

Fruit Growers Conference Meets in Mount Airy Two Days Next Week

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

On next Wednesday and Thursday, January 19 and 20 will be held the first fruit growers' conference in Surry County. A great deal of interest is being shown by the orchard people in this county and quite a few have written from Virginia saying that they would be present during the entire two days. We are indeed fortunate in having so many specialists on fruit growing at this time when there are so many calls in other sections of the state for their help.

Mr. N. E. Niswonger, Horticultural Specialist of Western N. C. who is well known by the orchard men of this section. He has introduced a new method of pruning peach trees which seems to be far superior to the old method of excessive pruning and will eventually cause the abandonment of the old method. He has had many years experience in making a study of practical commercial orchards of this section.

Mr. C. D. Matthews, Chairman of the Division of Horticulture, N. C. State College, will be with us. He has charge of the horticulture work of State College and in the state. Mr. Matthews is known to be one of the best men in the entire country and is live, wide awake and progressive. We are indeed very fortunate to have Mr. Matthews with us.

Mr. E. B. Morrow, Horticulturist Specialist of Eastern N. C. has done a splendid piece of work in the Eastern section of this state in building up interest along the lines of horticulture. This is the first time that we have had the opportunity of having him with us.

Mr. C. H. Brannon, Insect Specialist is well known to the orchard people in both states. He spent several months in this county last year working on orchard pests. He is known personally by most of the orchard men of the county. He has written a bulletin on the control of the Mexican Bean Beetle which received wide distribution over the county. I distributed several hundred copies of this bulletin. The question has been asked often in the past several days if the Mexican Bean Beetle will be present in the county this summer. Judging this beetle from past performances we can expect this to be a serious pest and we should now prepare to start our spray work on the first appearance. Mr. Brannon will give special attention to this insect.

I want to urge the small fruit growers as well as the larger ones to be present for we want to develop as many small orchards as possible which will give a profit to the grower. During the past few years the smaller owner has shown a better profit per acre than the larger operator. We have a good fruit country and can be made a more profitable industry if we will develop it along safe and sane lines. The day has passed when an orchard will return a profit unless it is well cared for. Every farmer should have a small orchard for home use and usually he will have a surplus which he can sell.

Last year a conference similar to this was held at North Wilkesboro with a large number of successful fruit men present. They liked the meeting so well that they asked for one this year but I had in a request to the Department for one in Surry county and secured the meeting for this year. So I am very anxious to get out all of the orchard men in order to justify the expense of the State in sending these specialists to give us the benefit of their wide experience. Only one conference will be held in the Piedmont so we want to extend an invitation to all who are interested in fruit growing in the adjoining counties to be present. We will certainly be glad to see a large number from the other counties of this section also from our neighboring state of Virginia. Be sure and come also invite your neighbors.

I am glad to announce that the business men of Mount Airy have invited the specialists and the orchard men to be their guest for luncheon on

Monday to the orchardist as well as the business men. We are indeed fortunate in getting Prof. Newman to be with us at this time. The business men of Mount Airy are doing all in their power to make the Fruit Growers' Conference a success. Mrs. E. C. Gordon, Pilot Mountain, writes me that she has for sale two pure bred Tanored White Leghorn roosters. She says that they are very fine roosters of special mating and stock, one three year old at \$2.00 and a two year old for \$10.00. Reason for selling is that she is not going to hatch any chickens this spring. If interested you can see these birds by inquiring at her home in Pilot Mountain. There seems to be a good demand for all kinds of birds at this time of the year and the prospect looks fine for a big increase in poultry production.

ALLEN FAVORS 8-MONTH TERM

State Superintendent Submits Data and Points Out Benefits of Such a Plan.

Raleigh, Jan. 9.—Declaring that he does "not approach the proposition for a minimum school term of eight months with the idea that it will at once become a panacea for all the educational ills," A. T. Allen, state superintendent of public instruction yesterday tendered his biennial report to the 1927 general assembly for their consideration.

In his report, Mr. Allen points out various things in connection with the educational status of the state and declared that an eight months school term is a paramount need today in North Carolina. He presents a mass of data all of which is calculated to show the "inequalities" that exist between rural and urban schools of the present day.

It will take "one great common purpose" of the combined effort of the people to lengthen the present minimum school term, and all the inequalities now existing in public education "cannot be overcome by any one legislative act or by the thought of any single group of men," says Mr. Allen.

One barrier in the way of crystallizing public sentiment for the eight months school term is the slowness of some communities in accumulating sympathetic attitudes toward progressive enterprises in public education, and time must elapse for old prejudices to disappear before whole hearted support can be expected, he adds.

Summing up on his comment to the proposed eight months term, Mr. Allen has the following to say: "The eight month school term would greatly modify the total school situation in the following specific ways:

"It will enable county boards of education to secure more competent teachers.

"The eight months school term will enable a child of ordinary ability to complete the elementary school by the time he is 12 or 13 years of age."

"It will enable a much larger number of rural boys and girls to attend high school."

"It will bring a standard chance to 316,000 North Carolina children now neglected and forgotten."

Dr. Mosley Weds.

Greensboro, Jan. 9.—Coming as a surprise to their many friends in the city was the marriage of Miss Bessie Rattle and Dr. Charles W. Mosley, which was solemnized Saturday morning at 10 o'clock at the home of Dr. James Taylor in Sunset Hills.

Mrs. Mosley wore a handsome model in tan and brown crepe with matching accessories and carried a corsage of butterfly roses and valley lilies.

Only the families and a few intimate friends were present at the ceremony, which was performed by Dr. J. Clyde Turner, and Dr. and Mrs. Mosley left immediately for an automobile trip to the western part of the state. After two or three weeks, Dr. and Mrs. Mosley will be at home in this city, where Dr. Mosley has a large practice.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Mosley have hosts of friends in the city who

NATIONAL HERO TO VISIT MOUNT AIRY EARLY IN FEBRUARY

Floyd Bennett To Bring A Vivid Description of One of The Most Interesting Journeys Ever Made By Man—To The North Pole And Back Again.

A happy circumstance will bring one of the two men who flew to the North Pole in 1926 to Mount Airy early in February. Floyd Bennett probably the only living aviator who could have made this flight with the certainty of returning alive to tell the tale. He was chosen for his knowledge of every detail of the aviation motor, as well as for his great skill as a pilot, to accompany Commander Richard Byrd on his flight—one of the most romantic conquests of all time, the first airplane flight to the North Pole. Not since the first flight of Wilbur and Orville Wright has there been any such remarkable achievement in the conquest of the air. For the first time it can be said that man has carried his civilization to the very axis of the globe.

Floyd Bennett will bring the thrilling story of this great historical exploit to our city. He brings with him one of the most remarkable motion pictures of a great adventure ever made, which he will show at the National Theatre. Final arrangements for this great event are now being made by the Mount Airy Woman's Club, under whose auspices Mr. Bennett will come to Mount Airy. In peace or war the future history of the world will be written in the sky. The name of Floyd Bennett with that of Commander Dick Byrd (who is a brother of the Governor of Virginia) will be remembered long after the names of many of the politicians of the new age of scientific achievement are forgotten. Watch for date.

White Plains Hi Wins Over Elkin.

Elkin, Jan. 7.—The White Plains cagers had little trouble winning over Elkin here tonight. Both teams were slow getting started the first half in a 4 to 4 tie. The White Plains boys came back strong in the last half and scored 11 points, at the same time holding the home team to one lone field goal. The game ending 15 to 6.

Marshall led the visitors with four goals from the court. His speed was an important feature. One of his shots came on the dead run as it passed under the goal. Southern played a good game also accounting for 6 of the 15 points. Jackson was the center of the defense which was hard to get through. The passing in the last half was largely responsible for the win. The White Plains team was not charged with a single foul. This is to be commended with as much honor as the victor. Reich at center played good defensive and scored 4 of the 6 points for Elkin.

Line-up and summary:

W. Plains	Pos.	Elkin
Marshall (8)	F.	E. Eller
Nichols (1)	F.	C. Eller (2)
Southern (6)	C.	Reich (4)
Badgett	G.	Sale
Jackson	G.	Brown

Happenings Twenty-one Years Ago

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

The people of the Flat Rock neighborhood are rejoicing over the receipt of a check for \$100 from Mr. J. P. Haymore, of Fawcett, Mo., to be used in building the new Baptist Church.

Mr. I. L. Shugart is again on The News force and is securing new subscribers in a most gratifying way.

W. J. Byerly spent several days this week at Marshall on business.

Solilo: S. P. Graves has moved his law office into rooms over the Bank of Mount Airy.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Lee Ashcraft Sunday morning.

Dr. and Mrs. R. D. Haymore have returned from an extended visit to Chattanooga, Tenn., where they visited their sons.

Rev. William Walker, of Verzum, has been called to the pastorate of the Episcopal Church in this city. He will preach here the 1st and 3rd Sundays and will serve the church at Elkin and also at Germantown.

CHILDREN DIE IN THEATRE STAMPEDE

Bodies Of Little Tots Wedged In Exit So Closely That Extricating Them Was Impossible.

Mount Airy, Jan. 8.—Sixty possibly more, lives were lost in a frenzied rush from the Laurier Palace moving picture theatre, in the East End, when fire broke out at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Most of the dead are children.

Many were injured. The fire started under the floor of the balcony, and the cry of a boy who noticed it caused a stampede at the doors.

The theatre has a seating capacity of 1,100 persons and it was filled with the usual large Sunday afternoon audience. The fire itself did little damage and was soon under control.

Firemen of the St. Catherine street station saw the smoke and ran a once with their apparatus. They found the east side stairway jammed with children. The bodies were wedged so closely together that twenty men tugged in vain at a rope tied around the body of one child. This was on the stairway a few steps from the main floor. The firemen again tried to remove some of the human mass, but found it impossible.

They then broke through the street wall and the victims were passed out through the opening by a chain of men.

Each little victim was examined and those who showed signs of life were carried into nearby stores, private dwellings and the police and fire stations. The majority of the victims were found to have died of suffocation. All ambulances were summoned from the hospitals and many private practitioners worked on the sufferers in the freezing cold without coats or hats.

When the dead and injured had been removed, the firemen turned their attention to the flames, which had made their way around the balcony and through the hall to the front of the theatre. The flames were quickly extinguished. Had there been no stampede, it is possible that few would have been hurt.

MARRIED GIRL AS FAVOR

Man Wanted Merely To Get Her Into U. S. For Friend.

Providence, R. I., Jan. 7.—The complicated courtship of a modern Miles Standish has gone wrong.

The girl Hovogim Maroukin loves was in Cuba, and he could not bring her to America because both were aliens. So he gave \$300 to his friend, Carabed Arahamian, and sent him to Cuba to marry Alice and bring her here. Arahamian did so a fortnight ago. There was to be a divorce and another marriage. But Judge Baker this week refused a divorce to the bride. Arahamian didn't want the wife, so Maroukin took her home to his sister.

Attorney General Sisson had the three members of the triangle arrested last night. Now the authorities are wondering what to do with them.

Democrats Are Still Hoping To Secure Reduction In Tax

Washington, Jan. 8.—Representative Doughton, a member of the House ways and means committee, the Republican majority of which bill, was asked today what progress the Democrats are making a majority of the House members to take the bill out of the pigeon hole of the committee, and bring it on the floor of the House. He replied that progress was being made, but he could not yet say that the required majority of 218 signatures to the petition could be secured, when the 30 days time expires. The time will be up next week and the Democratic leaders are making a desperate effort to get the bill before the House.

It was said by other Democratic representatives from the state in the House that while certain corporations had sought to bring pressure on the House to pass a tax reduction bill, with the special purpose of reducing the corporation income tax from 13 per cent to 11 per cent at this session, other corporations with greater influence with an inclination to follow Secretary Mellon's proposals to accept a refund on their taxes if they can get it and wait for the passage of a general tax reduction bill in 1928.

Whole Hog or None.

The Democrats are determined to get real tax reduction or nothing. The prospect of tax reduction of any sort does not, however, seem to be much brighter today than it did when the Republican majority of the ways and means committee pigeon holed the Garner bill.

Senator George of Georgia, went before the farm loan board today and asked if the intermediate credit banks in the south could not be stopped from closing out the farmers who had borrowed money from them to finance the 1925 crop. He said that in all the cotton states, and especially in the Carolinas and Georgia, thousands of cotton planters were losing their farms and homes. The farm loan banks are selling them out locally stock and barrel. Men who owned their homes a year ago would now become tenants, and many of them would not have either a dollar or a dollar's credit to make a crop in 1927. He pointed out that the government was making loud professions of a disposition to lide the cotton planters over the slump in the price of cotton, if they would store their cotton in government warehouses. But they have no cotton, and the government is now actually engaged in taking their farms from them, for the payment of loans to the banks.

Victory For Simmons Machine.

A good deal of comment was heard here yesterday and today over the election of R. T. Fountain, for speaker of the lower house of the legislature. Mr. Fountain's election is being called by his friends "a Simmons machine victory." It is being especially given this interpretation because of the fact that H. G. Connor, Mr. Fountain's most formidable rival, was the mainspring of opposition to the choice of Senator Simmons as national committeeman for the state at the New York convention in 1924. Mr. Connor presented the argument that Senator Simmons was not entitled to the honor of representing the state in the national committee of the Democratic party, because of the many honors that had been heaped upon him by the party for the last 30 years. He was told that it was not a question of doing the senator honor in his appointment as national committeeman but a question of the selection of a man who could most efficiently serve the national interest of the party.

Protests Against Allen.

Senator Overman has received a letter from W. F. Barkley, chairman of a committee of the Piedmont council number 48, Jr. O. U. A. M., Hickory, reading as follows:

"We have been notified that a bill has reached the Senate and Congress to allow a greater percentage of aliens to invade the country. In keeping with the spirit of our order and citizens of America, and North Carolina we ask that you lift your voice and call your vote that there shall not be any greater percentage of aliens in this country than the

month of December, 1926, increased \$1,455,592.31 over those for the same month in 1925, according to figures made public today by Postmaster General New.

This would indicate that the American people spent over \$2,000,000 more for postage in December last year, than was expended in December, 1925, and which will be shown when figures covering the entire country are available.

The total receipts for the 50 cities for December, 1925, were \$440,581,555.05 as against \$38,655,752.52 for the corresponding month of 1925.

Atlanta, Ga., led all the cities in the percentage of increased receipts, with 21.7 per cent increase. Dayton, Ohio, came next with an increase of 18.4 per cent, and Fort Worth, Texas, ranked third showing an increase of 14.9 per cent.

BURNED TO CRISP BUT LIVES TWO HOURS

Young Mother Meets Horrible Death While Little Daughter Stands Screaming On Porch.

Monroe, Jan. 7.—The body of Mrs. Lora Threadgill, who lived on Mr. Graveley's farm adjoining Mr. Henry Myers' dairy, was burned to a hardened crisp at seven o'clock yesterday morning. In spite of the fact that every rag of clothes except her shoes and stockings were burned off, Mrs. Threadgill lived two hours and regained consciousness enough to talk some.

"Look, Papa," said Robt. Myers to his father yesterday morning as they were out on their premises, "there is a fire-out yonder close to your own shocks."

Mr. Myers looked and saw a column of flame in front of the Threadgill house a hundred and fifty yards away. There appeared a mass of flames as if a small tree were burning, and not until Mrs. Threadgill had moved some steps forward and fallen to the ground could Mr. Myers realize that a human form had been enshrouded in the flames. Faster than they had ever run before in their lives Mr. Myers and Robert sped to the spot. With every shred of clothing gone and the limbs twitching as if in the paroxysms of death, the poor woman already seemed dead to Mr. Myers as he threw off his coat and put out the last flames which had already consumed all the fuel available. He ran to the house and brought a quilt and wrapped the prostrate form, had a call sent for Dr. Neal, and started frantically to look for the husband of the victim.

With his mother standing guard, Mr. Myers dashed to the home of Mr. Gurley, while Robt. jumped in the car and ran to the home of Mr. Threadgill's brother, looking for him. Coming back in a few minutes and finding Mrs. Threadgill alive, he said to her, "Mrs. Threadgill, Louise is safe and we have her at our house." To his great surprise he heard an answer from her "Alright," she said. Then she said that her husband was working in a certain place and some one went for him. Later Mrs. Threadgill said that she had been filling a lamp and after doing so had stooped at the fire place, where her garments caught. Louise, four years old, and the only living child, had stood on the home porch screaming while her mother burned.

Dr. Neal arrived promptly and seeing death was only a few minutes off, sought to administer a hyperdermic, but first found difficulty in doing so, since the flesh was so charred and hardened that the needle would not penetrate. The poor form had been taken in the house where death relieved the suffering.

High Priced Phone Calls.

New York, N. Y., Jan. 8.—At least \$5,000 has been spent thus far in trans-Atlantic telephone calls it was revealed this afternoon in a communication of the calls for New York to London conversation.

Party six calls have been made over the newly inaugurated service. Thirty of these were made yesterday, when the line was open all day, and 15 today, when it operated but two hours.