

The Mount Airy News.

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

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MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA.

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Legislature Considering Local Measures—Money is the Cry

City Schools Behind \$35,000.00—County To Collect Old Account Due It.

The state legislature in session at Raleigh is expected to get into full swing on the important bills this week as they are now about ready to be reported from the various committees to which they have been referred. Aside from hundreds of local bills that are always introduced there are only a few important measures that are commanding the attention of our law makers. Among these are included the revenue act which devises the means of taxation to meet the budget for the various departments of the government, the schools and the interest on bonds; already a measure is before the legislature to issue another thirty million dollar bond issue for road purposes and this is most certain to pass for the reason that so many counties in the state have loaned money to the highway commission and the only way it can be paid back is to vote more bonds; the educational committee has the question of a state wide taxation fund for schools as also the measure to increase the schools of the state to eight months; then friends of the state highway commission are asking that more power be invested in that body which would make them free from any injunction proceedings that might be brought against them in the courts; and the highway commission would like to see some kind of state patrol established to police the highways but this measure is said to be looked upon with little favor by the Governor on account of the high cost it would entail to the state.

Locally there is very little legislation that is being demanded. Over in Alleghany county the representative has succeeded in getting a bill passed the house allowing the highway commission to pay half the cost of a bridge across New River located on Virginia soil. And strange to say the measure went through without any opposition. For a portion of the way New River forms the boundary line between the two states, but where it is intended to build the bridge the river happens to be entirely in Virginia, and it is impractical from an engineer's standpoint to build a bridge where the river forms the line. And while Alleghany's representative seems to be succeeding in getting a quarter million dollar bridge for the benefit of his county Surry's representative, J. H. Folger, is using his efforts to get a portion of the state road funds used in this county and on North Carolina's roads.

Mr. Folger has introduced a measure in the house of state wide importance that would make it a six months' road sentence for one to be convicted of manufacturing, transporting or selling liquor. His measure would make it mandatory on the trial judge to impose six months as the minimum punishment. The bill was reported unfavorably by the committee, but the hearing on it was given without Mr. Folger's knowledge and he has demanded that it be sent back to the committee so he can be heard on it.

The governing bodies of Mount Airy have asked Mr. Folger to secure the passage of some amendments to the city charter which would clarify certain sections of it relating to the right of the city to condemn land for streets and other public purposes. There has been some talk of getting the corporate limits extended but the present administration seems to be opposed to disturbing the old boundary lines of the town.

Another measure that will soon be introduced that is of a local nature is one that will give relief to the financial difficulties our city schools find themselves in. For years the tax rate for schools has been 35 cents and this could not be increased without an act of the legislature calling for a vote. We have issued bonds by vote to erect buildings when they were needed but the tax rate has not been changed. In the meantime the schools have incurred a floating debt of about \$35,000 in addition to the bond money that has been voted at various times for building purposes. Our authorities do not want to issue bonds to liquidate floating debts and it has been about decided to ask for an election allowing them to levy a

tax of a sufficient amount to pay off this \$35,000 debt in ten annual installments. To do this and to furnish more revenue for operating our school system it is proposed to have an election in the spring changing the maximum tax rate from 35 cents to 50 cents. The school board recommended to the city commissioners a maximum rate of 70 cents but Mayor Snyder and his board cut it down to 50 cents. Of course it may not be found necessary to levy the entire 50 cent rate but that will be a maximum under the bill. The act of the legislature would then have to be voted upon by our people and they would say whether or not they were in favor of voting more money for school purposes.

A most interesting meeting was held in this city Saturday night when attorneys met with the board of county commissioners in a special session to consider a bill that may be introduced in the legislature to give relief to the bondsmen of former county treasurer, F. S. Eldridge. It seems that J. F. Hendren, of Elkin, attorney for Mr. Eldridge and his bondsmen, has been in Raleigh and asked that Surry's representatives in both branches of the legislature favor a bill relieving Mr. Eldridge's bondsmen of any liability in the loss that the county incurred when the bank failure at Elkin occurred. The commissioners declined to act favorably on such a plan and it is understood will strenuously oppose any effort that would cause the county to lose the some \$12,000 that is still due it on the settlement with Mr. Eldridge. Mr. Eldridge has turned over all his property for the benefit of his bondsmen; his large farm was sold to provide assets to pay off the shortage; and his bondsmen have signed Mr. Eldridge's note for the balance, but now they are making this last effort to be relieved of their liability. With the commissioners of the county disapproving any such move it begins to look like those bondsmen will have to make good their guarantee they gave the county when they signed the bond and the notes.

Tobacco Market Closes February 16.

After one of the most successful years in the history of this tobacco market the Warehouses will close for the season on February the 16th. The amount of tobacco sold here during the year has been as great as during any other year with one or two exceptions. The price paid for the leaf compares favorably with that paid on any market in the state. During the active season the average for some months was as high as 24 cents a pound, and the average for the whole year was as much as 23 cents a pound. Our citizens have invested heavily in property here for meeting the demands of the local market and it is gratifying to know that such large quantities of the leaf were sold here.

EARLY ASHBURN GETS PARDON

Is Given Freedom After Serving Three Years. Will Make Home in Raleigh.

Tuesday morning of this week, the first day of February, Gov. McLean handed Early Ashburn a pardon liberating him from a 15-year term in the state prison where he was sent from this county on a charge of infanticide. Ashburn has been in prison for more than three years, during which time he worked mostly about the Governor's mansion, and it is stated that he has been retained by the Governor to continue his former duties. Anyway he expects to make his home in Raleigh and his wife left this city Tuesday to join him in response to a telegram bringing the news of his pardon.

Ashburn was convicted as an accomplice with Essie Handy in connection with the death of the infant of Mrs. Handy. The woman plead guilty to her part of the crime and implicated Ashburn. She was given a term of five years and was pardoned about six months ago. Ashburn always protested that he was not guilty and had no part in making away with the new born babe of Mrs. Handy, but a jury at Dobson convicted him on the evidence of the mother of the baby and other circumstances connected with the crime.

Happenings Twenty-one Years Ago

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

W. H. Leonard is in this city visiting his brother, R. H. Leonard.

J. R. Lewellyn, of Dobson, was in the city Wednesday on his way to Greensboro on business.

W. W. Burke is off on a pleasure trip of several weeks to Florida and Cuba.

C. W. Taylor has returned to this city from Cincinnati where he has been taking a course in telegraphy.

Miss Savannah Satterfield has accepted a position with Sheppard & Worrell.

The school board has brought from the Methodist Church the seats used in their Sunday school room and will place them in the auditorium of the academy.

Last Friday night the many people of Scotch descent who work at our quarries celebrated the birth of their greatest poet, Robert Burns, by giving a banquet to which a number of our citizens were invited. The banquet was held in rooms in the Nation block and was an occasion long to be remembered by those so fortunate as to be present. The native Scotch ladies had spared no pains to prepare the good things to be eaten and everything was distinctly Scotch. From 7:30 P. M. to 3 A. M. they made speeches sang the old Scotch songs

Surry Officers Now in State Prison.

Deputy Sheriffs Bud Simmons and Newell Smith of this township were recently carried to Raleigh where they are confined in the state prison to serve a sentence of not less than 15 months for the shooting to death of Jim Sutphin, near the quarry more than a year ago.

The officers were detailed by Sheriff Haynes to apprehend a car driven by some Joyce boys which was reported to be transporting liquor. They met the car over on the Patrick road near the Sparger orchard, and when they attempted to stop it, the officers claimed the driver tried to run them down, shots were fired, the car sped on its way, but not until Sutphin who was a passenger in it had been shot in the back of the head. Both officers fired at the car and it was never clearly known which one fired the fatal shot or how it all occurred.

They were tried at Dobson and convicted of manslaughter, but appealed to the Supreme Court where the verdict of the lower court was upheld and they were required to begin their term. Both are well-known citizens of the county, are married and have large families.

No Reason For Oil Shortage Here.

Mount Airy citizens have no reason to entertain any fears of any gasoline or oil shortage for the city is now being served by five of the largest oil companies in the world. The latest addition to the list of distributors in this territory is the Sinclair Refining Company. Mr. Sinclair is the one who gained so much national publicity resulting from the Tea Pot Dome oil controversy as it was his company which secured the lease from Secretary Fall, et al.

The company has completed installation of storage tanks near the bark sheds and are now distributing their products. W. M. Beasley is manager of the local distributing point, while J. W. Beasley, of Pilot Mountain, has charge of the oil interest of the Sinclair Co. in this territory.

Other oil companies that also have distributing points here are the Standard, Red C, Texaco and Gulf.

High Class Entertainments Booked For This City.

The year 1927 will see several high class entertainments staged in this city, as representatives of the Radcliffe Chautauqua and the Piedmont Lyceum bureau have been in the city this week and made final arrangements to give the city a three-day chautauqua during the summer and four lyceum attractions during the winter months. These bookings are said to be the highest class entertainments on the road today, carrying with them a lecture course and other features that make them an educational asset as well as being entertaining.

and recited poems and had a general good time.

Mr. Harden Holyfield, of Rockford, was in the city last week selling manufactured tobacco. He is one of the few men who has not been put out of business by the large factories. For years he has manufactured tobacco in a small way and has gone along in a quiet manner and made money all the time. He now has a good trade here in this city and says that he can make about as much money as he did before the trusts got such a hold on the country.

A smoke house belonging to J. A. Tesh, of this city, was burned last Saturday, about 800 pounds of other valuables making the loss about \$400.

C. M. Gentry, the efficient attendant at the power house tells us that he is just 37 years old and is a grandfather. His daughter, Mrs. W. S. Jackson, aged 17, gave birth to a son last Sunday.

On Thursday afternoon at 5:30 o'clock in the First Presbyterian Church of Statesville, one of the prettiest weddings Statesville has seen for many a day occurred when Miss Katie Lee Mills, of Statesville and Thomas Garnett Fawcett, of Mt. Airy, plighted their troth for weal or woe.

How Do They Escape?

To those who saw a big Hudson speeder turn over on the Bannertown road Sunday afternoon it was hard to understand why the four occupants were not killed outright. The car from Winston was on its way to this city when it skidded on the paved road near Vogler's filling station, ran into the bank and turned completely over, all four wheels extended toward the skies. The occupants were pinned beneath the car and secured passage back to their home. Later accounts are that one of them, Charlie Joyce, was seriously injured, for when he reached home an examination showed him to have a punctured lung, two broken ribs and other bruises. The car was almost a total wreck.

Change in Business.

W. G. Lewis has sold his interest in the firm of W. G. Lewis & Co. to W. F. Beamer, the change to take effect March 1st. After that date the business will be conducted by J. E. Ayers and Mr. Beamer. The new member of the firm has been in the mercantile business in this city for several years, recently being connected with Boyles department store. Mr. Lewis has not decided what line of business he will engage in, but expects to continue to make this city his home.

No Stop This Side of Cuba.

J. D. Smith and S. M. Hale left this city Sunday afternoon bound for the island of Cuba. Florida bears no charms for them and they are making no stops until they land on the wharves at Havana. They went to Jacksonville by rail, from thence they will travel down the Florida coast by bus line to Key West where a boat will convey them to Havana—the land where "personal liberty" is still recognized. They expect to spend two weeks on their trip.

Death of Little Boy.

Robert Howard, the two-year old boy of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hines, died at their home in this city Monday afternoon after an illness of only a few hours. The little one was in his usual health Sunday and visited some relatives with his parents, but was taken ill Monday morning about four o'clock with pneumonia. All that medical skill could do failed to give him relief and he passed away at four o'clock the same day.

The funeral was conducted from the home Tuesday afternoon by Rev. J. A. Cook and Rev. R. L. Berry and the remains laid to rest at Oakdale Cemetery.

Claude Shelton, of Asheboro, spent a short time in the city Tuesday on business. And while here "even the kids knew Claude." And Claude expects to keep in touch with them for he renewed his subscription to The News during the day.

Baraca-Philathea Convention Will Be Held in Mount Airy

GIVES THE RABBITS A CHANCE

This Aged Farmer Enjoys Trapping Game—Gets Big Joke on City Sports.

Occasionally there comes to this city an aged farmer and resident of the White Plains section and when Nathan Hutchens sees that we speak of him as an aged man he will be hunting up ye editor for an apology, for he is as spry and active as any man in his 50's yet Mr. Hutchens is now entering his 81st year. Last Sunday Mr. Hutchens was host to a number of friends at a dinner at his home and during the hours that passed he recited many interesting events of his life. Judge A. E. Tilley and C. B. Tilley, of this city, were among those who enjoyed the day with him.

One thing that was brought out in his conversation was his hobby of trapping and hunting game. During this winter he has had his old time log rabbit gums set in their paths and has caught 40 rabbits and two squirrels, making the rounds of the gums every day. But when he takes them out of the gum he doesn't resort to the old method of cracking the rabbits' neck by a hard blow with the back of the hand, but instead he gives the rabbit at least what bunny thinks is a fighting chance, for he deliberately turns it loose on the ground and after it gets off a few yards he picks up his gun and tries his marksmanship. And he says he never misses bringing down his game. During the winter he has also caught four large hawks and one owl which measured 42 inches from tip to tip.

In the trapping of the hawks Mr. Hutchens recited an amusing story that does no credit to the marksmanship of some of our Mount Airy sportsmen. Out in the open field he planted a post about 20 feet high on which he fastened a steel trap with a chain five feet long, baiting the trap with fresh meat. The hawk would be attracted by the meat and in this way was caught by the snare. One morning he caught a fine hawk and soon thereafter several hunters from Mount Airy came along and seeing a hawk perched upon the post in the jaws of the trap they fired away at the bird. Their shot went wild, and the bird made a circle about the post and had to resume its former position but the chain gave it room to fly about. The hunters did not see the cause of the hawks' remaining on its perch and every time it would make a small circle and come back they would blaze away again, and Mr. Hutchens laughs and says they exhausted all their ammunition trying to kill that hawk as it circled about the post with the steel trap clinging to its feet. Later Mr. Hutchens took his old shotgun from off the pegs above the headboard of his bed and ended the life of the hawk with one well aimed shot.

Novel Auto and Garage Service.

A most novel and unique gas and garage service has recently been adopted by the B. & H. Service Station in this city. This station is now a member of the National United Service, and any motorist who deposits a dollar with them is given a license number which entitles them to make purchases at a discount from the regular retail prices. As an illustration: persons holding a license secured from the B. & H. Station are able to purchase gasoline at one cent a gallon less than the regular price from the station, one cent a quart on oil, 5 per cent on tires and accessories and the same on repair work.

Besides operating one of the most up-to-date service stations in this section they are also distributors for the Willys-Knight and Whippet Overland cars and now have on display the latest models in this line. Their advertisement in this issue tells some of the achievements of the "Willys-Knight organization."

Court At Dobson.

Next Monday a term of criminal court will convene at Dobson for one week only. A calendar has been prepared for the session which shows no cases of a grave nature to be disposed of, as usual the majority of them growing out of some liquor transaction. Judge W. F. Harding, of Charlotte, will preside.

State Organization To Hold Annual Meeting Here May 26-29—Large Crowd And National Speakers Expected Slogan—"On to Mount Airy The Granite City."

At a meeting of the officers of the State Baraca-Philathea Association in Salisbury Sunday afternoon an invitation was presented by C. W. Andrew, of this city, for the annual meeting of the association to be held in this city.

Church and Organization Join in Invitation.

Mr. Andrew was armed with authority in presenting Mount Airy's invitation as he carried with him letters of invitation from practically all of the pastors and Sunday school superintendents of the various denominations represented here and officers of organized Sunday school classes, the Mayor, Merchants Association, Kiwanis Club, Woman's Club, Chamber of Commerce, and many of the local fraternal organizations.

With the backing of so many of our leading people assured in advance and knowing that practically all Mount Airy citizens will look with favor on the bringing of this great body of Christian workers and young people into our midst, Mount Airy's part in making a success of the gathering, that of hostess, is assured.

Able and Willing.

At a call meeting of those interested quite a group of representatives of churches and civic organizations gathered at the Blue Ridge hotel a week before the invitation was presented and discussed plans going into the matter of Mount Airy's ability to entertain the visitors and they unanimously agreed "we are able and willing."

Plan of Entertainment.

They agreed on the Harvard plan of entertaining, which makes it easy on the women in the homes.

The date set for the convention is May 26-29 inclusive or the last week in May.

Committees will be appointed at an early date to make arrangements for placing the visitors in the various homes in this city which will be open to them, and making all other plans for their entertainment.

Slogan.

The following slogan was adopted by the executive committee: "On to Mount Airy The Granite City."

Open Sessions.

All sessions of the convention will be open to the public and the people of Mount Airy are urged to attend just as often as possible. As planned by the executive committee the first session will be held on Thursday night and will be in the nature of a reception when the town of Mount Airy will welcome the visitors, and her people and her guests will mingle and become acquainted. The real business of the convention will begin at the Friday morning session and probably Friday afternoon will be devoted to showing the visitors some of our glorious mountain scenery. Friday evening the annual banquet will be held and the largest available quarters secured for this affair, which will be necessarily limited by the limited accommodations. Saturday morning will again be devoted to the business of the organization and Saturday evening a public mass meeting will be held. Sunday afternoon a great memorial meeting will be held in memory of Mr. Marshall A. Hudson, the grand old man, who was the founder of the Baraca-Philathea movement and National President.

Nationally Known Speaker.

Among the speakers who will be invited to attend this convention are a number of national prominence, namely: Miss Henrietta Helton, of Cincinnati, Ohio, National Vice-president; Hon. R. M. Simms, of Raleigh, a national officer, Dr. D. W. Daniels, of Clemson College; W. A. Lambert, of Washington, D. C. and others.

Mount Airy is to be congratulated on landing this big convention and there is no doubt that it will be made one of the most memorable ones ever enjoyed by that organization.