

The Mt. Airy News

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NO COMPROMISE WITH THE RAILROAD.

This newspaper is unable to reconcile itself to capitulating to the receivers of the Atlantic & Yadkin in its request to take off the noon train, neither are we able to join in with the movement to curtail the service by running mixed trains or other make shifts of rail transportation. From all reports the officials of the road have not made out their case; they have not put their cards on the table; and until there is something more definite given out as to expense and revenue of this line we strongly oppose any curtailment of any nature in the present service.

It is absurd to think that a business organization would alter its plan of operation from figures derived from a month or so of operation, yet the officials of the A. & Y. have taken a month here and there and now ask that they be permitted to discontinue our noon train on the basis of such a hit and miss calculation. We contend that if the officials were inclined to go at the matter in a fair way to the people of this section they would have submitted figures for a period of at least a year, and their failure to start out on that principle leads one to believe that they are endeavoring to deceive the public.

We do not know how the officials have arrived at their figures in regard to the loss of revenue in the passenger train service, yet they admit the road is paying more than operating expenses. In all business there is usually some feature that does not produce revenue and still it is necessary for the conduct of the business as a whole. Admitting that the passenger train does not pay, or even is losing money, in the meantime it is a feeder for other lines of the system (the Southern system) and without these feeder lines the main system could not reap the rich harvest of business that it receives. Right here in Mount Airy the six rural routes going out from this postoffice do not collect enough funds a month to pay one carrier's salary, but the government never has considered discontinuing the rural route service on that account. And the same principle is just as applicable to the operation of our passenger trains.

Some see in the present move of the Southern Railway an early sale of the A. & Y. as they are said to be the main creditors, own the bonds and hold the stock of the road. But before going into a sale they realize that it is their best chance to get the noon train off while the road is under a receivership and when they can best cry poverty as their excuse for the curtailment. There is no excuse for a large loss of revenue in the train service out of Mount Airy. The growth of the town and its industries would furnish a proportionate amount of increased revenue for the railroads. Even the postoffice receipts for the year ending June 30, 1927, show an increase over the previous year of 12 per cent, and the increase during the past five years in the post office receipts has been 52 per cent. Just think of that; 52 per cent increase in the post office business in five years! And the same proportionate increase in business would necessarily have gone to the A. & Y.

Until the Southern and the A. & Y. make a better showing of their claim, produce more authentic figures and put their cards on the table our people should stand firm in their tracks and oppose any change in our train service. Once it is taken off or even curtailed and the Southern gets the road back under its control it would take ten years of fighting to get back what we had lost in one month of trading or compromising.

Recovering From Broken Back

C. M. Whitlock and family returned to this city Sunday after spending several days in Richmond and other Virginia points. Mr. Whitlock was accompanied to this city by his brother, Howard, who will spend several weeks here. He is recovering from a broken vertebra in his back which he sustained while in college nearly a year ago. While he is still under the care of doctors he is able to go about and takes great pleasure in playing golf. He has already looked over the new links that are being constructed here and says they will be ideal and modern when completed.

SEEING THE WORLD.

In these days of good roads and automobiles the folks are seeing the world as they never did before. In the course of an outing one day this week the editor and his folk saw something of the country beyond the mountain and saw many of our own people also in those parts either on pleasure or business. It is a most delightful country beyond the mountain and at this season of the year when they have sufficient rain as has been the case this year, the pastures are green and crops fine giving to the whole country a look of prosperity and thrift. But what we had in mind when we began to write was to tell something of the government fish hatchery that we saw during our jaunt in that part of the country. A few miles from Wytheville, or broadly speaking fifty miles north of Mount Airy, the Federal government has a fish hatchery that has been in business for many years. To one who has never visited it before it is a show place. There in large, as well as small, cement vats one sees fish of all kinds and sizes. In smaller vats, more like water troughs for stock, in running water one sees little fish in the minnow class by the thousand. Just how extensive the business is or how much is invested or how much it is costing the government we do not know, but evidently there is a big bill of expense connected with it. Just how many fish are sent out from the hatchery we do not know, but evidently a large number.

If more of our own people in their joy riding would visit this government plant it would have much to do with impressing our folks with the idea of stocking our own streams with fish. That is why the government is maintaining this plant. But before one can secure fish to plant in a stream or pond, they speak of planting them, there must be some assurance that the fish will be placed where they will thrive and grow and be protected from those who would destroy them wholesale unless there is some way to protect them from such persons.

To secure fish from this hatchery it is necessary that one make application through his congressman and furnish evidence of protection and have some one in authority to make reports of the way the fish are thriving. Once the government goes to the expense of stocking a stream it follows up the work and tries to see that it proves successful. Other sections of the country are profiting by all this and we are helping to pay the expense of maintaining this hatchery and yet we are not profiting by it. When we can furnish proof that we are in earnest about protecting our own game and fish then the government is ready to aid us. Until we do furnish the proof we will go on helping to maintain this hatchery and other sections of the country will reap all the benefits.

NOW FOR A LIBRARY.

The next progressive move for this good town is a library. We have forged ahead in so many ways that there are, not many modern ideas worth while that have not been put over here. We now have the most modern water system, the most modern telephone system, a fine hospital, an almost perfect system of streets and sidewalks, splendid church and school buildings. The next move we should make is to put in a library that will be available to all the people and encourage them to do more and better reading. The little city of Sanford, a hundred miles south of here, is not as large as Mount Airy and not as wealthy, and yet they have a library and last year loaned out 7,000 books to their reading citizens. Just think of it, 7,000 books read in a little town as the result of a public library. That is sure to mean a better class of citizens, more interest in schools and churches, and a more hopeful outlook on life.

What Sanford can do we can do. Many other towns the size of Mount Airy secured libraries years ago. Can we afford to delay longer?

Man Falls From Wagon at Sparger Orchard.

Monday afternoon when all the employees were busy at Sparger Orchard unloading the wagons which bring the fruit down from the mountains, where it is gathered, and loading the trucks which come from across the mountains and from nearby cities to purchase the luscious peaches a man fell from one of the wagons and the loaded wagon passed over him before it could be stopped and for a time it was thought he was badly hurt.

The man, Jesse Hiatt, was carried to the packing shed and a doctor summoned and it was found his arm had sustained a simple fracture and he was brought to the hospital in this city, where an X-ray picture was made and the injury was given surgical attention.

VISITING FISHERMEN HALLED BEFORE OUR COURT

Farmers of Forsyth Forget About New Game Law—Use 60 Foot Seines Catching Our Fish.

Strange times these when a citizen can hardly pass around without running into some man armed with a gun and a badge and authority of the law to arrest and rush a fellow off to some city or county prison. At least that is possibly the way a bunch of Forsyth citizens are thinking about it. They got plenty to make them have all kinds of thoughts when they had their little sport abruptly broken into near this city last Thursday, and in place of returning home loaded with the spoils of the land and a delightful account to the folks back home of how large and plentiful are the fish in the waters of Ararat, they went back minus a bunch of costly seines and a whole sack of fish that were wriggling in their possession when they last saw them, and left a little promise to return to this city at a future date and show cause why they have done as they are charged by the game warden and a deputy sheriff of this county.

To make the story complete, along about the middle of the afternoon last Thursday, the telephone rang and deputy game warden, W. L. Steele, was informed by somebody, he does not know who, that a dozen or more folks from the city of Winston-Salem were seining in the waters of the Ararat a few miles south of this city. The idea of a bunch of idlers from that burg, without authority or permit, invading the territory of this peaceful and busy land and making themselves free with our fish was too much, and Mr. Steele promptly locked up his jewelry store and got busy arming himself for the task of enforcing the strong arm of the law and provided by the last legislature for just such violations as that reported over the phone. Mr. Steele found deputy sheriff Caney Reamer and together they hastened to the scene of the slaughter of the fish. In the muddy waters of the Ararat they found a bunch of ten men busy as bees with their seines, and such luck as they were having! They had one seine that beat anything seen in these parts for length and capacity. It was six or eight feet wide, sixty feet long and required several men to drag it about the deep holes in the stream. But it was just the kind of seine to get the fish, and they were sure getting them, for they had been fishing only a short time and had already caught some large suckers and many other smaller kinds.

When the two officers saw the kind of a job they were facing and drew on their imagination for plans to round up the whole bunch of men, they supposed they had a gang of loafers from the city of Winston and anticipated a hasty break for liberty when they let themselves be known. And so to make sure of the game, Mr. Steele put his knowledge of automobiles into practice and moved some screws and parts about the carburetors, thus putting their three automobiles completely out of commission, certainly the loafers would not bounce into their machines and run away with the laugh on the officers.

And with their automobiles out of commission the two officers stood in the shade and quietly watched the men work their seines and scoop up the fish for some little time. Then they quietly called to the fishers to suspend operations and come ashore

and prepare to accompany them up to the city of Mount Airy for further legal proceedings. The fishermen proved to be a bunch of hard-headed sons of toll, farmers from the country districts of Forsyth, out for a little sport now that crops are laid by, wheat threshed and the rush of the season over. They had, as in all the years past, before the recent game laws were made, had this annual outing and were snatching the age old custom of now and then reveling in the sport of fishing. When they found themselves in the hands of the law they meekly submitted and came here and gave bond for their return at a later date to answer before the recorder for their violation.

The fish they had caught were sent down to the hospital and the seines stretched out and dried and rolled up and now are the property of the State of North Carolina and will be sold, if anybody will buy them, and the funds go to enforcing the game laws. The seines captured, Mr. Steele says, are worth as much as twenty dollars.

Boy Killed by Lightning.

While sitting on an ice box by the side of two other boys at Houston Towe's store on the Fancy Gap road the 15-year old son of Gabe Edwards was instantly killed by lightning last Thursday afternoon. The other boys were badly shocked but soon recovered. It is said that the electricity came into the store over a radio wire that was connected with the building. All the occupants of the store felt the shock but suffered no bad after effects.

Mrs. Cressy Very Weak.

Mrs. Edith Cressy remains in a very serious condition at Martin Hospital losing strength in her unequal battle with old age, a broken hip and a weak heart. Her children Mrs. Hazard and Mrs. Smith, are with her and Mrs. Overcash has been with her much of the time. She is awaiting her summons with patience and fortitude.

Ted Reese Educational Director.

When renewing his subscription by mail Theodore F. Reese expressed his appreciation of the home town news, but says we were in error in saying some weeks ago that he would be assistant to Dr. T. Clagett Skinner, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lynchburg. His duties deal with the activities of the young people and church finance, and he feels that this is a wide and important field for service. He is known as the educational director.


Simmons-Parker.

Miss Edna Simmons, the attractive and accomplished daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Simmons, and Lonnie Parker, of White Plains, were united in marriage at Bristol, Tenn., Saturday, July 30. Only members of and immediate friends of the two families witnessed the ceremony. They will make their home at Mount Airy route 2.

Notice

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of Lucida McKinney, deceased, this is to notify all persons holding claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned within twelve months from the date of this notice or same will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will make immediate settlement. This July 28th, 1927. WILLIS E. MCKINNEY, Administrator, Pinnacle, N. C., Route 3. W. R. BADGETT, Attorney.

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