

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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\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

Ordinance Passed Outlawing Dynamite Within City Limits

Authorities Take Steps to Protect Property and Lives Against High Explosives—Warrant Ordered Issued Against H. Schafer For Failure to Remove Walls of Burned Building on Main Street.

As far as the city authorities can prevent it, they do not want any more explosions to contend with. And they did their part Tuesday night when the commissioners in regular session passed an ordinance prohibiting the storage of any quantity of dynamite within the city limits for the purpose of sale. It was first suggested that the dealers be permitted to keep a limited quantity on hand but this suggestion was discarded for then even the most law abiding citizen would sometimes find himself overstepping the legal supply, and it was finally decided to outlaw the dangerous stuff entirely as is now done in all the larger cities.

For several weeks now the sidewalk has been blocked in that section where the fire and explosion occurred in December. The walls of the buildings were declared unsafe by the state fire inspector and the property owners were ordered to remove them. The walls of the Banner property have been taken down, but the Schafer wall remains standing and it is for this reason that the public is barred from using the sidewalk in front of the walls. Mr. Schafer has been served with legal warning of their condemnation, and since he has failed to take any steps to remove them the commissioners in their meeting Tuesday night ordered the police to issue warrants against him as provided for in the statutes for his failure to remove them. The state law makes it a fine of not less than \$10 and not more than \$50 for each day that the walls remain after they shall have been condemned by the fire inspector.

The fire limits of the city were extended by the board to include all that territory on Willow Street between Virginia Street and Pine Street. This was made necessary on account of the many buildings that have been erected along Willow Street during the past two or three years.

The commissioners passed a resolution condemning certain lands of W. O. Jackson, Wash Cox and the Milltex Woolen Mills over which to build a water pipe line from Lovills Creek to the pumping station. Under the provisions of the amended charter of the city the right of way can be condemned and the damages to the owners are submitted to arbitrators selected, one for each party to the suit. In case the award is not satisfactory either party can appeal to the Superior Court. There are other lands along Lovills Creek which are being taken over by the city for its pipe line right of way and the damages are being assessed by agreement. In these assessments the city is represented by W. I. Monday and the property owners by Geo. M. Sparger. At first the city offered the property owners five cents per lineal foot for a 25 foot right of way through the lands. Some of the land is highly improved and we understand that in some cases the arbitrators have allowed the owners 10 cents per foot where the land was in a high state of cultivation.

The commissioners discussed the question of the white way for the city. Mayor Sydnor advises against the increased expense the city would be put to in paying for the electric current. He believes the money used to pay for it should be used to pay interest on the bonds of the city. This week, he reminded the commissioners, the town sold \$134,000, it will take in the neighborhood of \$75,000 to rebuild our water system, the schools will soon be wanting \$50,000 for another building, a special tax will have to be levied to care for the \$35,000 shortage in the general school fund, and more tax will be required to pay interest on all these bonds. And for these reasons he and the commissioners are strongly in the notion to abandon the idea of a white way for the city. And unless those who favor such for the city bring pressure on the board it is likely that they will drop the matter and we will not have the white way, for the present at least.

Penalty Being Added to Taxes

Under the provisions of the law a penalty is being added each month to all 1926 county taxes that remain unpaid. Sheriff Haynes is using every means in his power to induce the tax payers to pay now and save this penalty as it is required by law to be added as the months go by. He also has been ordered by the county commissioners to advertise all 1926 tax that remain on the books and the list is now being prepared and will be published in The News beginning with the issue of next week.

A penalty for all unpaid 1926 city tax will be added on April 1st and city tax collector Chas. L. Wright is notifying the tax payers that their tax must be paid during March in order to save the penalty that will be levied upon all unpaid taxes that remain on the books April 1st.

Moose Organized With Seventy Members

Local lodge No. 1548 Loyal Order Moose was organized here Monday evening with seventy candidates successfully applying for membership and taking the initiation which was put on under the direction of W. C. Moreland, of Asheville, district supervisor, with the degree team from Winston-Salem putting on the degree work.

Among the speakers were W. C. Moreland, Asheville, C. A. and Frank Hellig, Winston-Salem, Mr. Taylor, of Philadelphia, Pa., Robt. L. Coleman, superintendent of the Texas Oil Co., and Murray Brown, local organizer, who made his farewell speech stating that he would visit the organization within a year. G. C. Moreland, of Asheville, will spend sixty days here as local organizer and will assist the local men in getting the lodge in first class working trim.

City Bonds Bring High Premium

This city sold \$134,000 worth of bonds Tuesday to pay for the street paving program that was completed the past year. The bonds are serial and will be retired as the street assessments are paid off by the property owners. They bear an interest rate of 5 1-2 per cent and brought a premium of \$6,290, the bond buyers stating that this brought this interest rate on the money down to 4.8 per cent. Bidding on the bonds was spirited, more than a dozen prospective purchasers being here. The bond buyers did not hesitate to say that the Town of Mount Airy stood high in the financial circles of the nation. This is nothing more than our citizens would expect, however, for in all his years as treasurer of the city Mr. F. M. Poore has been prompt and careful to see that the city's credit remained at its peak among that of the best cities of the nation by giving the bond business of the city his most careful attention.

Runs Off Dry Bridge on Main Street

Fred Bingham left his home Sunday morning in his Ford car intending to go to Sunday School, but later woke up and found himself to be lying on a stretcher in Dr. Martin's hospital. As Fred was driving down Main Street he thought he heard his rear wheel bumping along on the pavement, and just before he reached the dry bridge he leaned over the side of the car to try to see if he had a flat tire. His tire was all right but when he leaned over he unintentionally pulled the steering wheel around which caused the car to leave the street and go dashing over the embankment down toward the railroad. A heavy fence projected from each end of the bridge and when his car struck the fence its progress was hindered but it did not stop until it had torn down the fence and started down the deep cut, the rear wheels of the car lodging against some of the timbers.

The driver was thrown against the front of the car and rendered almost unconscious by the impact, receiving several bad cuts on his head. The front axle and fenders of the car were ruined. Young Bingham spent the first part of the week in the hospital recovering from his injuries.

John Folger Leads Fight For Schools

Would Force Rich Counties to Give Larger Equalization Fund for County Schools.

This week marks one of the most bitter struggles in the North Carolina general assembly that has taken place in many years, and the end of the struggle cannot be foretold. The fight for a larger equalization fund for the county schools of the state broke out in all its fury last Saturday when the proponents of the state colleges and other state institutions asked for 15 million dollars, and at the same time were willing to give the county schools only two and a half million dollars for their equalization fund, when a commission appointed by the governor to study the subject had recommended a fund of four million. And now the members from the small counties are demanding that the legislature adopt the recommendations of the governor's committee.

John Folger is leading in the fight and threw a shell into the camp when he offered an amendment last Saturday slashing the big fund for state institutions squarely in half, and lost his measure by only five votes. This so scared the college fellows that they secured an adjournment without taking further votes.

All during this week the legislature has been locked over the school question, but it is plain that Mr. Folger has the whip hand and before the college and state institutions can get their millions they are going to have to come to Mr. Folger's terms.

Sunday's papers gave a vivid description of the fight being led by Mr. Folger, one of them having the following account:

John Folger, of Surry, with two cylindrical pleurisy and lying in bed will crawl to the capitol tomorrow and renew his fight for the \$4,000,000 equalizing fund.

Mr. Folger is not going to be cowered into a warfare against the North Carolina College for Women, the University, State college, East Carolina Teachers college in Greenville or any other state institution. If his fight for the \$4,000,000 equalizing fund results in that, these other innocent bystanders may get hurt. But he is shooting at the "four million" and he will not lower his sights or train his gun in another direction until that four million mark has been centered with a shot.

The Surry statesman made much the most furious onslaught against the highway commission that it received at this session, but even then, he was banging away in the interest of some less fortunate county than his own. "We have a 70 cent school tax in Surry," he said tonight, "but that is not inequitable enough to make me fight the present plan. Surry can get along somehow, though 70 cents is high. But there are many counties which are paying a much more burdensome tax. I think the State of North Carolina can remedy that inequity. I think it can do so by cutting present appropriations only 15 per cent. I think it can provide all that the budget calls for and the \$4,000,000 for the equalizing fund without taxing anybody unjustly. And I regarded it an everlasting impeachment of our statesmanship and our sense of justice that we haven't attended to the primary needs first.

"If it becomes necessary to cut other appropriations for the equalizing fund, I think the cut must be made. What I am after is making the state see that we have not even started right until we have provided for the less fortunate counties in the state. Why, people who have been clamoring for an eight months school term are strangely indifferent to the fact that in order to get six months

S. P. U. To Close Financing Plan

Arrangement For Wiring of Homes Will End March 21—300 Home Owners Have Benefitted By It.

Announcement in the advertisement of the Southern Public Utilities Co. in this issue states that the financing plan for the wiring of homes will come to a close on Monday, March 21st. By this plan, which the company has had in force for several months, more than 300 home owners have been able to wire their home and avail themselves of the convenience of electricity. This plan is something like this: The home owner makes application to the utility company that he wants to have his home wired; he is allowed to select his own electricians, secure a bid for the work, and the utility company then authorizes the contractor to do the work and pays for it, collecting from the home owner in monthly installments along with the electric light bill.

There are many homes in this community that perhaps would have been delayed in the installation of the conveniences of electricity were it not for this plan of financing of the power company, as it is more than 300 have been helped by it. Most of the homes are now connected up and the company will close this plan on Monday, March 21, so all who have not availed themselves of this opportunity are requested to do so before that date.

The company now has service lines running out in almost every direction from this city, the lines being extended to the quarry, Bannertown, up the Fancy Gap road, North Mount Airy, out the Dobson road, and to Laurel Bluff. Since starting its campaign of extension the company has added 700 new connections to its system and has doubled the use of current over that which was being produced by the local power plants when they took over the system last July.

about half the counties of the state are becoming pauperized. The very first state act should have been the guaranty that the equalizing fund be made \$4,000,000. And here we are making it the very last. Indeed, if we had not protested the passage of the appropriations bill until this act of simple justice to the school children be done, that bill would have gone through and that would have been the last of the school fund.

"I want it made perfectly plain that I am fighting against nobody, but I am putting every ounce of my strength into the demand that the state provide before it spend any other money, \$4,000,000 for this equalizing fund. All other legislative issues appear trifling to me now and appear so because we have been dodging this duty 30 years and I think it is time to meet it.

"I would have thought that every leading educator in the land would have been here making the fight for the elementary schools. I do not know what need we are going to have for all these great buildings at the institutions of higher learning if we do not provide better for the children in the common schools. But I am not assailing the colleges. They are looking out for their institutions and I do not criticize them. But somebody has neglected the 880,000 children of the state. I do not mean to go back to Surry without having done what I could to make the state remember them."

Happenings Twenty-one Years Ago

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

Congressman E. Spencer Blackburn was indicted in Federal court at Greensboro last week for selling position in the post office and revenue services to his friends.

M. D. Moore is on the northern markets buying goods.

Victor Allen, a merchant of Cana, Va., was in the city this week buying goods for his store.

C. C. Hutchens and Jesse Kidd, both of White Plains, one day last week swapped farms and exchanged residences on the same day. One peculiarity of the trade was that one of the ladies was visiting a neighbor when her husband made the trade and when she returned her household

goods were all out in the yard and part of them had been hauled away to her new home.

Editor Howlet of the Pilot Mountain Courier, honored this office with a visit last week.

Mr. E. H. Wrenn has had a new elevator put in his store building on Main street.

Jackson & Lovell have bought large space in The News and in the future will keep you informed as to the goods they handle. Mr. Jackson is now on the northern markets making purchases.

Rev. C. C. Haymore is confined to his room with rheumatism, and while not serious he is suffering considerable pain.

Free-For-All Fight Ends Life Of a Carroll County Citizen

Desirable Sites to Move at Auction

Twenty-eight Building Lots on Rockford Street at Auction March 12.

For over forty years there has remained intact a tract of valuable land on the knoll on Rockford Street which has a commanding view of almost every section of the city. Arrangement has now been made whereby this property goes on the market and it will be sold at public auction by The Land Co., of this city, on Saturday afternoon, March 12. The property has good frontage on both sides of Rockford Street and also has been subdivided for additional building sites on streets running out from Rockford. A total of 28 lots suitable for residential purposes has been provided and the anticipated sale of this property is creating much favorable comment. Large numbers of prospective home owners and also those who would invest for speculation are visiting the property and selecting lots that they expect to bid on.

Very liberal terms have been secured for the purchasers of this property—only 10 per cent cash will be required and the remainder is payable in monthly installments of 2 1-2 per cent of the amount of the bid.

Like A Lion This Time.

The power that regulates the weather sent the month of March in on us "like a lion", for the first day brought the only real snow of the season for this section. All day Tuesday snow fell, but the ground being warm, it would melt. As nightfall came the wind became colder and the snow stuck. When the world awoke Wednesday morning it beheld a snow 10 inches deep—not estimated but a 10-inch snow as recorded by the keeper of the U. S. weather bureau, C. W. Absher, at the city pumping station.

The mail truck from Winston-Salem was unable to reach here Wednesday morning and the noon train was four hours late on account of the unusual snow fall. In some parts of the country below here it is reported the snow fall amounted to 24 inches.

Business Woman's Department Organized.

A business woman's department of the Mount Airy Woman's club was organized in the War Memorial Community Building last Thursday evening with eighteen members and organization was completed at their first business meeting held Tuesday evening of this week. The parent club offered an excellent program Thursday night which was furnished by the musical talent of the town and Mrs. Hale, club president, made a short address telling of the work being done by state and national federations. Each officer present was asked to tell something of the work which comes under her department and with this presentation of the aims and accomplishments of the club before them the girls and women were enthusiastic for organization. Miss Edna Homet was made chairman, Miss Mary Hollingsworth secretary and Miss Martha Saunders, treasurer. Mrs. Ralph Monroe, Miss Nell Wright and Miss Annie Bundy, former a membership committee to solicit new members.

W. L. Sydnor To Handle Real Estate.

W. L. Sydnor has sold his interest in the Piedmont Furniture Co. of this city, to G. E. Welch, the business now being owned by Mr. Welch and W. F. Carter, Jr., Mr. Welch having active management of it. This firm manufactures a line of children's chairs and stools and is building up a good trade. Mr. Sydnor will devote his time to the real estate business.

"I tell you," said Pat, "the old friends are the best after all, and I can prove it."
"How?"
"Where can you find a new friend that has stood by you as long as the old ones have?"

Jesse Meredith Fatally Wounded and Cicero and Hobert Ayers in Hillsville Jail Charged With Murder.

Jesse Meredith, well to do farmer of Carroll County, was killed in a free-for-all fight at the home of Hobert Ayers, at the top of Elks Spur Sunday night and Cicero Ayers and his brother-in-law, Hobert Ayers, are now in jail at Hillsville charged with the crime.

From all reports reaching this city these occurred at the little home of Hobert Ayers a fight between giants that ended only with the death of one of the contenders. There had been a large crowd around the house all the afternoon, liquor was plentiful and during the hours after night many of the fellows began to get in a bad humor. Several clashes of a minor nature occurred during the night, but the deadly encounter did not occur until about 11 o'clock when Jesse Meredith and Cicero Ayers started a fight in which a mattock was used with telling effect. They say that each would twist the instrument from the hands of one and wield it wickedly for a few times when he would have to give up to the strength of the other. For several minutes the fighting between Meredith and Cicero Ayers went on this way until both men were fairly cut all to pieces with the digging of the mattock into their bodies, but being drunk with whiskey and anger the wounds did not deter them in their rushes. Finally Cicero rushed into another room and securing a shot gun came back and fired a load of shot into the shoulder of Meredith, inflicting an ugly wound.

Meredith, after being shot with the shot gun, made his way out of the house and as he stepped off the bottom step a pistol barked forth from the darkness and he fell mortally wounded at the hands of Hobert Ayers. The bullet entered his breast about four inches below the heart and was the wound that caused his death. He lingered for a few hours and died about daylight Monday morning remaining conscious all the time and relating to his friends the details of the trouble that brought his life to an end.

Clyde Meredith, 25-year-old son of Jesse Meredith, was painfully wounded in the foot from a load of shot that was meant for his father, and Bill Jones, a deaf and dumb young man, had his face badly peppered with shot from the load that tore away the dead man's shoulder.

Jesse Meredith was 52 years old and was well known in this city. He was a substantial farmer of his county and was well situated financially. Hobert and Cicero Ayers are young men around 30 years of age, married and live on the top of the Fancy Gap.

Sudden Death of Good Woman

Mrs. Council Smith, of The Hollow, Va., died suddenly last Saturday afternoon at her home. She had been to the bars and gathered the eggs from the nests and came back by the well for a bucket of water and while at the well she was stricken, stumbling a few yards toward the house where she fell. Members of her family saw her fall and went to her aid but she expired before she could be taken to the house. It is said that she was in her usual health and her death was a shock to her family and friends. She was 65 years old and is survived by her husband and eight children.

PROMINENT SURRY CITIZEN DIES.

J. M. Whitaker Dies at His Home Near Siloam Aged 70.

On Monday afternoon, this week, J. M. Whitaker, died at his home near Siloam following a period of feeble health for several months, being 70 years old. He is survived by his widow and two sons, Houston and Edgar. Mr. Whitaker was one of the substantial citizens of the county and took a lead in all the movements for the upbuilding of his county. The funeral was held at Hill Grove Church Wednesday afternoon and his remains were buried with full Masonic honors, the deceased having been an honored member of the Copeland Lodge for a number of years.