

Legislation As It Affects Surry County

Surry's School Fund Increased \$80,000.

When John Folger made his campaign for the Legislature in this county last fall, and made his issue a more equitable distribution of state school fund among the poorer counties little did the people believe his work would mean what it has. During the session of the Legislature just closed he continually kept before its members the unjustness of the old system of providing funds for the schools, and demanded relief. And relief he got in the last days of the session when the members from the big counties saw that Mr. Folger held a dangerous whip hand over them, and they were willing to reach a compromise. But the fight is not over and Mr. Folger is going back two years from now and demand a full settlement with the rich counties. As it now stands the state equalization fund for schools was increased from a million and a half dollars to three and a quarter million. This means that here in Surry County the county schools will get approximately \$70,000 from the state where we have formerly been getting \$25,000. This is estimated to reduce the tax rate for schools in the county at least 25 cents.

The fight made by Mr. Folger for this fund created state wide interest and it only remains for him to take up the battle two years from now and put the operation of the schools in the county on the state as a whole and have a tax levy equal in every county in state, and not a tax rate of 70 cents in Surry and 23 cents in Forsyth, for example, as is now the case.

State Can Now Take Over Lowgap Road.

Surry's representative also took an important part in the road legislation question and on the last day of the session secured the passage of a bill, "authorizing, empowering and making it the duty of the State Highway Commission to take over 20 per cent additional mileage for state maintenance and construction." The allocation of this 20 per cent is to be determined by the percentage of mileage that each county now has on the state.

The passage of the 30 million dollar road bond measure has a provision to protect the counties against unfair distribution of the funds and requires that the money shall be allocated to the counties on the same basis that former bond money has been allocated to the districts. It is estimated that Surry will receive \$315,000 as her part of this fund, and now that the commission has the power to add more mileage and the money to carry on its program there can be no further reasons advanced for not taking over the Lowgap road and making it an improved state road.

Both Parties to Have Equal Number Markers at Polls

The ballot law for this county was amended by Mr. Folger so as to give both political parties equal representation as to markers at the polls. As the law will operate at the next election each political party shall be entitled to a marker for every 900 registered voters. Booths of suitable size to accommodate three persons will be provided and a Democratic marker and a Republican marker will be assigned to each booth, and each marker so assigned shall work in that booth and together and in no other booth or with no other marker. Should a voter, on receiving his ballot, desire assistance in marking it he shall proceed to one of these booths and there be instructed how to mark as he makes his wishes known in the presence of both the Republican and Democratic marker. In this way the action of either marker cannot be questioned as they must work in the presence of each other. The selection of the markers is made by the Chairman of the Board of Election on recommendation of the Chairman of each political party. Five days before the election each Chairman shall submit a list of five names for each marker that the party is entitled to and from each list of five names so submitted the Board of Elections will select one marker for that political party. There are approximately 15,000 registered voters in the 18 voting precincts in the county which would mean the need of 50 markers for each party from a list of 250

names that would be submitted by each party from which to select the markers.

An act was passed allowing the county commissioners to spend \$5,000 in putting in a new system of books and indexing of the records in the office of the register of deeds and clerk of the court. This bill was sponsored by the bar association of the county.

"Dehorning" the County Highway Commission.

The law passed two years ago establishing a purchasing agent for the county was not exactly clear as to its application to the county highway commission, but this has been made clear by another act that prohibits the county highway commission from purchasing materials and employing labor without the consent of the county commissioners. This act virtually places the operations of the highway commission under control of the commissioners of the county, and they can do nothing in the future without the consent and approval of the county commissioners.

These Bondsmen Will Have to Pay Up.

An effort to give relief for the bondsmen of former county treasurer F. S. Eldridge did not succeed. At one time Mr. Folger considered having the legislature give the commissioners the power to relieve them but this was never done and the bondsmen for Mr. Eldridge will have to make good.

Elkin and Pilot Mountain Take on Sudden Growth.

The law extending Elkin's corporate limits was not molested and on June 1st it will take in the shoe factory, the furniture factory and a large territory north of the town. Pilot Mountain also spread her limits out and will have her town commissioners elected for varying terms of from two to four years, making what is called a continuing board. There was some sentiment for the same kind of arrangement in Mount Airy but it never gained strength sufficient to get it put into force.

Mount Airy in For a School Tax Election.

The Mount Airy commissioners are directed to call an election to allow the people to vote upon a proposition to raise the maximum school tax rate to 60 cents. The present rate is 35 cents. They will also vote on a proposal to levy a tax of 10 cents to take up a deficit of nearly \$40,000 that has been created in the operation of the city schools. The school tax election is expected to be held sometime in the spring, soon after the city election.

They Won't Let Our Court Alone—John Folger Did It This Time.

And they won't let our Recorder's Court alone. Two years ago, (who did it no one will admit,) the naming of the Judge was placed in the hands of the Governor of the state and the term of office extended to four years. This time Mr. Folger placed the Judge and Solicitor on a salary to be paid monthly by the Surry County Commissioners, as the court is for Mount Airy township and not for the city alone. The county will in return receive all the costs that have formerly gone to these two officials. The salary of the Judge is placed at \$1,800 a year and the Solicitor at \$1,300. Figures last year show that these two officials received \$2,365 and \$1,526, respectively. Mr. Folger has contended all along that the fee system as applied to administrators of justice was intrinsically wrong and he says he was finally prompted in his action of placing the 2 offices on a salary by a decision of the U. S. Supreme Court recently rendered which held as unconstitutional any act of a magistrate or judge who receives his fee from the defendant.

We Pay All Street Cost Now.

The past two years has seen no little amount of misunderstanding in this city over the street paving assessments. The charter was not clear on what portions the property owners were supposed to pay and in some instances the city has paid for the curbing, the grading and the surveying. Now the property owner will have to pay for all the costs of the street work, including surveying, guttering, grading and inspection

Of course the city will pay for the intersections and crossings.

The water and light commission goes out of existence July 1st, after being in existence for 25 years. Its duties are negligible since the city has sold its power and light system and the water plant will be managed by a committee composed of the city commissioners.

All Back Taxes Renewed.

All back taxes due the county that remain unpaid on the books of the Sheriff are renewed and extended to January 1, 1929. After a certain date taxes cannot be collected under the law without special act of the legislature. The Sheriff of Surry County is given authority to appoint a special deputy who shall have power to serve execution papers. Hitherto this could be done by no other person than the Sheriff in person, but now he can designate a deputy to help him in this capacity.

Board of Education is Named.

The selection of a board of education created much interest in the county and strong opposition to some of the old members developed in some sections originating from disputes over school matters, but the county had to have a board and the political leaders who had the matter in charge finally sent in the names of the following who were named by the legislature to serve for two years: John D. Thompson, of Mount Airy; W. R. Badgett, of Pilot Mountain; J. J. Richards, of Dobson, composing the three Democratic members, and J. F. Carter, of Elkin, and Thos. M. Marsh, of Ararat, being the Republican members of the board. Mr. Badgett takes the place of Mr. Snow who resigned last fall when he was a candidate for the Senate. Mr. Marsh fills the vacancy that has been on the board for two years caused by the resignation of I. O. Wallace, of Kappa Mill, who declined to serve.

Auto Tags To Date From January 1st.

After this year North Carolina will join the other 47 states in the union in making her auto tags run from January to January instead of July to July as in the past. The tags this year will be issued for a period of six months on July 1st, and then on January 1st, 1928, we will get started on the right track and all tags in the United States will expire on the first of each year.

Put A Light On Your Wagon Pole.

In the future all vehicles, drawn by animal or otherwise will be required to display some kind of light while traveling on the highways at night. This is to protect the farmer or drayman with his team out at night from being run into by cars, especially as cars are passing each other and the drivers are sometimes blinded for a brief period by the lights. In that brief period many a wagon has been smashed when a light hung on to the coupling pole would have prevented the accident.

To Have A Whaling Big Park.

The state is going to spend two million dollars buying up mountains out beyond Asheville and giving them to Uncle Sam for a national park, to be known as Smoky Mountain Park. This amount is to be matched by private subscriptions from interested parties, which it is said is already practically assured. In appropriating this money there was some trading done to get it put across and in the trade the eastern part of the state got a lot of money to dig drainage canals and more than a million dollars to build a bridge across the Cape Fear river at Wilmington.

Teeth in Bad Check Law Can Bite.

The bad check law was amended and lawyers who are familiar with its provision say it now has "teeth" in it that will bite the rascal who tries to make his way in the world by way of the bad check. The law eliminates the 10 day notice to the culprit to make good his bad check.

We Still Pay \$20 A Copper.

Most of the counties in the state joined with Tobe Conner in doing away with rewards to officers for the capture of blockade stills, unless the operator was captured and convicted in the courts. Surry was not

YOUNG MAN IN JAIL FOR MURDER.

Tommy Martin Kills Mrs. Lee Allen in This City—Claims It to Be Accident.

Last Wednesday afternoon at her home in this city, Mrs. Lee Allen, 29 years of age, was shot by a pistol in the hands of a 17-year-old boy, Tommy Martin, and died in Martin Memorial Hospital a few hours later. The boy was loafing around the home of Mrs. Allen, and came in the room where she and a neighbor were sitting. On the mantel was a pistol belonging to Mr. Allen, and the boy picked it up and began examining it. Mrs. Allen cautioned him to leave it alone and go on off as she did not want to be bothered with him, and it is said that the boy then snapped it at Mrs. Allen, the pistol firing and the bullet passing through her hand, neck and ranging down into her body. She was sitting in her chair at the time with her chin resting upon her hand. The bullet severed the spinal column in her neck and caused complete paralysis at once.

The boy claims it was an accident and that he had no intention of firing the pistol. He was arrested and bound to jail for trial at Dobson court in April. He has a reputation of being meddlesome and a prowling character. Mr. Allen is a day laborer in one of the furniture factories.

Included in the list of counties and we will continue to pay a reward of \$20 for the capture of any kind of vessel that is shown to have been used for the manufacture of liquor.

The minimum sentence for driving while intoxicated, under the new, is \$50 fine or 30 days in jail, or both and the revocation of the driver's license for not less than 90 days. In any event to be convicted the new law takes away the license for not less than three months.

Hours of Labor For Children.

Children between 14 and 16 years of age cannot be employed in cotton mills and other such industries for over eight hours a day or over 48 hours a week. They may not work after 6 o'clock in the evening nor before 7 o'clock in the morning. Under 14, parental consent is necessary for them to work at all. The limit in hours is the same as for children between 14 and 16. This measure was urged by the women of the state, defeated once in the senate, brought back to life after unfavorable committee report and defeated on the floor and finally passed at the 11th hour. It is considered one of the most constructive pieces of legislation passed this session.

Four More Judges.

Four emergency judges, whole-time judges too, two from the east and two from the west, were authorized by one of the last acts of the legislature. Already the Governor has named them, they being Charley Moore and Nat Townsend from the east and Hoyle Sink and Tam Bowie from the west. Their terms of office are for two years each and they draw the salary of the regular judges of the state.

Happenings Twenty-one Years Ago

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

F. M. Poore is adding a second story to his residence on Wilson Street and making other improvements.

M. L. Dean has sold his photographer's outfit to Levi Roberts who will locate near the quarry for the present.

The work is progressing rapidly on the new telephone building near the post office and also on the large three-story building opposite the Blue Ridge Inn that is being erected for the firm of F. L. Smith Hardware Co.

Capt. J. H. Carter this week sold to W. J. Byerly the center lot on the Renfro Hill. The lot fronts about 100 feet and is 400 feet deep. The price paid was \$1,625. Mr. Byerly bought the lot with the intention of building a residence on it some time in the future.

A rural free delivery route has been established from White Plains with Dick Marshall as carrier.

Marvin Sparger, of Charlotte, is visiting in this city.

Mr. William Hines whose home is some miles north of this city has

Old Courthouse at Rockford Is Destroyed by Recent Fire

McCaw Unable To Furnish Bond And Goes To Jail.

K. A. McCaw, who was arrested last week on a charge of forgery by the Mount Airy Chair Co., was given a preliminary hearing before Judge Lewellyn in Recorder's Court Monday. There was no evidence introduced by either side, and he was bound to Dobson court for trial, his bond being set at \$2,500. He was carried to Dobson jail Tuesday afternoon as he was unable to get up the bond. He has two uncles in South Carolina that it is said he is in touch with but so far the bond has not been arranged and it is said that the young man has resigned to his fate for the present and will await his hearing at the April term.

McCaw up to last week was head bookkeeper for the Mount Airy Chair Co., and had full charge of the books and cash account. He is specifically charged with raising a check that he wrote for his salary, raising the figures after the officials had signed the check. Other evidences of defalcation in his books are said to have been found, with which he will be charged when his case comes up at Dobson. He has employed Wolts & Wolts to defend him while J. H. Folger appears for the chair company in looking after their interest.

Taking Hydrophobia Treatment.

Hugh Dobbins, son of N. W. Dobbins, and Meslin Roberson are going through the ordeal of taking the Pasteur treatment these days following a possible infection from a cat which had contracted hydrophobia. The cat was a favorite pet of Mr. Dobbins' family, but one day last week showed signs of being mad, at the time biting Hugh on the hand and face before it could be killed. Mr. Roberson was there on a visit at the time and killed it with a shot gun. He then carried it out in the back lot and with an axe cut off its head and prepared it for shipment to Raleigh for examination. During the work he got some blood on his hand, but never gave the matter any thought until he came up the street to the health office, when he was advised that he was in as great danger as the Dobbins boy, for it was learned that Mr. Roberson had a small cut on his finger which the blood from the cat had reached, and he was told that he was also subject to infection, so he at once began to take the treatment also. The examination at Raleigh showed the cat to have a well developed case of hydrophobia.

Mr. Cox to Build New Home.

G. E. Cox has purchased a lot fronting 65 feet on Orchard Street from R. G. Dean and will at once begin the erection of a modern bungalow which he will use as his home when completed. The lot is located just to the rear of Mr. Dean's home on Orchard and Taylor Streets. The new building will be of shale brick and modern in every respect.

Three Homes to Be Sold At Auction.

Thursday, March 17 at 2:30, the Mount Airy Insurance & Realty Co. will sell at public auction three nice homes located on desirable residential streets of this city. The first one to be sold will be that of R. S. Monday on East Lebanon Street, together with some vacant lots adjoining his property. On East Poplar Street the home of L. F. Leftwich will be sold at 3 P. M., and a half hour later the A. S. Allred house on Willow Street will be offered at auction. The Allred house was formerly owned by R. S. Honeyford and is located on a paved street.

Messrs. Monday and Leftwich are moving to some point in West Virginia where they will be engaged in line work for the Appalachian Power Co., while Mr. Allred has moved to Westfield, all of which has caused this property to be placed on the market.

Mr. Leonard Turns Orchardist.

R. H. Leonard is spending a few days in the city on business, returning here from his winter home in Florida. Mr. Leonard has gone into the orange growing business in Florida, having a grove of about 40 acres, and in the future expects to spend his winters there looking after his groves and also engaging in truck farming and spending the summer in this city. His farm is located near Winter Haven, Fla.

Literature Department of Club Will Meet Friday.

The Literature Department of the Woman's Club will meet Friday afternoon at three o'clock in the Community Building. Subject for the afternoon will be "The Pattern of a Poem, and Organic Rhythms," chapters one and two in New Voice by Marguerite Wasson.

Building Served As County Seat of Surry From 1791 to 1852 When Surry's Limits Extended to The Mississippi.

A fire at Rockford which occurred Tuesday night last week removed one of the old landmarks of the county when the building once used for the court house of Surry County was burned. The building belonged to the estate of the late Dr. Dan Holcomb and was not occupied at the time of the burning and no cause has been assigned for the fire.

With the news of the fire the memory of our older citizens was rehearsed and many interesting facts have been gleaned that surround the old court house. Surry County is one of the oldest in the state, at one time embracing such a large territory that its western boundary knew no bounds. The first county seat of Surry was located at Old Richmond, between King and Donaha, and records now on file at Dobson show that the first court held there was on July 18, 1771—five years before the declaration of independence.

For 15 years Old Richmond remained the county seat, during which time the place was the seat of much conflict between the forces that were loyal to the King of England and the patriots of America. In after years a cyclone swept through that part of the county, destroying the buildings at Old Richmond, together with the court house, and today there remains nothing but some old debris and holes in the ground where basements were dug, to remind one of the first county seat of Surry.

In the year 1798 the county seat was moved to Rockford, where the old court house was built of brick, the building being about 50x75 feet and two story. And Rockford remained the county seat until about 1852 when the county of Yadkin was cut off from Surry, the river forming the line, and it was then that the court house was moved to Dobson. The first court held at Dobson was in 1853. Mr. Hledsoe, deputy clerk in the Clerk's Office, has all the elder records where they can be readily seen and they form one of the most interesting bits of history in this section, as there one can read the proceedings of our courts and our county officials, recorded with the old time quill, the first page in the book starting off with the proceedings of July 18, 1771. These records are highly prized by the citizens of the county and are often referred to by those who are interested in the history of Old Surry.

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