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## Campaign For More School Money Is On In Mount Airy

Election Date Changed to June 21st; Books for Registration of Voters Open Next Monday; People to Be Asked to Permit 31 Cents Additional Tax Levy and \$50,000 Bond Issue.

Official notice of the school board and tax levy election for the benefit of the schools of this city is this week published in another column of The News. This action was anticipated last week when the board of commissioners authorized the election to be held, and the first shot in the campaign for its passage was fired by Judge W. F. Carter, when he addressed the high school students one day last week and pointed out to them the urgent need of more money to operate the schools and plead with them to use their influence with their parents to register, vote and work for the measure. What might be termed the second gun to be fired for the cause was by Rev. W. A. Newell in his church bulletin last Sunday, when he appealed to his membership to support the measure and stated that "the amount asked for is small; the benefits to be derived are great; let's get it over with a will; no city in the world has finer children; the best is none too good for them, and they are our children."

And Mayor Sydnor added his bit of powder to the campaign in a short talk to the monthly meeting of the firemen at the city hall Monday night when he told that body of men that while the tax proposition was for a 60 cent levy for schools he was opposed to levying a tax greater than 45 cents at this time. He explained that the law requires the proposition to be voted upon to specify a 60 cent rate but the city commissioners have the right to make it less. Mayor Sydnor made it plain that he would demand that the rate be not larger than 45 cents and he has also made this statement to the publishers of The News.

The action of the above three citizens in launching the election subject started a great amount of discussion among the voters and there is no denying the fact that considerable opposition exists against the measure for two reasons. Some base their opposition on the grounds that to vote for the measure is equivalent to putting their O. K. on the present management of the schools when the school board had been advised and urged by the ministers of the city and other citizens that it was for the best interest of the schools to make a change in the management. "And now," they say, "for us to vote additional tax money, to permit the borrowing of \$50,000 for them to spend for buildings, and to vote a tax for refunding money they have already spent—to do this is nothing less than putting our approval to what has been done." And then there are those who look upon the subject as purely a financial question and are opposed to any measure that would increase the tax burden. This element of our people contend that there is bound to be some limit to the levying of tax and the borrowing of money and they claim to see the limit and are opposing any increase of taxes or bonds.

Mayor Sydnor bases his opinion that the tax rate can be kept down on the belief that the additional taxable property in the city will be sufficient to permit the necessary school funds with a 45 cent levy. And this may be true, for the county and city is making a revaluation of all city and county property and it is admitted by County Tax Supervisor B. F. Folger, that the city valuation will be greater as a whole. Whether the property valuation is increased or not there is sure to be asked a certain amount of money for town and school purposes and that amount will be the same regardless of the valuation. A high valuation will mean a lower tax rate; a low valuation will mean a high tax rate; but just the same, on the average, the tax bill will be the same.

This city now has a total tax rate of \$1.40 on the hundred dollars property valuation divided as follows: Town purposes, 41c; schools, 35c; interest on improvement bonds, 40c; interest on school bonds, 20c; sinking fund, 4c. It is a known fact that the town fund is as low as possible on which to operate. We will soon be paying interest on an additional \$150,000 water bonds, used to rebuild the water plant, and should the election be carried interest money will

have to be provided for that \$50,000. And it will require an additional tax levy of 15 cents to pay the interest alone on these two items to our tax budget this year. The tax rate asked for to take care of the \$40,000 school deficit is 6 cents. And the school board says they are using the equivalent of a tax rate of 45 cents now in operating the schools and it would appear that they will want a 60 cent rate, notwithstanding the fact that Mayor Sydnor would try to hold them down to 45 cents. And then there is the question of a sinking fund for the bonds which has not been considered. To sum up the tax situation it begins to appear that we are headed pretty close to a town tax of not less than \$1.75 while our present rate is \$1.40.

The election to be held on June 21st will ask for the approval of three separate provisions, to-wit: An increase in the school tax to a maximum rate of 60 cents; a bond issue of \$50,000 for building purposes, the purposes to be left to the school board; and a tax levy of 6 cents to refund a \$40,000 deficit in the school fund—money that has been borrowed to operate the schools and supplement what the present tax levy has been providing them. Each of the above three measures will be voted upon separately and the failure or success of one will not affect the result of any one or more of the other measures.

To the person on the outside it is interesting how the ballots for the election are to be provided under the act of the legislature governing the election. It is a fact that the people of this city have always been ready and willing to support any measure for the betterment of the schools and as a whole have never been against schools, but the writers of the school election law have heaped coals of fire on the heads of any who might not want to support the additional tax levy by specifying in the regulations that there shall be two ballots, one with the words, "For Schools," and another "Against Schools." Thus it would appear that should a citizen have it as his opinion that our tax rate was already high enough that he was also against schools, when in all probability the opposite was the truth. Anyway those who do not favor a higher tax for schools, under the terms of the election regulations, are termed as being "against schools." There is some argument to the psychological effect that the naming of the ballots in this way may gain votes for the measure for there are people who would vote for a higher rate rather than be classed as against schools. The other measures will read against and for school improvement, and against and for liquidating school debt.

The campaign over the election is yet in its infancy, but from the amount of interest that is being manifested at this early date there is sure to be a thorough sifting of the whole question before the matter is finally settled at the polls.

### W. J. Byerly To Speak in Roanoke.

Over in Roanoke, Va., there is a North Carolina club, composed of residents of that city who claim North Carolina as their native birth. Yearly they have a banquet at which some North Carolinian is the chief speaker. This year that occasion will be on May 20th and the honor has fallen to W. J. Byerly, of this city, to be that speaker. Mr. Byerly has in mind to speak on the "Closer Relationship of the Two States," basing his subject on the fact that the people of the states are almost as one following the great road building program that is in progress.

### Coca-Cola Company to Build.

Dirt is being moved from the vacant lot on Moore Street owned by the Coca-Cola Bottling Company and it is their intention to build a modern bottling plant some time during the summer. Definite plans have not been adopted but the building will be two story, with a 50-foot frontage and 80 feet deep. On the first floor will be loading platforms for the trucks and the bottling machinery, while the second floor will be used for storage of bottles, crates and syrup.

### COUNTY CONTRACTS FOR TWO SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Modern Structures For Beulah and Ararat to Be Built During Summer.

The county board of education at a special meeting held Monday let contracts for the construction of two new school buildings. One will be erected at Beulah, or near the York farm, on the Lowgap road. It will be ten rooms and the contract was awarded to C. D. Franklin, of Elkin, at a price of \$15,172.00.

The other building will be erected on the Mount Airy-Pilot road near the Betty Davis place and will serve the Ararat section. Mitchell-Fowler Co., of Pilot Mountain, were the lowest bidders on this building getting it at \$11,188.10. It will contain seven rooms.

As soon as the money is available from the state building fund it is the purpose of the county to build new school buildings at Lowgap and also on the road two miles west of Ararat, consolidating several of the school districts west of the Ararat river. This work however cannot be gotten under way until next year on account of the lack of funds available from the state.

### A Dangerous Practice For Boys.

Superintendent Whitlock desires that the parents, of especially the outlying sections of this city, warn their children against the dangerous practice of tampering with the electric wires in any way. He says that in some sections the boys have been getting some delight out of seeing the fire fly from the high voltage wires when they would throw a wire across them. These lines are not insulated and, in throwing things across them, one is just about putting one foot in the grave. While the boys are standing around watching the electricity fly while the object is hanging on the wires the line might burn in two letting the wires fall right in their midst, meaning death to those who were caught in their path. Parents should remind their children of this danger for Mr. Whitlock says the practice is growing and should be curbed before any accidents occur.

### Henry Wood Property Sold At White Plains.

Ten thousand dollars was the price paid for the home place and several vacant lots belonging to Henry Wood at White Plains. The residence was bought by J. D. Davis of this city for \$5,500, which included only the lot on which it was located. More than a dozen 25-foot lots fronting on the road were sold, they bringing from \$75 to \$100 per lot. Mr. Wood yet owns considerable land that is located off the road, and only sold the front lots. He is now building a nice home on North Main Street to which he will move when it is completed. The sale was conducted by Linville, Hodge & Bennett of this city.

### Post Office Receipts Show Growth.

April post office receipts, according to post master J. B. Sparger showed an increase of 35 per cent over the same month of last year. That is, there was 35 per cent more stamps sold here than in the same period of 1926.

This showing indicates growth and prosperity for this immediate section as it is unusual for a post office to make such a large gain.

## Happenings Twenty-one Years Ago

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

J. H. Folger, Esq., has gone to East Bend where he will deliver the literary address at the close of the school. Mr. Folger is making quite a reputation as a platform speaker.

J. K. Reynolds left this week for Chicago where he goes to buy a carload of supplies for furnishing the hotel at the Springs.

John Hodge has a motorcycle, a bicycle run by a gasoline engine, that is attracting much attention in this city this week. The machine goes flying through the street and the engine makes a noise that is not loud but horses are afraid of it. One team of mules was caused to run away by the noise Monday but no damage was

### PRETTY BABY CONTEST WAS INTERESTING RACE

Many Entrants Seek the Cup and Other Attractive Offers to Be Awarded Winner.

At ten o'clock P. M. Wednesday the voting in the Pretty Baby Contests ceased and somebody's baby will be declared the prettiest and in addition to the silver loving cup which is first prize will be presented with photographs and other nice gifts, the five coming next in number of votes will also receive valuable prizes in addition to the honor of being the leaders in the contest.

At 7 o'clock Wednesday evening a street concert was given in front of the Mount Airy Drug Co.'s store in the interest of the contest by Mr. Joseph Warren and his orchestra, the piano being furnished by the Whitman Music House.

This contest, which is being staged by the ladies of Trinity Episcopal Church, has been running one week and a charming feature was the baby show in the window of the Carter-Walker Furniture Co.'s store Saturday afternoon when the babies were attractively dressed and provided with little chairs and each presented with a rattle. After they were admired by a large crowd of people they were taken for a parade, eleven new cars being provided by the automobile dealers and decorated with placards advertising various merchants who are cooperating with the ladies in their effort to raise funds.

After the votes are counted cards announcing the winner will be put on the gifts in the show window of the Mount Airy Drug store and also announced in next week's issue of The News.

### To Travel Over the Hot Sands.

A bunch of our fellows will go to Greensboro Thursday afternoon to be initiated into that mystic order, the Shrine. Friday morning they will be required to make the passage through the hot sands of the desert, the Mount Airy aggregation being conducted by Dwight Cooke, Millard Patterson, Herbert Foy and others.

The following are those who will be initiated and when they will return depends upon how well they respond to the reaction: A. P. Turnmyre, T. C. Rivers, J. B. Haynes, J. W. Parker, J. S. Chilton, Philip Warshaw and W. M. Johnson.

### Sanitary Bakery Changes Hands.

The Sanitary Bakery in this city is now under the management of Judge H. H. Lewellyn. Judge Lewellyn is planning to put in a new equipment at once and make the bakery one of the most modern of the day, and one that will command the patronage of the people of the town. Mr. Gus Bruner will be in active charge of the plant and is counted a fine baker. The baking industry in this city has had an uphill pull during the past few years, but Judge Lewellyn is determined to put out a product that will not be equaled by any and he should be encouraged in his new venture through the patronage of our people.

### McCollum Lots At Auction.

Saturday afternoon a large number of desirable building lots will be sold by J. D. McCollum. These lots are located on the Dobson road, adjoining Highland Park. The sale will be conducted by the Atlantic Coast Realty & Auction Co., advertisement containing full detail appearing in this issue of The News.

## Thirteen Prisoners Taken to Durham Roads For Offenses

### Radcliff Chautauqua To Be Here May 18, 19 and 20

Tickets will be placed on sale this week for the Radcliff Chautauqua which begins May 18 and continues three days, with two big programs daily. Tickets will be handled by the women of the various churches. Adult season tickets, \$2, children \$1; single admission, adults 75c.

### It Was Hungry and We Fed It

A carrier pigeon was captured by J. B. Haynes and J. G. Wood near their canning factory in this city Tuesday morning while it was taking a rest from a weary flight. It was very gentle and they experienced no trouble in picking it up. It was brought to Cook and Budget's barber shop where "Jap" Cook placed water and food before it and gave it the free room of the shop until 3 P. M. when it was set loose and again started its winged journey to its destination. Around its leg was a band with the letters, "A.J.-25-W.D.-250." Taking advantage of a little free advertising A. P. Turnmyre shaped a homemade band and fastened it about the other leg with a note under it with the words, "Turnmyre & Lanna, druggists, Mount Airy, N. C." When the bird reaches its home the boys are expecting its owner to acknowledge the kindness that they bestowed upon the stranger while in our midst.

### Free Gifts To Students.

A clock was started in the window of Leonard's Jewelry Store last Thursday afternoon which will name the winners of two prizes that will be awarded to a boy and a girl of the High School graduating class. The clock is an 8-day Seth-Thomas. Around the dial is a chart with the names of all the graduating class—17 girls and 11 boys. When the clock runs down the girl whose name is nearest the minute hand will be given free a Gruen bracelet watch, and the boy whose name is nearest the hour hand will get a Gruen pocket watch. Much speculation is going on as to when the clock will stop. While it is an 8-day one, yet they have been known to run from 10 to 20 days without rewinding, but it is predicted that it will run down some time the first of the week.

### Young Girls Have Narrow Escape in Auto Collision.

Misses Margaret Leitch and Ethel Doss were injured in an automobile accident which occurred on the Rural Hall road near Shrophire's store Sunday evening about 7:30 o'clock when their car had a head-on collision with one driven by G. A. Goin of Patrick County, Virginia.

Both young ladies were removed to the Lawrence hospital, Winston-Salem and their relatives here notified. Miss Leitch was supposed to be the more seriously injured of the two, with bad bruises about the body and internal injuries were feared as she was thrown against the steering wheel of her coupe but Miss Doss suffered severe lacerations about the head, and several body wounds which required much bandaging and several stitches. Miss Leitch's injuries proved not to be serious and both young ladies were allowed to return to this city Tuesday evening.

Both cars were badly damaged and Goin was placed in jail without bond to await developments in Miss Leitch's case. Witnesses said Goin was operating his car on the wrong side of the road.

The girls had been visiting friends in Winston-Salem and were returning to their homes on route two. Miss Leitch is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Leitch and Miss Doss a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roun Doss.

### What Condition Is Your Stable In?

Dr. G. H. Sumner, city health officer, has called our attention to the condition of the stables and barns in this city. He desires that the people who have these on their premises at once take means to clean them out and put them in sanitary condition. There is an ordinance which has "teeth" in it regarding the condition of stables here and if the people do not put theirs in the proper condition the city authorities will invoke the aid of the ordinance.

### Sheriff Haynes Conveys Largest Single Allotment of Law Breakers in the History of His Service.

Last Friday Sheriff Haynes, assisted by deputies Jess Monday and Gino Jones, conveyed 13 prisoners from this county to the roads of Durham County and two to the state pen. Mr. Haynes stated that this was the largest single consignment of prisoners he had ever carried away from Surry County. The majority of them were sent up for violating the prohibition law and had been convicted in the Recorders Court of Mount Airy, but appealed their case.

In the Recorders Court Oscar Leftwich was fined for reckless driving, taking an appeal to Dobson, but when Judge Harding heard the evidence he gave Leftwich a four months sentence on the roads. R. H. Wall, of Elkin, caught selling liquor could have gotten off by paying a fine of \$100 and the cost, but he could figure out no way to raise the money and will work it out on the Durham roads for the next six months. Trye Walker, of Wilkes County, married man with several small children, goes to the roads for 18 months for prostitution, being charged with taking a young girl away from her home and carrying her to a hotel at Elkin for immoral purposes. Clay Johnson must serve 12 months for the larceny of \$100 from a friend. A bunch of fellows were out one Sunday afternoon with their liquor and while they were tanked up Clay stole \$100 in money from one of his friends.

Posey Handy, of Mount Airy, goes up for six months, it being proved that he operated a little saloon at his home, several young boys testifying that they had made purchases from him.

The court could find no way to do anything for Clyde Smith, 17 year old boy of Mount Airy, who admitted the charge of larceny and had been guilty of the same offense on numbers of other occasions. He had spent some time in the reformatory without any results. Now he goes to the roads for 12 months.

The following violators of the prohibition law were convicted before Judge Lewellyn, but appealed their cases with the result that they received a road sentence. Will Petty, col., six months; Homer Childress, nine months; Will McCraw, four months; Jess Mack, eight months.

Tommy Martin and R. A. McCaw were carried to Raleigh for confinement in the state prison. Martin is just a youth and was given the minimum sentence on charge of second degree murder. He killed Mrs. Lee Allen in this city several months ago, but claimed it was an accident. The boy was given a bad reputation and this fact caused the jury to convict him of a very serious offense.

McCaw submitted to a charge of embezzlement from the Mount Airy Chair Co., and must serve three years.

### Benefit Picture For Firemen.

On the night of May 17th the National Theatre will show the picture, "The Fire Brigade." This is brought here under auspices of the local fire company and they will get all receipts from tickets that are sold on the streets. This picture has been running in New York for two years at a price of \$2.00 per seat and is one of the best on the circuit. The regular price will prevail here. All who attend the show that night are urged to buy from the firemen so they can benefit from the sale.

### Business Women Hold Interesting Meeting

The cotton dress parade staged by the Business Woman's Department of the Mount Airy Woman's Club Tuesday evening of last week was quite a success; Misses Edna Homet and Nell Wright won prizes for afternoon frocks, and Mrs. Greener Utt and Miss Annie Bundy were prize winning sport dresses.

Other attractive features of the program were a talk on cotton by Rev. W. A. Newell, a solo by Mrs. Joid Jones and piano selection by Miss Nell Folger.

Black cream furnished by the newly re-organized local ice cream plant was served at the close of the program.