

## Mount Airy Bookkeeper, Goes to Pen Three Years When He Pleads Guilty

### R. A. McCaw Offers No Defense For Theft of More Than \$6,000.00 Through a Period of Two Years.

In Dohson Court Monday afternoon Robert A. McCaw, charged with embezzlement and raising checks plead guilty and offered no defense for the theft of more than \$6,000 from the Mount Airy Chair Co., of this city. For four years McCaw had been in the employ of the chair company and had gained the confidence of the owners to the extent that the office affairs were practically in his hands. Suspicion pointed to him about three months ago and it was in no time when he was caught raising his own pay check. There were several instances where he would raise a check given him from \$50 to \$450. As he always balanced the bank book he was able to cover up the theft until suspicion pointed to him and a check-up was made in his books. His aged mother and sister were in court and were visibly affected when his fate was made known. The prosecution did not push the case, other than to present the fact of the loss of \$6,000 in the books of McCaw, and the Judge sentenced him to three years in the State's prison.

There are 119 cases on the docket. His Honor, W. F. Harding, in his charge to the grand jury called attention to the number but remarked that he was not especially disturbed over the number that were to be tried, but that it was the fellow who had a feeling that it was not wrong to violate the law if you didn't get caught with whom he was most concerned. The Judge took up an hour talking to the jury along the lines of the inner feeling of a man toward the laws of his state and country. He explained that it was almost impossible for officers to enforce laws where public sentiment was not back of them and illustrated it from a conversation he had with a sheriff in this state not long ago. Before his court the sheriff had 135 boys and negroes up for being caught with a pint of liquor in their hip pocket, and the whole bunch would not have possessed more than a gallon or two. "But," said the Judge to that particular official, "Sheriff you are not breaking up the liquor traffic by bringing these boys up here before me. Don't you know you could swear out a search warrant and raid three hotels in this town and get not less than ten cases of liquor? That's the way you'll have to break up this traffic." The Sheriff admitted all the Judge said but explained: "You are right Judge, but if I should raid those hotels they'd run me out of this county before another sun set." This illustrated what public sentiment will do. There was an official who could not break up the real traffic in liquor for the lack of moral support in his town. And it was this condition that exists in a community that His Honor said gave him the most concern, and not the fellow who was in the clutches of the law.

The grand jury is composed of the following: A. G. Webb, foreman; Lee R. Sparrer, J. C. Gentry, D. W. Hemmings, J. R. Hines, Nelson Gentry, John Scott, C. B. Davis, Sidney Cook, Joe F. Booker, R. E. Inman, Q. H. Badgett, G. C. Worrell, J. W. Thore, K. T. Moore, A. Phillips, Carl L. Simmons, A. W. Shinsult.

### Miss Merritt Returns From Stay Abroad.

Miss Kathryn Merritt has returned from a ten months stay abroad in the interest of her art. It will be remembered by many of our readers that Miss Merritt won a Cresson scholarship in 1925 entitling her to a three months stay in Europe visiting the finest art galleries and studying the works of the world's great masters, after which she resumed her studies at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and was again awarded a Cresson scholarship at the close of the term ending in May, 1926. The second scholarship providing for the expenses of a year's study in Europe.

Miss Merritt left the latter part of June and traveled in Spain, Italy and Switzerland during the summer and early fall spending the winter in Paris, with a month in Brittany before sailing for America.

Returning she spent ten days in New York and Philadelphia before returning to the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Merritt in this city.

Miss Merritt will spend the summer here and is opening up a studio in her home, where she will execute some commissions for portrait work which is her specialty though she paints either from still life, nature or model.

### First Baptist Church

**E. GIBSON DAVIS, Pastor**  
Bible School ..... 9:45 A. M.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 A. M.  
E. Y. P. U. .... 8:30 P. M.  
Evening Service ..... 7:30 P. M.

The pastor will fill the pulpit both morning and evening.  
For the past two weeks he has been conducting a very successful meeting in Hamlet.

The T. E. L. Class of the First Baptist Church will meet Thursday at 7:30 P. M. in the home of Mrs. J. E. Cokerham on South Main Street.

## Babies, You'll All Be Dolled Up

### Ladies of Episcopal Church Are to Put on Unique Contest—Babies of All Ages Eligible.

An excellent opportunity for doling parents to prove their baby is the most attractive or the prettiest in our city is to be offered the people of Mount Airy. Here is a chance for everybody to really support their favorite tiny tot. The contest will start soon, with the date to be announced later. Watch next week's paper. Parents or anybody may enter any baby from six months to five years of age, by notifying Mrs. Dillon Simpson, phone 115, or Mrs. Raymond Sargent. The entrance fee will be fifty cents. When the child is entered it will be credited with fifty votes. Votes will be sold for ten cents each, and each vote will count ten points. Watch your baby win over all the rest. Prizes will be offered to the four children getting the highest number of votes. A silver loving cup will be the first prize, and the others will be announced later. This project is sponsored by the ladies of Trinity Episcopal Church.

The ballot box will be at Mount Airy Drug store. A chart will show each day how many votes each child has. Spend a little money on your favorite baby and let the public know who is the prettiest child in your city.

### Cooking School Here Next Week.

As a part of the service they render to the community in which they do business the Southern Public Utilities Co., of this city, will conduct a cooking school in the National Theatre from three to five o'clock on May 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Miss Viola Decker will be in charge. She is engaged in conducting these schools all over the country having just finished some work in Florida and Alabama. At one of her classes she will give lectures on problems confronting the housewives along the lines of budgets and modern methods of cooking and baking. Mr. C. M. Whitlock, manager of the S. P. U. Co., will furnish the ranges for the school.

Valuable electrical prizes will be given away each day and every lady present will be eligible to receive this prize. And on the last day there will be a grand prize awarded.

At a school recently conducted in Mobile, Ala., there was an average daily attendance of 1,500 ladies. During the school in Miami more than 10,000 attended in the four days.

The school to be held here next week is creating much interest and is predicted to draw a record attendance.

### Radcliffe Chautauqua Coming

Six big programs are promised for May 18, 19 and 20th, when the Radcliffe Chautauqua players will give a three day performance in this city. Among the numbers listed are lectures, musical programs with a variety of instruments, magic, mystery and mirth as well as two one act plays "A Clean Sweep" and "Baby Shoes" and one three act play the big New York comedy success "Give and Take."

Radcliffe Chautauqua promises clean wholesome amusement, as well as instruction in the very interesting lectures which are a part of each day's program. Their lecturers are men of wide and favorable reputation. Adult season tickets \$2.00, junior season tickets \$1.00 single admission 75c.

### Homes Change Hands and Improvements Made

R. R. Jackson has bought the home of W. R. Simpson on North Main Street and will move his family there as soon as slight refinishing work is completed. Judge H. H. Lewellyn has purchased and will occupy Mr. Jackson's residence on South Main Street.

Attorney, E. C. Bivens is having extensive remodeling and repair work done on his South Main Street home, a large dining room is being built to open into the living room, which is being enlarged by removing a partition which formerly cut off a small sewing room in that end of the home. Additional baths and other improvements are being made as well as replastering and floor work done.

## Very Little Interest in City Politics

### There Will Be No Primary And No Party Contest

Next Monday the citizens of Mount Airy will select their officials for the next two years. The Democratic Executive Committee called a primary to be held Friday of this week to select candidates for the Democratic ticket. The rules for the primary specified that all candidates should file by not later than Wednesday, noon, of this week. The time of filing arrived with the filing of only the present officials and the primary will not be held as there were no opposing candidates to go into the primary. When Attorney H. O. Wolts withdrew from the race for mayor last week it was predicted that the present city officials would be the nominees of the party without any opposition but the Executive Committee elected to call a primary so that the matter was left open for any one to enter the race for any of the offices if they so desired.

Since no one filed except the present officials, the Executive Committee will certify these as the Democratic candidates to be voted upon next Monday. Of course the field is still open for any other person to enter the general election Monday, but it would be on a citizen ticket or the Republican ticket. The Democratic ticket will be composed of W. G. Sydnor, mayor; J. F. Yokley, commissioner-at-large; D. H. Cooke, C. E. Cox, commissioners 1st ward; G. E. Welch and Dr. E. C. Ashby, commissioners 2nd ward.

### Little Girl Dies of Burns

Levi, the little three year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Reeves died at Martin Hospital Saturday afternoon of burns received in the forenoon when she accidentally set her clothing on fire in the absence of her mother who had gone to a nearby grocery for provisions leaving the three little ones alone in the home, the other two younger than the deceased.

The little girl is supposed to have attempted to start a fire in the stove as there were bits of burnt paper in the stove and around the room which was filled with smoke from the burnt clothing and seared flesh of the child who was horribly burned. As the mother neared the home she was attracted by the screams of her little boy, a year younger than the victim. "Absolutely no hope," was the verdict of the physicians as they viewed the little form with much of the surface of the tender flesh burned to a crisp.

She was cared for in the hospital until death claimed her.

The funeral was conducted from the Flat Rock Presbyterian Church at 2:00 P. M. Sunday afternoon, Rev. R. L. Berry officiating.

## String Band Music From the Mountains

You may not know that Surry County has musical talent that is known far beyond our borders and is attracting the attention of those competent to judge real talent, but it is a fact just the same. The Star Piano Company, of Richmond, Indiana, is one of the great business corporations of the country. They manufacture pianos, phonographs, and phonograph records. Their plant covers fourteen acres of land and employs hundreds of workmen.

In some way this great corporation learned of the talent we have developed here, and the result of their action in the matter will be real news to our people, and we hope money to those interested. It seems to have come about in this manner. A local string band has been playing with marked success at local entertainments, fiddlers conventions and in this way got a local name for efficiency. This local reputation in some way got abroad and to the Star Piano Company. The band is composed of Surry citizens with one exception, and is made up of the following: Ben Jarrell, of Mount Airy; Mr. Jarrell lives just west of the city, is middle aged and plays the violin. Mr. Jenkins of Copeland, is a man in middle life and plays the banjo. Mr. DeCosta Wolts, of Lowgap is 35 and plays the banjo. Price Goodson, of Galax, aged fifteen, plays the ukelele and the French harp. They have organized and trained and call their band the Southern Broadcasters. Their reputation is such that last week the Star Piano Company sent a representative here from its plant in Indiana and tried them out in Galax. An interesting feature of the test the agent

## Tax Lister Is Again In Our Midst

### Lands in County to be Re-Assessed

Plans are now being worked out by B. F. Folger, county tax supervisor, for a re-assessment of all lands in the county during the next few weeks. It has now been nine years since a valuation has been made on the real estate of the county and the commissioners have deemed it advisable to make a new assessment. During the past years there has been considerable trading and division of lands into smaller tracts and this has made the work of keeping the records straight an almost impossible feat.

Mr. Folger now has a force at work in his office making a card index record of every parcel of land in the county. This record will contain a full description of land, how many acres in cultivation, in pasture, in timber, or waste lands, together with value of the buildings and other improvements. With this information he hopes to arrive at a more equitable and fair valuation of all lands. This index system will be checked in future years and kept up-to-date by correcting it as deeds are filed with the register of deeds for record.

The tax listers will begin their work on Tuesday, May 2nd, but the people are warned not to neglect to list their personal property with the thought that they can wait on the assessors. The work of the assessors has nothing to do with the listing made by the tax payers, and those who fail to list in the month of May can expect nothing less than a penalty. The new County Government law denies the right to list at Dohson as has been the custom in the past, and if one fails to list at the proper place and time the penalty automatically goes into force and no official of the county has any authority to do anything but add the penalty to the tax ticket for collection along with the regular amount of tax due.

Mr. Folger suggests that before visiting the list taker the property owner should make out a list of the various articles he may own, and by having this list to refer to the time taken up in making out the list will be greatly lessened, and the list is most sure to be more accurate.

### Circus Coming to Town

The Silvan-Drew Circus will give two performances in this city on Friday, May 6th, pitching their show tents at the fair grounds. At noon their parade will pass through the streets of the city led by the band and followed up by numbers of clowns with a bucking mule bringing up the rear. The circus will be here for one day only.

### Grace Moravian Church

**REV. C. D. CROUCH, Pastor**  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 A. M.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 A. M.  
Evening Worship ..... 7:00 P. M.  
Prayermeeting every Wednesday night at ..... 7:30 P. M.

## Surry Responds to Appeal For Help Needed to Relieve Victims of Flood

### Emory Todd Meets Violent Death

### Squirrel Hunting Starts Fuss That Ends With Murder; Escape Immediately.

What seems to have been a cold-blooded murder took place near Harris' Mill between Saddle Mountain and Cherry Lane Saturday, April 9, but owing to the fact that one man died and the others escaped no definite account is available.

The story, as told by residents of that section, is to the effect that on the day in question Emory Todd a man around 45 years old went to the home of Mack Brooks where he found Brooks in his yard with his gun in hand and as he approached he asked Brooks if he had been shooting squirrels to which he replied "yes, and I am going to shoot another one," cocking his gun as he spoke.

Todd, realizing his danger, is said to have jumped behind a brother of Brooks who immediately dropped to the ground and as he did so Mack Brooks fired, the lead entering Todd's body in the vicinity of the liver.

The Brooks boys made their escape and it was reported to this office Wednesday that they had been arrested between Pulaski and Roanoke, Va.

The cause of the shooting is not known though it is said that several years ago Todd captured a still belonging to Brooks while Todd was serving as deputy sheriff and that bad blood has existed between them since that time.

This shooting calls to mind an occasion when Frank Brooks, father of Mack Brooks, and Emory Todd, the deceased, in company with others caught T. W. Davis of this city then High Sheriff of Surry and his deputy S. K. Harkrader who in company with other officers had raided a still near the headwaters of Mitchell's River in which raid Mack Todd was made prisoner and after beating up the sheriff and knocking out several of his teeth and severely beating Mr. Harkrader also they released the prisoner, drove off the officers' horses and then handcuffed the officers together and sent them along their way bleeding and weak, Mr. Harkrader fell by the wayside and Mr. Davis succeeded in getting the handcuffs off and after a time secured help.

Emory Todd served a three year term for his part in the affair and Frank Brooks was a fugitive from justice for a number of years a liberal reward being offered for his capture and finally surrendered and served a one year sentence.

The attack on the officers occurred in Jan. 1913 about a month after Mr. Davis assumed his duties as sheriff. The raid was his first important raid, the still being a large one in which six or more men were interested including Frank Brooks and Emory Todd.

### Mount Airy May Get Health Nurse.

Plans are being formulated that will mean a whole time health nurse for Mount Airy and vicinity. This will be possible through the cooperation of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., which is joining with the cities in the local health work. J. H. Bland, district representative, met a few of our citizens and the mayor last week in the Blue Ridge Hotel and discussed the situation here. His company will pay approximately one-third the cost of the work with the city or some of the civic bodies defraying the remainder of the cost. Mr. Bland said that practically all the towns of Mount Airy's size in this state are cooperating with his company in this work and he is anxious to see Mount Airy join the list. Miss Monie Moore, supervising nurse, was also present and explained some of the details of the work.

The matter will be discussed before the Woman's Club by these two representatives on May 6th, and the Kiwanis Club will hear them on May 13th, after which definite plans will be worked out. Mayor Sydnor was enthusiastic over the prospect of the city having a whole time nurse and stated that he was sure that some plan could be worked out to finance her part of the work.

### Haymors Memorial Baptist Church

A series of evangelistic services will begin in this church Sunday, May 8th, when the pastor, Rev. W. P. McGarrett will be assisted by Rev. J. M. Haymors, of Duncansville. The singing will be led by Mr. T. W. Bay.

### Red Cross Drive in Two Days Raises Quota of \$750—Money Sent Tuesday.

Every hour that passes makes the distressing flood situation in the Mississippi valley more appalling and the problem of caring for the victims has devolved upon the people of the nation with the Red Cross in active charge of the rescue work. More than 100,000 people have been made homeless and will doubtless need assistance for several months to come, as their homes, their personal goods and their lands have been taken away from a large number of the victims. And in the wake of the flood will necessarily follow disease and suffering which will make the work of the Red Cross more urgent and need.

Drastic measures are now being undertaken to save the city of New Orleans from overflowing. Tuesday the government and state officials of Louisiana and Mississippi decided to make a break in the levee ten miles below New Orleans, thereby creating an inland sea of more than 30 square miles, and thus relieve the pressure on the levees that hold the flood from pouring into the city. Hundreds of people have been notified to vacate their farms in the proposed flooded area, and on Friday at noon dynamite will blast a wide opening in the east bank of the river and allow its flood to spread out over the country below New Orleans.

Mount Airy and Surry County citizens have already subscribed the quota assigned by the Red Cross. Saturday a fund of \$300 was raised in this city, but Mayor Sydnor, who is president of the County Red Cross, received an urgent message for \$750 from the county and on Monday this amount was raised, and the money forwarded to headquarters Tuesday. Mrs. W. E. Merritt and Mrs. C. E. Shelton made the canvass for this city. A fund of \$320 was secured in Elkin, while Mrs. E. E. Flippo on short notice raised \$53.32 in Pilot Mountain. Mayor Sydnor is extremely grateful to the people of the county in their quick and liberal response to the appeal for aid.

### Mississippi Valley Floods and Chinese War Touch Local Citizens

That the world has become one big neighborhood with ever increasing common interests came home to the writer this week when he heard that in the floods which are destroying towns and cities in the Mississippi Valley our own townspeople Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Merritt and Mr. E. H. Kochtitzky lose something like \$15,000 in property destroyed there.

The home town of Mrs. Merritt and Mr. Kochtitzky, New Madrid, Mo., has been wiped out and quite a number of their relatives there and at other points are among the flood sufferers.

But it is not alone in our own America that a calamity touches in a personal way some of our friends and neighbors. In far off China several mothers of Mount Airy and Surry have sons in the great city of Shanghai.

Ben Hatcher is with the Tobacco Products Co. in Shanghai, Philip Johnson is on one of Uncle Sam's ships in the harbor of Shanghai and this week William Lawrence, son of Register of Deeds Willis Lawrence, sails on the President Grant from San Diego, Cal., as a first class private in the 10th regiment of U. S. Marines to join the other troops the United States has stationed in Chinese waters.

There are no doubt others of our people who are touched in a personal way by these outstanding calamities of whom we have not heard.

### The Old Time Fisherman Goes Free.

Not until The News began publishing some of the regulations of the new game laws did we realize that there was the amount of interest in the various sports as exists in this county. But from inquiries made at this office there still remain a large number of people in the county who really enjoy going out in their woodshed and dragging out the old fishing pole, and hike off to some lonely spot on the river bank, and sit there and mase and dream all day waiting for a passing sucker to grab the worm that dangles at the end of his line. But such there be. And for the fellow who is content to use only one line and one pole and one hook there is no restriction upon his activity. No license is required of him and he is permitted to visit any favorite fishing hole, and there drop his line and hook, as long as he does not encroach upon the wishes of the property owner. Yes, to that old school of fishermen who content themselves with the single line and hook and with a can of worms there is no restriction, but to the professional angler there are all kinds of rules and regulations and licenses that he must follow and obey if he is to practice his art in the game.