

Town Commissioners Raise Tax Rate to \$1.46 This Year

New Rate is an Increase of Six Cents—City To Move Live Poultry Dealers Off Main St.

The town commissioners on Tuesday night made the levy for the 1927 tax, increasing it six cents over the rate of last year. The new rate will be 1.46, while the old one was \$1.40. The increase was necessary to take care of the interest on the \$190,000 water bonds that are to be sold next month. No increase was made in the city school rate of 25 cents as this could not be raised without a vote of the people. While the city authorities found it necessary to increase the total rate of the town six cents the county commissioners have lowered the county rate the same amount—six cents. This leaves the total rate of the city property owner the same as last year, with the county lowering six cents and the city raising six cents.

The commissioners instructed city attorney J. H. Folger to draw an ordinance moving all dealers of chickens and other live stock off Main Street. It is the purpose of the board to have all chicken dealers to keep their stock on the back street. Mayor Sydney believes this can be worked out satisfactorily with the dealers and the change will be greatly welcomed by the citizens.

The article on parking troubles published in The News last week from a farmer has again revived the subject of restricting parking on Main Street. The question was discussed at length by the board Tuesday night, but no action was taken. The present board is not inclined to put into law any parking time on the streets, and is disposed to leave the matter with the merchants and business people. The one hour parking law was in force here for a time but proved hard to enforce and was unsatisfactory. The board's position is that the business people should cooperate among themselves a little with a view to relieving the condition on Main Street, for it is a noticeable fact that a majority of the parking of local cars for a half day at a time. The town is not willing to make a parking law that requires a farmer coming here to trade to move his car every hour, and to pass a parking law would make him answerable to it the same as a resident of the city.

If the city is to get any relief from the parking troubles it will be up to the business men to work out the plan.

After Oct. 1st residents of the city will be required to pay a higher rate for water. The board raised the minimum rate from 90c to \$1.00 and the gallon rate from 25c per 1,000 to 35c. Those who live outside the corporate limits will pay still more, for the rate that will apply to them will be \$1.50 minimum charge and 45c per 1,000 gallons. Previously the city water fund has demanded a cash deposit of \$3.00 for each water tap, paying in return six per cent on the deposit, but the board will discontinue to pay the interest although the deposit will have to be on hand for all who have a meter rate. Flat rate customers do not have to put up a deposit as they are required to pay in advance.

Aged Raleigh Lady Dies Here

Mrs. L. M. Dabney, of Raleigh, died here Friday night after a few days illness when she contracted cold followed by pneumonia. Mrs. Dabney came to Mount Airy with W. M. Allen, chief state chemist, of Raleigh and Mrs. Allen, who is a daughter of Mrs. Dabney. Mrs. Allen became sick and following her illness her mother contracted cold which developed alarming symptoms and resulted in her death. The remains of Mrs. Dabney will be carried to Vicksburg, Miss., her former home, when Mrs. Allen is able to accompany them, in the meantime the body is embalmed and being kept in the Nelson-Moody undertaking parlor. Mr. Allen is one of the foremost chemists in the state and frequently comes here on business. The members of the family have the deep sympathy of the people of this community as well as friends all over the state.

Miss Louise Rothrock, teacher of the Burnsville High school and D. T. Martin, of Atlanta, Ga., spent the past week end with the family of P. S. Rothrock.

John Folger To Help Distribute State School Funds

Raleigh, Sept. 5.—Governor McLean today appointed Representative John H. Folger, of Surry county, to a membership on the state equalizing board from which James K. Norfleet recently resigned.

The equalizing commission is charged with the duty of apportioning slightly more than three millions, one hundred thousand dollars in accordance with the recent legislative act increasing the fund by more than a million. Mr. Folger as representative from Surry made the first assault on the small appropriation for this purpose and introduced a bill declining to increase institutional appropriations until the public schools were cared for. Mr. Folger would have had four millions had his bill been pressed to passage.

The Surry lawyer left the late general assembly with full purpose of return and fight for a five or six million dollar equalizing fund. He is less enthusiastic about the return, but not less minded to push the equalizing fund up several millions.

A Heart-Rending Accident

Odell Simpson, three year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Hilbert Simpson, of route 4, met a horrible death Saturday when his father's car turned over near Ararat as the result of a blow out and pinned the child under the car, a snag from a stump by the roadside puncturing his throat. The father was not seriously hurt and tried frantically to move the car off of the little fellow but could not budge it and was forced to leave him in his pitiful plight while he ran for help. The child was rushed to the hospital here but his condition was hopeless, however he lived until about midnight.

Dr. Banner Retires From Practice

On account of ill health Dr. J. E. Banner is retiring from practice, and has sold his equipment and practice and leased his offices to Dr. Carl L. Thomas of Franklinton, N. C., giving possession tomorrow, the 8th of Sept. Dr. Thomas comes to Mount Airy very highly recommended, both as a splendid citizen and excellent dentist. He is a young man, a graduate of a Baltimore dental college, has been in practice three years. Dr. Banner most heartily recommends him to his friends and patrons and solicits their patronage for Dr. Thomas.

Major Absher Goes To Honolulu

Major D. C. Absher and wife and daughter Julia motored to this city from Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., visiting Blowing Rock, North Wilkesboro and other points en route, Major Absher, who is with the U. S. Army as a physician and surgeon left the early part of the week for Washington, D. C., where he will spend two months in the Walter Reid General Hospital and he with his family will sail from New York Nov. 17 going via the Panama Canal to San Francisco, Calif., from which point they will sail to the Hawaii Islands, the crossroads of the Pacific, for a three years' stay.

Major Absher is a brother of Mrs. John Foy, and C. W. Absher of the city water department and Mrs. Absher was before her marriage Miss Bethania Ashby of this city. Miss Mary Sparger Absher the elder daughter has been visiting relatives here prior to the arrival of her parents and the second daughter Julia.

Mrs. Absher and daughters will visit relatives here and in Winston-Salem, Richmond, Va., and other points before joining Major Absher for their voyage to their new home. They will be located at Honolulu which is the capital and chief commercial city and port of the islands.

Misses Ruth and Katherine Dobbins have postponed leaving this city for Florida until the 19th. They had expected to leave this week to join the remainder of Mr. Dobbins' family now in Florida. Mr. Dobbins will remain in the city for several weeks before leaving. He is now closing out his business here and will make Florida his home in the future.

MRS. C. H. HAYNES COUNTY HISTORIAN

Will Furnish to the State Important Events Occurring in Surry

For some time there has been an effort on foot to gather various historical events that are linked up with the history of North Carolina. This effort has taken shape in the form of a state historical commission and working with this commission are county historians who will supply the data from the various counties.

The duty of naming a county historian is left in the hands of the county board of education and that body this week selected Mrs. C. H. Haynes of this city as Surry's historian. The board had a number of persons under advisement but decided upon the selection of Mrs. Haynes, and she perhaps is yet without knowledge of her appointment for a representative of The News was quietly "noosing" around Dobson Monday afternoon and ran across the interesting item.

No better selection could have been made by the board, for Mrs. Haynes is fully qualified to fill the position. She is connected by relation and friendship with some of the oldest families in the county from whom she can gather much of the desired information. And the early history of the county will furnish many interesting events for the state library. Some of these are the travels of Daniel Boone across the county in his journey to the wilderness of Kentucky; Surry as she existed in Revolutionary times when the court house was at Old Richmond and later at Rockford; the part Gov. Franklin, a Surry citizen, played in the affairs of the state; and the service the county rendered her nation in the seven wars that have marked the life of the United States. All these furnish interesting subjects which will be fully investigated and the facts presented to the state historical commission for permanent record.

The various county historians will meet in a general session at Raleigh in December when a plan of operation will be definitely determined upon.

Who Knows Of A Larger Tree

Of all the apple trees in this part of the world here is an account of the greatest one yet. W. G. Canterbury, of Union, W. Va., was in these parts recently and spent the night with C. C. Hutchens of White Plains where he had gone to buy a truck load of peaches. Mr. Canterbury says that on the farm of P. W. Booth near where he lives is an apple tree that is fourteen feet around, has a limb spread of seventy feet and is seventy-five feet high. It has been known to bear as much as one hundred and twenty-five bushels of apples in one season. The tree is a seedling, but bears a good cooking apple.

Marriage Announced

The News is in receipt of the following announcement which will be of interest to many Surry people: "Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Pierce announce the marriage of their daughter, Mary Annie, to Rufus E. Mann, on August 24th. At home, Sept. 4th, Cameron, N. C."

Gillum-Smith Nuptials October Twelfth

The following announcement clipped from the Evening Courier published in Hannibal, Mo., will be read with much interest in this city and community:

A wedding of the Autumn season that will be of interest to a large circle of friends, will be that of Miss Davilla Gillum, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kelvin Gillum, of Grandview Place Hannibal, to Mr. Jeffrey Dee Smith, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Smith of Mount Airy, N. C., which will take place Wednesday, October 12.

Miss Gillum is a girl of unusual talent and vivacity, and is one of the most charming members of Hannibal's social set. She was graduated from Hannibal High School and Christian college, Columbia. Mr. Smith attended Davidson College, Davidson, N. C., and is a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity. During the world war he served with the U. S. army at Camp Humphreys, Va. He is a senior member of the firm of Smith Brothers, a wholesale business at Mount Airy. Mr. Smith is known here having visited at the Gillum home."

SHERIFF TO SELL LAND OCT. 17th

County Commissioners Order Sale For Unpaid Tax

In session Monday at Dobson the county commissioners ordered Sheriff Haynes to hold a sale of real estate on Oct. 17th for all unpaid county tax. Carrying out the orders of the commissioners the Sheriff is now preparing his list for advertising and same will be published for the first time the week of Sept. 19th. The tickets can be taken up any time prior to the sale, but additional cost will be added on all that are advertised. The commissioners put the date of sale as late as possible in order to give the prop's a chance to sell some tobacco with which to make payments. The tobacco market open Oct. 4th in this county and in that way farmers who have not paid can sell tobacco if necessary to meet their taxes.

New Church Dedicated

The new building at Hebron Methodist Church was dedicated last Sunday. At the special services for the occasion the following paper was read. It was prepared by the pastor, Rev. J. A. Cook, after much searching of the records to find the true beginning of christian work in this section.

"In the year 1779 Rev. Andrew Yeargan came down through Fancy Gap and began preaching in Western North Carolina. He was the first Methodist preacher who traveled this section. He established churches throughout the Yadkin Valley.

The old Yadkin Circuit was organized in the early eighties of the eighteenth century. All this region was embraced in the wide reaches of that circuit which extended from near Greensboro, N. C., to the Pacific Ocean.

Churches were organized and rude log houses were built for worship. As a rule no deeds were given or recorded for the land upon which these log houses stood. The church was as a rule organized in a private home and when it outgrew the accommodations of the wilderness hut a church was built nearby. Owing to the fact that no records were kept it is almost impossible to trace the history of the various churches composing the circuits as they were organized.

In an effort to find a date for the organization of Hebron Church we have interviewed the oldest living citizens of the community and searched the records at Dobson. So far we have failed to find an exact date but comparing the records for other churches we find that Hebron was in existence as early as 1822 and its history probably exceeds that date by at least twenty years.

One man tells us that when he moved into this community in 1873 the old people told him that the church had been in existence for a hundred years. This would carry its organization back to the days of Andrew Yeargan.

The original church building stood on land now owned by Mr. Henry Cook. The logs of which the church was built was moved nearly forty years ago and used in erecting a tenant house which is still in use on the farm of Miss Pattie Richards.

Another log church was erected on the present site about the year 1882. This was sold in 1918 and is now used by Mr. Thrower as a barn.

The present church was erected in 1923. We now unveil and dedicate this memorial tablet in loving remembrance of all those who have had any part in the erection of the several church buildings used by this congregation and in the maintenance of the worship of Almighty God in this community from the beginning of the hour of the Methodist Church in the wilderness down to this good hour. The history of more than a century is a prophecy of the goodness of the years to come. May the special blessings of Almighty God be upon this present building. May he be continually honored here, now, and through all the years to come."

A reunion of the A. G. Trotter family was held here the first of the week when Mrs. A. G. Trotter was hostess to all her children and grandchildren Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Trotter and family of Pilot Mountain, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Whitman and family of this city and Mr. and Mrs. Graham Trotter and family of Charlotte all gathered at the old home on Franklin street.

Mountaineers Making Brandy in Sight of Summer Resort

Surry Officers Locate Still and Put an End to Making Joy Water in Face of Mountaineers.

There is something about this thing of hunting for a still in the woods that is much related to sport. The officers who go out after one know very well that there is an element of danger involved, for many men have been shot down in cold blood while hunting for illegal stills. And yet mankind has so long engaged in hunting that nothing pleases stronger, healthy men better than to engage in a spirited chase of even a rabbit. Those who hunt stills say they get a certain amount of fun from the hunt, especially when they are able to locate one and capture the guilty parties.

The first of this week officers were told that if they would go at once to a certain point in the face of the Blue Ridge Mountains near Roaring Gap hotel, they would find a still in operation. They were given full directions in a way that looked like the person giving the information was reliable. Go to a certain point on the road, turn up the old railroad bed, come to a branch, cross this and go on over the ridge and come to another branch and follow up that a short distance to a big rock and above the rock the still would be found. Now that is not the description given the officers, not a word of it, but it was of this nature and went into all the details and carried the officers far from any traveled road and up into the face of the mountains into a wild, rugged place where no man would suspect an officer or even a citizen to ever find his way.

The report looked so reliable to the officers that a party was made up at once and the search made.

Officers Jess Monday, Charley Creed, Thos. Hatcher, Frank Thompson and Trick Hutchens made up the party who went out to get the still. They left Dobson Monday about noon and followed directions given. The country was so rugged and rough and hard to get about over, once they were up in the face of the mountains, that it was hard to tell if one was on the right trail. Some doubt was in the minds of some of the officers and they were discussing the situation. A whiff of air brought an old familiar odor to the nostrils of Deputy Monday, and he at once, like a trained hunting dog, declared that he could smell the still. And he contends that he can smell one on a damp summer day for half a mile. When he thus reassured the party and declared that the still must be somewhere near them, they renewed the search in dead earnest. And sure enough on a branch in the bluff right in sight of the big hotel at Roaring Gap they located a thirty-five gallon copper still and a lot of beer and some apples ready to crush and get prepared for distilling brandy. Not a soul was about and all indications were that the still had been in recent operations and all beer ready had been used up. It appeared that the still had been in operation for many weeks.

The officers destroyed the outfit and started back to where they had left their cars. They stopped to rest and while waiting by the path they were going, a man came out of the woods with a gun in his hand. He was asked why the gun and what was his business. He promptly said he was squirrel hunting, and when told that it was unlawful to hunt squirrels at this time of the year, he quickly changed his story and said he was hunting ground hogs. An officer noticed that he had a bottle in his pocket and it proved to be a pint bottle full of liquor. Then he explained to the officers that he had carried the liquor along for fear he might get rattle snake bitten while hunting ground hogs. The officers advised that he had best not tell that story to Judge Stack at the next term of Surry Superior Court. By the time all this confab was over another man walked out of the brush, and he too had a gun and was out squirrel hunting. When told of the new game laws he too declared that in fact it was a ground hog he was after and not a squirrel. And he had a pint of liquor and was carrying it about for fear he might get bitten by a rattle snake too. The officers

began to wonder just how many rattle snakes were about any way. To make a long story short, both men were questioned about the still and both had never heard a word about it or been to it and were as ignorant of its existence as a saint. But both were required to give bond, which they did, for their appearance at Surry court next fall.

The story would not be complete without telling of the next man the officers met. He too was out with a gun but he was hunting ground hogs. We law it seems in the mountains that protects the ground hog. He was frightened at the sight of the officers and was afraid to give his right name, but when closely questioned admitted that he had started to see if he could buy himself a drink and ran up with the officers before he found it. He cried like a child and begged so earnestly that he be let go that the officers turned him loose, for they had no case against him anyway.

Just how the officers managed to destroy five bushels of fine apples found at the still we forget to inquire and are wondering now if they ate them or in what way they made the destruction.

Near the still on the face of a mountain the officers saw as fine a crop of big red apples as ever grew on trees. It was evidently from this orchard that the five bushels had been carried.

Col. Ball Back in City

Col. J. S. Ball arrived in Mount Airy Tuesday and will remain here during the tobacco season auctioneering for Simmons Warehouse. The Colonel has been in Nashville, Ga., for the past year.

A Surprise Marriage

Frank Swanson and Miss Wilma Snow of Pilot Mountain surprised their relatives and friends last Friday by stealing off to Yadkinville where they were married, leaving immediately for New York and other northern points. The bride is the daughter of Attorney O. E. Snow and is an accomplished musician, teaching piano and violin in the Pilot schools. Mr. Swanson is a son of the late O. N. Swanson and is a prominent business man of his town.

Children Play Everywhere So Be Careful!

"Drive Slow—Save a Life," "Children Play Everywhere So Be Careful" and many other similar slogans are posted in prominent places in the great city of Buffalo, N. Y., with the result that there are very few accidents according to the size of the city and newcomers are impressed with the way traffic is managed and the careful way in which the residents of that section drive, according to a letter received by The News from Mrs. Roland T. Booth, nee June Jenkins, who wrote her impressions of her new home when asking for a change of address for her paper. Mrs. Booth, recently of Washington, D. C., spent several months with her mother Mrs. J. D. Jenkins before going to her new home in New York. She also says that Buffalo justifies its name "the city of beautiful homes."

Former Citizens Returns From West For Visit

Miss Della Haymore, of Dallas, Texas, and Miss Ada Haymore, of Marlow, Oklahoma, will spend several months in Surry County, at present they are stopping in the home of Mrs. C. F. Mitchell. The Blackwell Tribune, published in Blackwell, Okla., where Miss Ada Haymore was a member of the high school faculty for the past five years speaks very highly of her ability quoting Supt. Lovett, head of the schools as counting her "one of the outstanding Latin teachers of the state of Oklahoma" and considering her resignation as "a great loss to the Blackwell school." Miss Haymore has been suffering with neuritis and will probably take a year's rest. The Misses Haymore are members of the well known Haymore family of Surry County and are remember here for their return visit about four years ago when they were guests of the late Senator R. L. Haymon. Miss Della Haymore is a trained nurse.