forget that he is needing tax money. The schools are now running full time all over the county and the funds are coming slow and he suggests that if they do not speed up he will be compelled to advertise the taxes in order to collect the amounts that he is being called upon for. And there is now being added a penalty every month that one fails to make payment.

THE DANGER OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES.

The terrific explosion that occurred either before or during the fire Saturday night is proof to us that it is highly dangerous to store explosive materials in the business district of this city. For years it has been the custom to allow the hardware stores to carry a limited supply of dynamite in their stores, and we have been told that sometimes this amount, even though limited as it was, was sufficient to blow a block into atoms under the proper conditions. What the conditions or circumstances were that brought about the explosion Saturday night may never be determined yet it goes to show that an explosive material can do a great amount of damage. It is safe to say if the explosion had not occurred the fire could have been restricted to a much smaller area.

This brings us to the point of wondering if it is worth the price to keep high explosives within the city limits. Other cities bar it from their borders. They tell us that if one wants a stick of dynamite in Winston-Salem the stores actually send out in the country for it where it is stored for safe keeping. The fact of the matter the fellow that buys dynamite in one and two stick quantities often really has no use for it, and it would be a blessing in disguise to him if it was so he could not come in possession of the dangerous stuff—stuff that should be handled by only those experienced in its peculiarities. It is true that sometimes a farmer wants a stick to blow up a stump or blast some around the house, but if he is not experienced in its use he had better leave the job to an expert.

It would not greatly inconvenience the large users of the explosive to require the dealers to keep it outside the city limits, and would certainly cause a greater feeling of safety in the minds of those who have property in the business section of the city. Our city commissioners have the power to pass any regulations controlling its sale and we believe the citizens of the town would back them in an ordinance requiring that all dealers cease keeping it in any quantities in their places of business.

Howard Whitlock Suffers Broken Back.

Supt. C. M. Whitlock, of this city, received a telephone message Tuesday from Richmond, Va., stating that his brother, Howard, had been in an accident resulting in a broken back.

The accident happened at William & Mary College Monday when the young man was a student and is said to have occurred some time during initiation ceremony of some of the fraternities. He was rushed to a hospital in Richmond and given immediate medical attention. It was found that his back was broken about four inches below the shoulders and on Wednesday the surgeons performed a bone-graft operation which was said to be successful and will restore him to his former usefulness. Following the operation it is said that he will have to wear a plaster cast about his body for a year to enable the graft to grow back in the natural position. Howard worked with the local water and light plant here for several months and has many friends in the city who will be grieved to learn of his accident.

Woman And Child Run Down By Auto.

Mrs. Oscar Doss, of White Plains, was seriously injured Tuesday afternoon on the streets of this city when she was run down by an automobile driven by a young man named Roosevelt Belton. The accident occurred in front of Simmons Clothing Store about one o'clock. Mrs. Doss was crossing the street from the west side and had her little three year old child with her when she was struck by the car. She and the child were ground up under the front axle and it required several men to lift the front of the car from the street so they could be extricated. When removed she was bleeding freely about the face and head, but the child escaped injury. She was taken to Martin Hospital and examination showed that she had a broken nose, a broken shoulder and many cut places and bruises about her body. The shoulder was put in a plaster cast, but the doctors stated that she would have a stiff shoulder joint from the injury, as there is no way for the broken parts to grow back without impairing the use of the joint.

High Mass at Catholic Church—Public Welcome.

High mass will be conducted at midnight beginning on the stroke of twelve o'clock Christmas Eve at the Holy Angel Catholic Church on North Main street this city and we have been asked to assure the public that all who desire to do so are most cordially invited to attend this midnight service. Father Alphonse will conduct the mass.


Some Call Him Papa, Others Pop, Others Dad.

(Author Unknown.) If he's wealthy and prominent and you stand in awe of him call him "father." If he sits in his shirt sleeves and suspenders at ball games and picnics call him "pop." If he tills the soil or teaches Sunday school, call him "pa." If he wheels the baby carriage and carries bundles meekly, call him "papa," with the accent on the last syllable. If, however, he makes a pal out of you when you're good and is too wise to let you pull the wool over his loving eyes when you're not, if however, you're sure no other fellow you know has quite so fine a father you may call him "dad," but not otherwise.

Complete Assortment

TOILET SETS
FITTED CASES
LEATHER GOODS
PERFUMES
SHAVING SETS
DESK SETS
STATIONARY
FOUNTAIN PENS
KODAKS
CANDY
BOOK ENDS
CASES
PERFUME SETS
COMB AND BRUSH SETS

"Everything for Everybody"



CHRISTMAS GIFTS

W. S. Wolfe Drug Company

Copeland School To Give Play—Other News.

Sloman, Dec. 23.—Miss Ethel Lineback spent the week end with her mother at Mount Airy.

If you want to see old Santa Claus and his wife by at Hills Grove Baptist Church Friday night, December 24th, as the Sunday School and the L. V. B. will combine and give a Christmas program. We hope to have a nice Christmas tree in which the community will take part. Everybody is invited.

The Copeland school will present a Christmas program Wednesday night December 22nd, in which the grammar grades will render some fine singing. One of the main features will be a play which will be presented by the High school, "The Nativity." Time of the play 55 minutes. The play has four scenes, the cast of characters follows:

Escoe Peels, Zacharias; Irene Burrus, angel; Mamie Peels, Mary; Harvey Hiatt, Joseph; George Budgett, Roy Harbour, Fred Davis, Richard Simpson, Virgil Wood,—shepherds; Lillian Flynn, Lillian Parker, Irene Taylor, Martha Simmons, Hester Key, Allie Mae Whitaker,—angels; Jesse Budgett, Floyd Bryant, Thom-

as Honck,—three wise men, director, Miss Ethel Lineback.

The basket ball team of Copeland High school played the Dobson team in a game of basket ball Friday at noon on the Copeland court. The score was 22 and 6 in favor of Copeland. The game was a clean game and was featured by good sportsmanship for both teams. Hyatt was high scorer for Copeland and has 18 points to his credit, while Meuser was star on good defense for Dobson. Changing line up the second half was most effective.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wood announce the marriage of their daughter Lucy to Lacy Bruner, of Ararat section, Saturday afternoon about one o'clock. They expect to make their future home with the bride's parents.

The L. V. B. will hold services at the Copeland Baptist Church Sunday night, December 26th.

High School Pupils Sing Carols

Christmas carols will be sung on the streets Christmas Eve by high school pupils. The carollers will meet in the Blue Ridge Hotel lobby making the start from there at 9 P. M. They will be under direction of Mr. Luther Edwards, Rev. J. O. Erwin and Miss Elizabeth Merritt.

All Your Christmas Food Needs!

...every delicacy you want! Our assortment is so abundant that a single visit to your nearest A & P Store will settle the Christmas food question completely! Make that visit—today!

All A. & P. Stores will be closed all day Christmas. For your convenience we will remain open until 9 P. M. on Wednesday and Thursday evenings and until 10 P. M. Christmas eve.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| CRANBERRIES, Choice Quality, | 14c |
| Per pound, | |
| APPLES, Fancy Eating, | 30c |
| Per dozen, | |
| ORANGES, Sweet and Juicy, | 40c |
| Per dozen, | |
| MIXED NUTS, | 29c |
| Per pound, | |
| CIDER, Pure Apple, | 58c |
| Gallon Jug, | |
| CLUSTER RAISINS, | 19c |
| Per package, | |
| CHOCOLATES, Carnival Assorted, | \$1.35 |
| ..5 Pound box, | |
| DATES, Pecan Stuffed, | 39c |
| Per pound, | |
| MINCE MEAT, Atmore's Bulk, | 19c |
| Per pound, | |
| SOUP, Campbell's Tomato, | 25c |
| 3 cans for | |
| TOMATOES, Red Ripe, full pack, | 25c |
| 3 No. 2, cans for | |
| FLOUR, | \$1.05 |
| 24 pound bag, | |
| COMPOUND LARD, | 11c |
| Per pound, | |
| RED CIRCLE COFFEE, | 42c |
| Per pound, | |

The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co.