

Fair Has Record Attendance; Ideal Weather for Occasion

While Midway Attractions Furnish Amusement For the Through Airplane Overhead Supplies the Thrills

Never has there been more ideal weather for Fair week than this year and the folks came in multitudes to see the displays, the shows and the racing. There was an all day rain on Monday which brought to a close the best week and settled the dust for the four days of the Fair. While the crowds milled their way through the midway the whirr of Mickey's airplane could be heard as it circled over the grounds. The arrival of the plane was timed accurately with the opening of the fair for Mr. E. A. Mickey, its owner, arrived on his field on the Fancy Gap road Monday at 12:30 after a flight from a point in South Carolina. The machine was piloted by a trained aviator and Mr. Mickey came along as a passenger.

It is believed that by far the largest number of people attended the Fair that ever before visited here in one day. Twelve thousand tickets were sold on Wednesday and the automobiles parked about the grounds, were so numerous that it would be hard to estimate their number. With all this throng of machines not a single accident happened to any machine so far as we could learn. One thoughtful citizen commenting on this remarked that five years ago such a thing would not have been possible. He thinks the people have learned to handle automobiles better as they have had experience and that the rules of traffic are now better understood. He thinks there will be few accidents in the future if liquor is not used.

The features of the day that were intended to amuse the visitors were in the main of a high order. Of course the games of chance were all there but the folks seemed to be slow to leave their change with them. Many of these attractions were idle while the throngs slowly moved along not even showing the least interest in the revolving wheel that was ready to deliver to the lucky one some valuable prize one time in a thousand. It seems that most people have learned that it is a losing game to bet on the other man's trick. And then it may be that the folks are short on change at this season of the year, for many just love to take a risk even if the chances are all against them.

One of the delights of the Fair is that people have the opportunity to meet and talk. One citizen enjoying himself with his friends, just to make talk, no doubt, told about seeing a young fellow a few minutes before highly enjoying himself with a young woman with whom he had just made a new acquaintance. The two young folks were having the time of their life taking in the sights. And then the citizen remarked that he had come along with the young fellow that morning and that he had told of leaving his wife and children at home for the day. Now, said the citizen, I am expecting him to hunt me up and beg me not to tell it back home so that his wife will find out how he has spent the day. A good woman was hearing all this and went up in the air metaphorically speaking, when she thought of the whole event. She got great pleasure, evidently, by giving full vent in words to her feeling. "Yes, sir," she said, "That young man should have some one big enough to do a good job with a big foot on his anatomy. He needs to be kicked until he would need a pillow for a whole month. Here he is down here tramping about the Fair with some silly woman while his wife is back home at work and minding his babies. I wonder if she did not pick peas all the afternoon while one of the children minded the baby at the end of the row. There she is feeding the hogs and watering his mule and milking his cow and no doubt cutting her own stove wood while he is down here spending what little change the family has. It would do my soul good to see him kicked for a whole hour." And that is just the way a good woman thinks about the man who plays hooky when away from home. We rather expect that a few other women will have such like thoughts about the young fellow's conduct.

It is interesting to watch and think about the changing customs as the years go by. Not so long ago the folks who attended the fair carried their own lunch along with them. Those

here in the town who went expecting to remain until after the night display of fireworks would fill a shoe box with fried chicken, cake and other such like good things and eat on the grounds along with other friends picnic style. These from the country districts would bring along enough to supply their needs the whole day. Now all this is changed, and about the largest problem connected with the Fair is to feed the multitudes who come expecting to buy what they eat and drink from those who are there to sell. A whole army of men and women are busy all day when the crowds are present ministering to those who are hungry or thirsty.

It is a liberal education to stand for a few minutes before one of the live-at-home demonstrations and think of what is involved in the get-up of all that is there. There were several of these displays and the amount of work required to say nothing of the intelligence back of the work, is something to think about. The home that looks these displays is surely a model home when it comes to making a living and many lessons of thrift will no doubt be learned by those who took time to study them.

The whole day of Wednesday went by and long after supper two citizens watching the milling crowds go by and commented on the good order and display everywhere of a kindly and friendly spirit. One remarked that he had not seen the least bit of drinking during the whole day, and the other expressed the same opinion. As bad luck would have it two young boys staggered by just at that moment evidently well along with their drinks. And that was the only drinking the two citizens saw in all the thousands who were there. Some contrast, don't you think, to that of former years?

There is an old proverb that has it that the shoemaker's wife goes barefooted. While one of the main features of the business of publishing The Mount Airy News is selling advertising space to others the publishers have never put forth much effort to advertise their own business. They have been obsessed with the idea that a good live newspaper filled with interesting news was their very best advertisement. But this year they somehow got it in mind to put on a display at the Fair, and it may not have occurred to those who looked on, how much trouble it was to rig up a small printing office in the big commercial building. There are many printing offices in the smaller towns that are not nearly as well equipped for doing job work as was the little office on display and viewed by those who visited the fair. That printing press that you saw running is one of the most complete machines ever made for small job work and represents a nice little investment. Many people stood and looked at the printing press in operation who never before in their lives saw the operation of actually doing printing.

An interesting feature of the display was the back copies of The Mount Airy News showing the history of the years gone by, one volume giving the history of the World War and recording the many letters that the soldier boys sent back home while they were in France. Another volume gave an account of the first fair held here 11 years ago. The fair advertisement advised the public to come and camp during the fair as there was a 12 acre lot for its use. Also special low round trip rates were secured from the railroad for the occasion. In those days people came and stayed for two or three days, taking a half day or more to make the trip each way. And that was only 11 years ago. Today there is hardly a person who attends the fair who cannot come in an hour and return home after the fireworks and not be out later than midnight. Good roads have brought us all closer together. From Hillsville, Stuart, Galax, Elkin, Winston-Salem, Danbury — all points in this radius within an hour or so drive of Mount Airy. And during the 11 years of the existence of the fair Edw. M. Linville has been its guiding mind as Secretary and W. G. Sydnor as President.

Harry Hatcher, of West Virginia, is visiting his mother Mrs. Mary Hatcher at Westfield.

FOUR KILLED BY LIGHTNING

Three From One Family Meet Sudden Death While Working at Tobacco Barn

A stroke of lightning from a black cloud that passed over this section last Friday afternoon brought death to four persons three miles north of Mount Airy while at work hanging tobacco in a barn. Tom S. McCreary, 62, his son, Ben, 18, and daughter, Callie, 15, and Harvey Butcher, 20, were victims of the current from the sky. And at the same time two mules belonging to the deceased were killed as they stood by the barn hitched to a wagon of ripe tobacco.

The party was engaged in filling the barn and gave no heed to the black cloud that was approaching from the west. Young McCreary and the Butcher boy were on the top round of the barn hanging tobacco while the elder McCreary and his daughter handed the sticks of tobacco to them. On the outside was Jim McCreary standing on the wagon passing out the tobacco and little Lum McCreary was passing it on to his sister and father who were on the inside of the barn. Jim McCreary on the wagon was badly shocked and burned and had one shoe split open by the electricity, and the little boy was shocked, but both soon recovered. The two large mules fell in their harness and lived only a few seconds. The two boys in the top of the barn were knocked loose from their hold and fell to the bottom and evidently met a sudden death. The Butcher boy's body was badly bruised in the fall from the top of the barn.

All the victims showed plainly burns from the lightning and the little girl's face and throat were blistered. The father was found in a reclining position with his back to the wall of the barn while his daughter had fallen across the tobacco furnace with her head upon her father's shoulder. The two who had fallen from the top of the barn were lying in a heap on the dirt floor.

The lightning struck a tree close to the barn, and it is supposed that a part of it went across to the roof of the barn and into where the four were working. Examination showed a small hole in the top of the barn where it had entered. The stroke that followed down the tree is supposed to have been the one that killed the two mules and shocked those on the outside of the barn.

The four victims were buried at Mount Carmel Baptist Church cemetery four miles north of this city Sunday afternoon, the sad rites being attended by a crowd variously estimated from three to five thousand persons. One large grave was dug in which the remains of the three young people were buried side by side while the elder McCreary was buried in a separate grave by the side of his wife of a former marriage.

National Theatre Undergoing Extensive Improvements

The National Theatre of this city is undergoing extensive improvements and The Bank of Mount Airy, trustee for the theatre, hopes to soon have the work completed. The entire interior of the theatre is being repainted and decorated, and a new front is being put in and the outside lobby enlarged to accommodate a greater number of people.

Messrs. Linville and Christian, who have active management of the theatre are mapping out a program for the coming fall and winter months that will bring to Mount Airy some of the best pictures to be had. Next week they stage "The Big Parade" one of the sensations of the screen field, and soon they will bring "Ben Hur" here. As soon as they can work out a complete program it will be published weekly in this newspaper.

And What Happens to the Wife and Kids?

Erwin, Tenn., Sept. 19, 1927.
Editor The News:
I am sending check for \$1.50 for renewal to The News which I have been getting for the past 15 years. It has been about 5 years since I have been in Mount Airy and I like to get hold of the old Mount Airy News once a week and see what is going on. Some time it is a day late getting in and I get all out of sorts till it comes.
Y. N. Watson.

Westfield Citizen Passes

Mr. Fletcher Cook died at his home in Westfield of pneumonia Wednesday and the funeral will be conducted at that place Friday. Mr. Cook is survived by his wife and five children.

FLAT ROCK SCHOOL OPENS WITH 318 ON ROLL

Quarry Neighborhood Proud of New Building—Teachers Named

The Flat Rock school opened Monday September 19th with a total enrollment of 318. There were 66 enrolled in the high school department. There was an increase of 30 enrolled for Tuesday making the total enrollment 348. The high school enrollment totaled 70. The prospects are good for the school this year. The enrollment is expected to reach 400 within a few days.

The teachers for the school, H. G. Stanley, Dehon, principal. The principal will have charge of the English department; Terry Banner, Mount Airy, who will have charge of mathematics and science.

Miss Margaret Bab Corbett, Sunberry, who will have charge of the French and History.

The teachers for the grades are: Mrs. G. C. Houser, 7th grade; Miss Pauline Moore, 6th grade; Miss Thelma Jones, 5th grade; Mrs. Chonny Denny, 4th grade; Mrs. Ed McKinney 3rd grade; Miss Anna Norton, 2nd grade; Mrs. J. D. Wall, 1st grade.

The school is equipped with two school buses which are being loaded to their capacity. Pupils are being brought from the Shelontown district, from Bannertown, from the Green Hill district and, from the Slate Mountain district this year. The principal urges the cooperation of the citizens in sending their children, in upholding and enforcing school laws and in maintaining the highest possible standard for the school. We are looking forward to having a standard high school next year, and the prospects are favorable. We urge regular attendance on the part of the pupils and cooperative effort of every one interested in helping it to make a success of our school.—Principal.

Mrs. Norwood and Son Injured in Collision

Mrs. Ralph Norwood and little son Joe were badly hurt last Thursday evening when the car driven by Mrs. Norwood collided with a street car on a crossing in Roanoke, Va. Mrs. Norwood suffered a broken jaw-bone and severe cuts about the head and the little five year old son suffered a broken collarbone; a lady friend who accompanied Mrs. Norwood escaped without injury and a little boy friend who accompanied Joe had his skull fractured and his condition is serious. Mrs. Norwood's mother, Mrs. J. H. Fulton and her son W. Fulton motored to Roanoke Friday morning and Mrs. Fulton will remain until Mrs. Norwood and the child have recovered.

The car, which was a coach, was struck broadside about the centre and was a complete wreck and all the occupants were thrown out.

Aged Citizen Passes

Miss Judith Franklin, one of Surry County's oldest and most highly respected citizens, fell asleep at the W. W. Lovill home on route 3 just after midnight Monday aged nearly ninety years. Miss Franklin was a daughter of Wiley Franklin, deceased, and until about four years ago lived at the old Franklin home in the same section. Fire destroyed the home after which she resided with Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Lovill.

Her mind remained keen and alert and she never lost her interest in church and public affairs; it will be remembered that she insisted on going to the polls to cast her vote for the democratic party at the last election and taboored the suggestion that she could get the privilege of an absentee vote.

The funeral was conducted from the Lovill home Wednesday afternoon by the Rev. Ira Ferguson, of Pilot Mountain, pastor of the Antioch Baptist Church and the remains laid to rest in the old Franklin burying ground.

The eldest and youngest of Miss Franklin's family survive, the eldest being a sister aged 96 who resides in Tennessee and the youngest a brother, Shade Franklin, who resides in Virginia.

W. F. Midkiff to Wed Mrs. Anna Schaub

Mr. James Wesley Schaub announces the engagement and approaching marriage of his daughter, Anna Robertson Schaub to Mr. William Franklin Midkiff, the wedding to take place in October.

Middle Belt Tobacco Markets Open With a \$20 Average

Growers Take Advice of Warehousemen to Hold For Better Prices—No Dumping is Taking Place

Raleigh, Sept. 20.—Banging around 20 cents but varying from one cent to 25 cents opening prices ran through the 10 cities of the middle tobacco belt of North Carolina today in the opening of the season's sales.

No monster dumping of tobacco on 35 warehouse floors was recorded and the impetuous flood of the weed which characterized the opening of the eastern Carolina markets two weeks ago was absent.

Cautiousness keynoteed the opening. The growers had heard the summons of the North Carolina Warehouse association when resolutions were passed urging the farmers to hold their tobacco off the market for better prices. Editorials had been written in metropolitan districts and read in country communities backing the association's attitude.

Farmer Biding His Time

The farmer was biding his time—but so, too, were the big cigarette manufacturers. So the battle of prices began in the middle belt with time alone to tell with its official figures if the 20 cents average of last season would be again realized or better for the grower surpassed.

Increase in acreage in the middle belt, as in the border and eastern markets had been noted but careful marketing was the expressed keynote as today's sales began.

Last year Durham had sold more than 14 million pounds, Oxford 12 million, and Henderson 11 million. Fuquay Springs and Roanoke each had seen five million pounds sold, while three million pounds were sold at Mebane and two and one-half million at Burlington. Almost a million pounds were sold at Aberdeen and Carthage, and at Sanford more than one million pounds were sold.

FARMERS REPORTED WELL PLEASED AT OXFORD PRICES

Oxford, Sept. 20.—Oxford tobacco market opened today with the best opening in its history, thousands of visitors being present. Nearly one half million pounds were sold at an average price around 20 cents. The close of the air warehouse were filled but by double sales all tobacco was sold. Something seldom known in Oxford happened when double sales were carried on in one warehouse at the same hour, this taking place at Fleming house.

Tobacco was sold in Oxford today from sections 100 miles distance. Farmers are well pleased with prices. Best primings ever offered were sold today.

CARTHAGE REPORTS BEST OPENING DAY ON RECORD

Carthage, Sept. 20.—The local tobacco market had the largest opening sale ever known here. It was impossible to get all the tobacco on the floors of the two warehouses, the selling continuing all day. Early tonight it was impossible to learn the average price, as figures for the day's sales had not been completed. Tobacco was brought here from six adjoining counties. Farmers were said to have been pleased with the prices paid.

AVERAGE AT ABERDEEN IS FROM 18 TO 20 CENTS

Aberdeen, Sept. 20.—Three hundred thousand pounds of tobacco sold on local warehouse floors today for an estimated average of 18 to 20 cents a pound. Sales closed at 5:30 o'clock this afternoon on account of darkness. Final figures had not been compiled early tonight.

WAREHOUSEMEN'S APPEAL IS DISREGARDED AT WILSON

Wilson, Sept. 20.—Despite the appeal of the North Carolina Warehouse association the tobacco growers of eastern North Carolina continue to flood the local market with tobacco and as a result, 1,267,255 pounds of the bright golden leaf was sold yesterday for \$242,985.65, increasing the season's total sales to almost thirteen million pounds. A slight increase in the prices paid by the buyers was noted during yesterday's sales and it was reported that these higher prices prevailed again today.

Sales yesterday were blocked and today's offerings were equally as heavy as yesterday's. Tonight there

are hundreds of loads of the precious weed arriving hourly for tomorrow's sales. With a slight increase in price the growers are apparently disregarding the warehousemen's appeal in order to market their product before another break in the price again occurs.

Tobacco Auctioned Off On The Streets

Raleigh, Sept. 20.—Eastern North Carolina farmers have so much tobacco on the market, Senator E. J. Everett said today, that it is necessary to go out on the streets and auction the stuff from the sidewalks.

Senator Everett declared that he stood on the streets yesterday and saw tobacco "cried" for sale within five feet of the pavement. Within 10 minutes the rain was pouring into the place where the tobacco had been placed. The Greenville lawyer never saw the breaks so great.

The prices are low, he declares, greatly depressed by the large amount of tobacco sent to North Carolina from South Carolina.

A Proclamation by the Mayor Regarding Fire Prevention Week

October 9th to 15th, inclusive, has been designated as Fire Prevention Week throughout the United States and I call upon the citizenship of our city to co-operate in this great work of conserving life and property by ridding their premises of all useless and worthless inflammable material during this week.

In order to make the work thorough the City will remove all such material, free of cost, if placed on the street on the days already scheduled for the removal of garbage in your respective wards and streets.

Carefully compiled figures show that in 1926 \$145,325.00 worth of property was destroyed by fire in our city. Our firemen answered 23 calls. While there were 296 human beings burned to death in North Carolina in 1926, none of them are charged against our city.

I, therefore, set aside the week of October 9th to 15th, as Fire Prevention Week in accordance with the Proclamation of our President and are Governor and to that end I ask your co-operation with our State Insurance Department and our City officials to see to it that all schools, churches, theatres, hospitals, public buildings, factories, stores and hotels be inspected to see that every safeguard against fire is provided, and that exit facilities are sufficient, in case of fire.

I therefore, issue this proclamation and do set aside and designate October 9th to 15th, as Fire Prevention Week in the City of Mount Airy, and do urge our people to observe it in obedience to our National and State laws.

Done at our city of Mount Airy, N. C.; this the 21st day of Sept. 1927.

W. G. SYDNOR, Mayor.

J. C. Lewis Buried Here

The remains of J. C. Lewis who died in Hot Springs, Ark., were brought here Sunday for interment accompanied by members of his family who reside in Reidsville. Mr. Lewis was a former resident of this city and is remembered by the residents of twenty or twenty five years ago. He has been making his home in Charles, W. Va., but was in Hot Springs for his health at the time of his death. The remains were shipped from that place to the home of his mother Mrs. M. H. Lewis in Reidsville. The funeral was conducted at Oakdale Cemetery at 2 P. M. Sunday the Rev. W. F. Carter officiating.

Mrs. Witt's Father Dies in Granite Quarry

W. S. Brown, aged 75 years died at his home in Granite Quarry Saturday of pneumonia which developed Friday. Mr. Brown was a leading citizen of his community and had served for 22 years as postmaster, he had been in the mercantile business at Granite Quarry for 32 years. Mr. Brown was the father of Mrs. Green Witt, of this city. The wife and five other children also survive.