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MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA AUGUST 11, 1927.

\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

Wilkes County Financial Tangle Gets More Puzzling; Wrenn Denies Report

Denies Signing Statement Given Out by Attorneys and Jones.

North Wilkesboro, Aug. 9.—"I have never signed or forged any man's name to a Wilkes school or county note in my life," is the emphatic statement given out this morning by Clem Wrenn, who is confined to his room by sickness. Continuing, Mr. Wrenn was emphatic in saying that he had not given out any signed statement to his attorneys, Julius A. Rousseau, of this city, or John H. Folger, of Mount Airy, or to Solicitor John R. Jones, from whom much information is said to have come relative to Wrenn's actions in the issuance of \$150,000 alleged spurious county notes.

Solicitor Talks.

Winston-Journal, Aug. 10.—Solicitor John R. Jones stated to The Journal over long distance telephone last night that the attorneys for Wrenn, J. H. Folger and J. A. Rousseau, came to his office Sunday afternoon and told him of the confession that their client had made to them. Jones stated he told the attorneys that out of fairness to the public and to the county officials whose names were on the notes in question, a statement should be given to the press.

The solicitor then stated that he and the two lawyers drew up the confession, which was that afternoon submitted to Wrenn for his approval. Only a few minor changes were made in it by the president of the defunct bank, Jones stated.

"Wrenn knew the statement was being prepared for the press," Solicitor Jones stated. "The confession was approved by Wrenn, returned to me by his lawyers, but was not signed. His attorneys will vouch for his having approved the document."

WRENN DENIES THE FOLLOWING REPORT OF HIS CONFESSION

North Wilkesboro, Aug. 8.—Clem Wrenn, president of the defunct Bank of Wilkes at Wilkesboro, signed a statement today in which he confessed that he forged names of Wilkes county commissioners to notes amounting to \$150,000.

Following a conference at Wilkesboro with attorneys for Wrenn, Solicitor John R. Jones issued the following statement for publication:

"Clem Wrenn has called in his attorneys, J. H. Folger and J. A. Rousseau, and has requested them to state publicly the facts in regard to the Wilkes county board of education notes and the Wilkes county notes which are the subject of investigation. The attorneys, at his direction, have already communicated these facts to the solicitor.

"Clem Wrenn states that he alone is responsible for the issuing of all notes in question. That no official of the board of education or of the county is connected with the fraudulent issuing of any of these notes; that not one of them reaped any benefit from them or knew anything of their fraudulent nature; neither did any attorney connected with the county board of commissioners reap any benefit from any of them, or knew of any fraud connected with them. That the facts are, and Mr. Wrenn wishes it known, that he alone is responsible. He feels that these facts should be stated now, and not delayed, in justice to these men, and in justice to the county, thus saving them of suspicion and the county of costs and expenses."

Wilkes county officers said that \$150,000 in notes of which there are no records, have been found and they say that in his confession today Mr. Wrenn assumed full responsibility for them.

It is understood Wrenn will not be tried at the regular term of Superior court, which opened today at Wilkesboro. Solicitor Jones said, however, that he would ask for a special term of court for trial of the banker on the forgery charges.

Weiner Roast For Visitor

Mrs. Herman Robinson entertained about fifteen young couples Tuesday evening with a weiner roast at Brower's Springs in compliment to her sister, Miss Dorothy Thompson of Nashville, Tenn., who is her house guest.

Local Happenings

Mrs. W. A. Newell leaves Saturday to teach summer school at Emory and Henry College.

Wayne Boyles, Jim Midkiff, and Hugh Holcomb left Sunday on a pleasure trip to Norfolk, Va.

A. J. Biddgett left Sunday for Lumberton, where he will spend the tobacco season buying tobacco.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer H. Brannock, of Cleveland, Ohio, have the pleasure of announcing the birth of a daughter, Jean Virginia, on August 1.

Mrs. R. M. Taylor, of Washington, D. C., is spending two weeks with relatives and friends in this vicinity.

Rev. J. J. Eads leaves this week to visit his sister at Mills' Spring and will remain over there some time selling life insurance.

Mr. and Mrs. John E. Marion and baby daughter, of Culman, Ala., arrive this week to visit Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Cooke.

Mrs. T. B. Ashby and guests Mesdames Ross and Mattie Ross Lee leave today to attend the Ross family reunion near Greensboro.

A study course for young people will begin next week at the First Baptist Church under the management of Mrs. Dana Binder.

J. W. Johnson and W. P. McCarter returned Monday from a week's visit at Pearisburg and Dublin, Va., visiting Mr. Johnson's daughter at Pearisburg and fishing around Dublin.

Sunday School will be held at 2:30 P. M. at the Flat Rock Methodist Church next Sunday. The preaching service last Sunday afternoon was well attended.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Pittman, of Charlotte, Saturday. Mrs. Pittman is better known here as Miss Kate Johnson, daughter of Editor and Mrs. J. E. Johnson.

Mr. and Mrs. Ashton Oliver, of the State department, have returned to Raleigh after spending some time here, Mr. Oliver cooperating with County Agent H. E. White during his stay.

A daughter, Betty Jane, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Click of Elkin, Sunday, July 31, in a Winston-Salem hospital. Mrs. Click is a daughter of Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Eads, of this city.

Rev. and Mrs. A. H. Marshall left Monday for Springfield, Ohio, to attend the marriage of their daughter, Josephine, which takes place in that city August 18. They are making the trip through the country.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Woodruff and daughter, Miss Lorita, and Misses Lillian and Ruth Johnson leave Wednesday to spend about ten days at Asheville, Fruitland, Blowing Rock and Boone.

Dayton Dean, member of the baseball team of Newton, spent the past week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Dean. He had as his guest, William Werber, of Washington, D. C.

John B. Armfield, son and two daughters, of Fairfax County, Va., are visiting Welfare Officer Fred Armfield and other relatives in this section. Mr. Armfield is a native of Surry but left this section about fifteen years ago. This is his first visit back in five or six years.

Friends of Miss Mary E. Ables, a former teacher here, will be glad to hear that she received a Master Degree in English in June at Peabody College, Nashville, Tenn. Miss Ables plans to teach at the Western Teachers College in Memphis, Tenn., this winter.

F. M. Poore, Jr. and L. P. Wrenn returned to this city Sunday from a week's trip to Bridgewater where they spent the time boating and fishing on that large water reserve. They were accompanied by E. W. Wrenn, Jr., of Bridgewater.

Abraham Conrad, well known colored man of this city, died one day last week after a short illness. He was known as "T. Abraham" and many people never knew him by any other name. His funeral was attended by one of the largest gatherings of colored people ever seen in this section, and several ministers of his race took part in the services.

Camping on the White House Lawn.

A truck load of Surry boys and farmers left this city Tuesday for Washington City and will spend two days and nights looking over the capital of the nation. The party was under direction of B. J. Beason, of the department of agriculture, and the party went through the country in the truck of Grady Cooper. Mr. Cooper took them for \$10 each and carried along tents to furnish them sleeping quarters. The party declared their intention of pitching their tents on the White House grounds since the president is away and is not using the national property at this particular time.

The truck passed through Mount Airy early Tuesday morning and gathered several of its members here. As it rounded the corner of Franklin and Main we were able to recognize the following who were making the trip: Charlie Gwyn, Miles Foy, Walter Parkers and little Thomas Fawcett, all of this city, B. J. Beason, George Gwyn, George Allred, Paul Isaacs, Robert Hall and Akers Hayes.

Fire Company Answers Two Calls.

The home of Mamie Mittman, local washerwoman, was destroyed by fire early Friday morning, the house and its contents being a total loss. The old colored lady was terribly upset over the loss of the clothes that belonged to her white friends and which were in her house when the fire occurred. Several families lost many articles of clothing and this fact worried the washerwoman more than her individual loss. The fire company had no chance to save the house as it was almost destroyed before they were notified and on the scene.

The building was owned by J. D. Thompson, who had a small insurance on it.

Tuesday night about 8 o'clock the large feed barn of Troy McKnight at his mill place west of this city was completely destroyed. The fire attracted hundreds to it and the fire trucks were on the scene to do what they could with their chemicals. The barn was located close to other buildings and the fire would have been extremely hazardous to several houses if the wind had not been still. The barn had \$700 insurance but the loss will be around \$2,000.

Mount Airy Drug Co. Puts in Library Service.

It was a peculiar coincident that just as The News was carrying an editorial last week about the needs of the city for a library the Mount Airy Drug Co. should on the same day be unpacking a shipment of books for a library which they are establishing in connection with their store. This firm has put in 100 books of the latest fiction and classics, and they rent them to the public for 15 cents per book. Already about half of the books have been rented and Mr. Clarke says that he will add new books to the library weekly and as the demands call for. The list of books includes the latest novels published which range in price up to \$2 each, but they will all be rented at the same price of 15 cents each.

Mount Airy's Milk Supply "A" Grade.

Shelton's dairy was added to the list of A grade dairies serving this city by the official examination July 30. This is the last of the dairies serving milk in this city to come into the A grade class. Mr. Shelton has enlarged his sterilizing equipment and has arranged for increased water pressure to insure absolute sanitation in cleansing bottles. This brings his entire equipment up to the standard required for the highest grade milk. The other dairies completed their improvements earlier and were placed in the A grade at an earlier date.

Death of Mrs. Martha Nichols.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at Old-Hollow Baptist Church at 2 o'clock for Mrs. Martha Nichols, wife of the late Johnny Nichols, of Laurel Bluff. Mrs. Nichols departed this life Saturday, Aug. 6. She had been in declining health for some time although her condition had been serious only for about two weeks. She is survived by two children, Charlie Nichols and Mrs. C. J. Phillips, both of Laurel Bluff, one sister, Mrs. Betty Williams, of Fries, Va., fourteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was loved by all who knew her.

John T. Richards Loses His Residence

The residence of John T. Richards, of Dobson, a two-story house with eight rooms, was destroyed by fire about four o'clock Thursday morning. Mr. Richards planned to leave early in the morning on a trip to the eastern part of the state, and arose earlier than usual, lighting a lamp which was placed in the pantry and from which he thought the blaze started.

The blaze was discovered immediately after a fire had been made in the cook stove. "Some wearing apparel left on a table near the lamp is thought to have ignited. The pantry was not cooled and when Mr. Richards returned to the room he found the rafters and roof ablaze.

The fire burned so rapidly that it was impossible to save the building. However, a considerable amount of furnishings were saved in the front part of the house. It is estimated that the loss will amount to not less than \$6,000, with about \$2,000 insurance.

During the excitement attending the fire Mr. Richards forgot to save a considerable amount of currency left in the family room.

Beekeepers to Meet Saturday

A short course in beekeeping will be offered by B. J. Beason, instructor of vocational agriculture to the beekeepers near Dobson who can attend, twelve meetings, the majority of which will be given on Saturday evenings. Mr. Beason will open the class at Fair View 1:30 o'clock, August 12, and the other meetings will be held at places over the community to suit the majority of the pupils.

The following is an outline of the course to be given:

- Introduction.
- The value of honey as food.
- Who should keep bees.
- Results to be obtained.
- First steps in beekeeping.
- Colony organization.
- Wintering and fall management.
- Diseases and enemies.
- Marketing the crop.
- Spring management and summer management.

Corner Stone Laying of Westfield Baptist Church, August 14, 1927, at 2:30

Rev. W. A. Simmons, of Iowa, will preach at Westfield Sunday morning at 11 A. M. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Corner Stone laying at 2:30 P. M. Song—"How Firm a Foundation," by congregation.

Scripture reading—by Dr. J. Thomas Smith, of Westfield.

Prayer—by Rev. E. Gibson Davis, Pastor First Baptist Church of Mount Airy.

Song—by choir of First Baptist Church of Mount Airy.

Addresses—by Revs. C. C. Haymore, of Mount Airy, and W. A. Simmons, of Iowa, and Hon. A. Wayland Cooke, of Greensboro.

Music by Mount Airy male quartet. Dinner will be served on the grounds so bring a well filled dinner basket with you.

Rev. John Parmar Succeeds Rev. Mr. Millikan at Friends Church

After serving three years as pastor of the Friends Church in this city Rev. B. H. Millikan goes to Goldsboro where he will be pastor and is succeeded here by Rev. John Parmar of Graham.

The Rev. Mr. Parmar served the church at Graham ten years and comes to his new work highly recommended, practically his entire work in the ministry having been done in Graham.

The year closed with the last of July and Mr. Millikan preached his farewell sermon July 31. Since he and his family left the parsonage it has been in the hands of workmen who have refurnished and remodeled it for the coming of Mr. Parmar, his wife and three children. He will move this week and will preach his first sermon Sunday, August 14th.

The Rev. Mr. Parmar is not a stranger to his congregation as he is pleasantly remembered for having assisted during a series of evangelistic services here several years ago when he conducted the music. Besides his pulpit ability he has the gift of leadership in song.

Dr. C. A. Baird made a business trip to Asheville the first of the week.

Rich Patrick County Citizen Paying For Liquor Violation in Jail Service

Brothers Quarrel and Shot Gun is Used.

Following a quarrel over domestic affairs Elmo Gwyn, colored, shot his brother, Fletcher, in this city late Sunday afternoon at the corner of Worth and Rockford Streets. The wounded negro was carried to Martin Memorial Hospital and is said to be recovering. A load of bird shot struck him in the abdomen, but they did not penetrate far enough to prove fatal. Elmo is locked up in the city jail awaiting trial.

Warning to Boys.

Boys and young men not members of the fire department are warned not to jump on the fire truck when it is answering calls. It is a dangerous practice and not only dangerous to the boys themselves but their presence interferes with those who are members of the company, who themselves take a necessary risk and their hazard should not be increased by those who have no business riding the truck.

New Manager For Belk Store.

J. D. Gordon and wife of High Point arrived in this city last week and will make this city their home. They will occupy the new bungalow on Willow Street near Lebanon, recently erected by Zeb Hatcher.

Mr. Gordon comes to this city to take charge of the Belk Department Store, succeeding H. W. Broome, who will be with the Belk organization in Charlotte. Mr. Gordon comes to our city highly recommended as a citizen and as a business man. He has been with the Belk stores in High Point for the past three years and previous to that time spent seven years with Effrins. The Belk store here is undergoing a rearrangement of stocks, new goods are being purchased and within a few days Mr. Gordon will have the store ready for the late summer and fall business.

Important School Notice.

The city schools will open Monday August 29. As usual, pupils will report at the buildings Saturday morning the 27th for classification and enrollment, and also to receive instruction as to books and supplies needed. High school pupils who have not heretofore been enrolled in the Mount Airy schools should confer with the principal at the high school building before Saturday, the 27th to be classified. As last year, all pupils up to and including the sixth grade who live above Sawley and Hines streets will report at the North Main building. All other elementary pupils will report at the Rockford street building.

Non-resident pupils attending the Mount Airy schools next year will pay tuition as follows:

High school—\$9.70 per month for the first three months. \$30.01 county deficiency for the remaining 6 months.

Elementary school—\$6.15 per month for the first 3 months. \$3.36 county deficiency for the remaining six months.

Joseph H. Hyatt, Sec. to the Board.

Boy Scouts Had Enjoyable Time.

The Boy Scouts, Troop No. 1, of the First Baptist Church returned to Mount Airy last Thursday morning from Camp Dickenson, near Galax. They report a most enjoyable time from the first day until the last. Through the kindness of Mr. R. L. Dickenson and his fine sons the boys were royally entertained and were given a hearty welcome from the first to last. A summer house, close to New River, was given over to the Scouts and this they used as sleeping quarters, kitchen and dining room. Some of the boys took tents and chose to sleep in them, but there was ample room in the house for all who wanted to occupy it. The boys are loud in their praise of the Dickenson men who run the ferry boat over the river and feel they made friends of a lifetime while there. They are also very grateful to Mr. G. C. Lovill who donated his truck and a driver in taking the boys and their camping outfits over and back. The boys were under the supervision of the pastor of the church, also Glenn Holyfield, assistant scout-master, assisted by Ben Johnson.

The DeHart Could Not Pay Out of Jail—Costing Him Four Months Service in Prison for Liquor Violations.

Sweltering in the county jail of Patrick County these days along with the other prisoners that are therein confined is one of the most noted characters of Patrick County, one who is well remembered by the older citizens of this entire mountain section, who is none other than the DeHart, rugged mountaineer of the Patrick hills.

More than 25 years ago DeHart was recognized as the largest whiskey distiller in this part of the south and his brand of liquor was so much superior to that of other makes that it had a quick and ready sale. At one time it is said he carried on operations that produced a thousand gallons a day. He had a special mark that he placed on his barrels and this was proof that the contents were genuine and contained the DeHart quality. He was a shrewd manager and when the prohibition was brought an end to the legality of his business it found him worth \$300,000—a sum that should have left him at ease and with no further worry over a livelihood.

But the old fellow could not stop and it is said that ever since liquor was outlawed he had engaged in it in his sly way, and at times backing up many of his friends in the work. Some months ago government agents decided they would quit dragging in his subjects—men who were his tools—and go after him. They were lured into the fight to capture him by that element of excitement that goes with a chase where "big game" is being hunted. A government agent was sent into Patrick County in the guise of a radio salesman. This fellow demonstrated radios all over Patrick, and even if he failed to make a sale he seemed to be satisfied. But little did the natives think that all the time he was gathering information that would put the DeHart behind the bars.

Finally the agent gathered his information together and went back to headquarters and one morning a U. S. Marshall knocked at the DeHart front door and took him in charge. His arrest was the signal for the biggest legal battle in Patrick over liquor violations. He was tried in the Federal Court at Roanoke before Judge McDowell. It was a clear case against him of major violations of the liquor laws and the Judge was determined that he should go to the penitentiary. At first DeHart made the government an offer to pay a fine of \$10,000 to compromise the case. He told his friends it would ruin him to go to jail, and he had pride enough to be willing to pay almost any price to save that humiliation. But the prosecution realized the same fact and this perhaps caused him to fail in having his \$10,000 compromise accepted. While his lawyers were able to save him from a trip to Atlanta they could not save him from a jail sentence and the court finally agreed to a four months sentence to be served in the Stuart, Va., jail.

DeHart always took an interest in the affairs of his county and only last election was the Republican candidate for congress in his district, opposing Congressman Whitehead. In his cell he is surrounded by his papers and books and many people visit him for business and for social calls. Three times a week the jailer accompanies him across the street where he is shaved in the town's barber shop and almost daily relatives and friends bring cakes, pies and other dainty food preparations to be added to the fare that is provided by the jail keeper. But folks who know this 65-year-old mountaineer say his spirit is broken over the humiliation he has undergone and that he will leave the jail a different man.

Ararat News.

Ararat, Aug. 8.—Miss Ables Chilton, a student of the N. C. G. W. at Greensboro, is spending several days the guest of her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Chilton. Miss Chilton has won a life-time certificate for teaching in high school institutions. She won this by attending the summer schools regular for several summers. She was a Math teacher in the Apex high school last year and we certainly appreciate the work she is doing in our schools.