

## County Officials to Meet Next Monday and Receive Auditor's Report

**Claim is Made That Highway Commission Funds Have Been Padded—Audit Will Show How Officials Stand.**

A meeting which may become one of much importance will be held at Dobson next Monday when the County Commissioners are scheduled to receive an audit of the books of the county which has been in process of preparation for several months. This audit is not being prepared by the county's regular auditor, B. F. Folger, who was appointed county auditor by Governor McLean last year, but the commissioners have entrusted the work in the hands of certified public accountants, the firm of J. W. Hendricks, of Concord, being given the contract.

Just what revelations will be made when the audit is made public no one has been advised in advance and perhaps the only clue as to what might be expected is the rumbling one hears among those close to county officials that the auditor "has been on the trail of the highway commission." Whether this rumor is unfounded or not cannot be vouched for, but in some way the folks have gotten it in their minds that the auditor has been "after" the highway commission and especially its county superintendent, W. L. Kirkman. There are rumors that the auditor has found that he has been padding his pay roll account, and that in the purchase of supplies he has charged to the county supplies that he never purchased. All this is dangerous talk unless there is foundation for the charges, and it is needless to state that Mr. Kirkman has a large number of friends who refuse to believe on rumor that he is guilty of any criminal conduct in handling the county funds. And further the highway commission has not taken any action to dismiss him or doubt the correctness of his accounts, even while the auditors were delving into the books of the commission.

This much is known in connection with the effort to "get" Mr. Kirkman: The auditor has made it known to Mr. Kirkman that he is liable for indictment before the next grand jury of this county if he does not make things straight with Mr. Alex Chatham, chairman of the board of county commissioners. Several days ago, Mr. Kirkman so states, he was notified by G. C. Lovill, of the highway commission, that Mr. Hendricks, the auditor, wanted to have a conference with him in this city. According to the wishes of Mr. Hendricks he met him at his room in the Blue Ridge Hotel, this city. Mr. Kirkman says he was conducted into a private room and there in the presence of Mr. Hendricks' attorney from Concord, was confronted with the information that it had been found that his pay roll account had been padded. Mr. Kirkman denied that he was guilty of any such action and explained that all his pay roll account were submitted to and approved by the highway commission each month before they were paid, and that he had nothing to cover up and the auditors had every access to all his records. After Mr. Hendricks had informed Mr. Kirkman that he was charged with "padding" his accounts he further advised Mr. Kirkman to go over to Elkin and that he could arrange with Mr. Alex Chatham, chairman of the board of commissioners, to have the matter "hushed up," and if he did not go to see Mr. Chatham it would be presented to the next grand jury and an indictment brought against him. Mr. Kirkman says he declined to go see Mr. Chatham for two reasons: first, that he knew of nothing that needed to be "hushed up," and second that he was working under orders from the county highway commission, and making his reports to them and not from the county commissioners. Friends of Mr. Kirkman feel that the proposition of the auditor to get Mr. Kirkman to "hush" it up by going to Mr. Chatham was an effort to bluff him into quitting his job, and they are insisting that the proper course for the auditor is to take his charges before the highway commission and let those officials handle the matter in the regular channels.

About three years ago the books

of the highway commission were audited by a certified public accountant, and there was no complaint of the financial condition of the commission or its superintendent. Now they tell us the auditors have gone over practically all the work of the former audit and have made a new audit of the highway books from the time it was organized several years ago.

At the same time the highway books have been audited Sheriff Haynes' books are also being gone over, and it is generally understood that his books have been found satisfactory to the auditors.

The meeting next Monday should bring out for a certainty just what the auditors have uncovered and if it is found that Mr. Kirkman has been guilty of "padding" his accounts the matter needs to be presented by the proper officials.

While all this talk of auditing books is being discussed the question of costs to the county becomes an interesting point. Mr. Hendricks first came to this county in 1923 when he drew out of the county treasury nearly \$7,000 for his audit that summer. It was claimed that the job that year was one of the most colossal audits that came around, but the work was supposed to be through and future years would see such large expenditures unnecessary. However the next summer found the same auditor delving through the books of the county and for 1924 he pulled down \$1,859.24. The year 1925 was an off-year for Mr. Hendricks for he was paid only \$428.17 for an audit of Treasurer Marion's books. The audit of the books failed to prove satisfactory and after Mr. Hendricks finished his work the county paid B. F. Folger \$500 to go over them again and the work of Mr. Folger enabled the county to reach a settlement with Mr. Marion.

As to what has happened in 1926 and since that time there has been no published account. Prior to 1926 the county always published a statement of its expenditures but no such statement has been published for the year 1926 and soon 1927 will come to an end. However a close scrutiny of the records of the county shows that all the auditing done for the county in 1926 was by B. F. Folger, the cost being only \$260.00.

With the year 1927 the cycle has again come around and to the present date the county has paid for auditors this summer the sum of \$3,600. And in this amount is not included the \$2,000 that has been paid the county auditor, B. F. Folger. The work on the present audit was begun in the spring, and the records show that a check for \$300 and another for \$400 was issued to Mr. Hendricks in May. In June he was given a check for \$800 and later one for \$300. July he got only \$400. August proved a big month when he was given three different checks of \$400, \$300 and \$400. September proved a lean month for the auditor when he was paid \$300. And he is still at work and will be at Dobson Monday with his audit. Just how much he will get for the month of October is not known.

There is considerable interest among the officials of the county in the audit and they can all be expected to be on hand to hear the decision of the auditor as to their stewardship.

### F. T. Llewellyn Induced to Retain Clerk's Office

Following pressing insistence on the part of his friends and many citizens of the county F. T. Llewellyn has withdrawn his resignation as clerk of the court and will continue to serve in that capacity. Arrangements have been made to give him a two months' leave of absence and appoint his son, Fred, as his assistant. In this way the duties of the office can be carried on in the absence of the clerk. Mr. Llewellyn expects to begin his vacation in a few days and will spend the time on his farm west of Dobson.

The people of the county will be glad to learn of the withdrawal of Mr. Llewellyn's resignation and that he will continue to serve the county.

Farmers of Moore county are ordering lime for alfalfa and clovers, and small grains. Orders for five cars of lime were recently placed by cooperative action.

### LARGE ATTENDANCE AT G. C. WELCH PASSES AFTER LONG ILLNESS

**Taylor's Gather at White Plains and Thompsons at Rocky Ford.**

Two birthday dinners or reunions held in this county last Sunday were attended by around 1,000 people, all bringing baskets and spreading their contents upon tables provided for the occasions. At the home of Vestal Taylor, White Plains, 400 friends and relatives assembled about the "noon hour, the occasion being his 57th birthday. W. M. Matthews, cashier of the Farmers Bank, of Pilot Mountain, called the gathering to order when the ladies had finished placing the food upon the table. Rev. T. W. Wooten returned thanks for the blessings of the day and D. A. Robertson of this city made a short address on the good will that was fostered by the gathering of people at the old time birthday dinners. Practically all the relatives of Mr. Taylor were present as well as friends from all over the county.

At the same hour there assembled a large number of people, mostly of the Thompson descent, at Rocky Ford Baptist Church, on Mitchell's river, the gathering being termed a Thompson reunion. Rev. Wayne Thompson of Glade Valley, Alleghany County, preached before the dinner was spread. Present was the oldest man of the Thompson name, Geo. W. Thompson, 88, of Glade Valley, next in age was Joe Hen Thompson, 70, of this county. Mrs. W. M. Woodruff, of Lowgap, daughter of the late Steven Thompson, was the oldest lady of the Thompson generation present.

The above information was given out by Joe Hen Thompson along with other data that he presented. He had records in hand showing that the first Thompson came to this county in 1776 and settled on Mitchell's river. The farm is now owned by W. F. Thompson. The original home place is still standing. It is a frame house, all the lumber being sawed by hand, brick is laid between the studs and plastered on the inside.

The gathering proved to be such a pleasant one all voted to make it an annual affair and so next year at a date to be determined later the second Thompson reunion will be held at Rocky Ford.

### Rev. J. O. Ervin Has Auto Accident

The Rev. J. O. Ervin received slight cuts and bruises and his father and mother were seriously injured when the Rev. Mr. Ervin's car ran off an embankment on state highway nine miles north of Statesville Monday.

The Rev. Mr. Ervin is conducted a meeting at Troutman and brought his aged parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Ervin, of that place, here for a visit to his family, they were returning late Monday afternoon when they came upon a car parked across the road and in trying to avoid a collision Mr. Ervin drove off the hard-surface and his car skidded and turned over three times down an embankment. All three passengers were in the car when it landed on its wheels at the foot of the bank. Persons passing carried them to Dr. Long's hospital in Statesville where it was found Mrs. Ervin suffered slight concussion of the brain has a back injury and was severely shocked and bruised. Mr. Ervin received numerous cuts and bruises. The Rev. Mr. Ervin was able to go on to Troutman Monday evening to fill his appointment.

### George-Hollingsworth Wedding Solemnized

The following clipping from the Winston-Salem Journal, of Sept. 29 will be of interest to our readers:

"The wedding of Miss Gypsy George and Dr. Robert E. Hollingsworth was solemnized Thursday evening at 5 o'clock at the North Presbyterian Church with Rev. George W. Lee, pastor, officiating.

Hollingsworth is the attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sebring George, of Francisco. She was lovely in a dark blue traveling suit with gray accessories and carried a bouquet of dahlias.

Dr. Hollingsworth is the son of Mrs. Susan Hollingsworth and the late Dr. W. E. Hollingsworth, of Mount Airy.

After a short wedding trip they will return to Mount Airy where they will make their home."

### G. C. WELCH PASSES AFTER LONG ILLNESS

**Funeral To Be Held Friday Morning At Friends Church.**

The funeral and last sad rites of G. Calvin Welch will be held Friday morning at the Friends Church at 10 o'clock. His pastor, Rev. John Farmer will conduct the service and the remains interred at Oakdale cemetery.

Following a period of several months illness Mr. Welch died at his home in this city Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock. For months he had been a sufferer from heart trouble and it was known that his condition could never be hopeful. He was one of the most popular citizens of our section having been engaged in the mercantile business practically all his life.

He grew to manhood in the Hollow Springs section of the county, just below Mount Airy, and for a time ran a store on the Old Hollow road, later moving to Mount Airy where he located his store on South Main Street what is now known as the Welch block. Up to a few months ago he was to be found about his store and never gave up until his strength reached its lowest ebb.

Besides being a successful merchant Mr. Welch took active interest in other affairs. He was the backbone of the Friends Church in this city, had served his city as member of the school board and as town commissioner. He was also vice-president of the Bank of Mount Airy from the time of its organization and was chairman of its loan committee.

The following children survive: Walter P. Welch, George E. Welch, Mrs. Robert Jones, Mrs. W. R. Bowman, Mrs. W. L. Dunman, all of this city and Mrs. Joe Folger of Monroe. His first wife was Miss Della Hutchens, who died February 18, 1920. Mr. Welch married his present wife, who survives him and who was Miss Lela Williams, of East Bend, October 3, 1923.

### Martin Hospital Meets Standardization Requirements

During the tenth annual hospital standardization conference of the American College of Surgeons held in Detroit, Michigan, beginning Oct. 3 a list of all hospitals in the country meeting hospital standardization requirements was published and we are glad to inform the public that Martin Memorial Hospital of Mount Airy is in the list of those "fully approved."

It is estimated that hospital standardization saves the patrons of hospitals in America large sums of money by insuring patients the right kind of care, proper diagnosis and treatment, lower average days confinement in hospitals and gradual falling off of hospital death rates. Patients secure the benefit of the accumulated knowledge of all the medical profession through consultations, group study and staff conferences rather than of the individual physician or surgeon under former conditions.

Thirty-nine hospitals in this state are on the standardized list either conditioned or fully approved.

### E. W. Paddison to Open Jewelry Store

E. W. Paddison has resigned his position at ~~the bank~~ where he has been for the last eight years and will open a new jewelry store in the Blue Ridge Hotel block, about Oct. 10th. Mr. Paddison is an experienced watchmaker, engraver, and diamond setter. Before coming to Mount Airy he was engaged in the jewelry business in Albany, Ga.

He is spending this week in New York buying jewelry and gift wares for his new store.

### To Increase Red Cross Membership

Mayor W. G. Sydnor, who is president of the Surry County Red Cross, is in receipt of an urgent telegram from the National organization stating that it was important that the membership in the United States be not less than five million. Increased demands upon the Red Cross makes it necessary to increase the membership and funds. Surry County now has about 200 members and the quota for 1928 has been set at 250. Mr. Sydnor is confident the county will meet the call as it has done on all occasions in the past.

## Tobacco Markets Open With Low Prices--Warehouses Handle Breaks

**Farmers Disappointed After Large Offerings Made On Opening Day**

Reports from all over this section of the state tell of unsatisfactory prices that were paid for tobacco on the opening days of the warehouses. Speaking plainly people who sold here were "blue" over the way prices started off, and many fear that the price is simply lower than last year, and that it is not all in the grades. The crop is the brightest in years and the claim is made by some that there is no flavor and texture to the leaf that has been grown. The farmer cannot see it that way, however, and feels that he is not being paid a just price for his year's labor. Lots of tobacco that is being sold is bringing one, two, three, four and five cents. And, many are of the opinion that bright grades that formerly brought the farmer 30 cents are not bringing him over 15 cents to 18 cents. There is some hope that as the tips and lugs get out of the way prices will get better and the grades will advance as the better leaf begins to come in.

The three warehouses in this city were amply able to handle the breaks here Tuesday and there was no occasion for any jam, and there was no drop on account of the break.

Prices on Thursday seemed to be picking up as figures estimated the floor average to be a little above 15 cents.

Raleigh, Oct. 5.—Unsatisfactory prices were reported on the "Old Belt" tobacco markets which opened yesterday. Offerings were large, but farmers were disappointed with the prices paid, which averaged 16 to 17 cents a pound. The quality of the tobacco for the better grades is reported as being good.

Many of the farmers were reported as having taken their tobacco off warehouse floors after finding prices under last year's average. Prices are reported as being improved on the bright leaf market with larger offerings than ever before in the history of the Eastern tobacco markets.

### GOOD PRICES AT MEBANE WITH GOOD SALES EXPECTED

Mebane, Oct. 4.—The Mebane tobacco market opened here today there was something like 125,000 pounds sold averaging around 24 cents. Weather conditions were against them but on the whole farmers were well pleased and the warehousemen are looking for good sales all through the remainder of the week.

### MIL'ON POUNDS OFFERED IN TWIN CITY AT LOW PRICES

Winston-Salem, Oct. 4.—The local tobacco market opened this morning with about one million pounds at the eight warehouses, the breaks being so large that the warehouses were unable to dispose of all that came in.

Perhaps never before have so many growers attended an opening sale on this market. The warehouses were congested with farmers as well as with leaf. Many of these growers were here merely as spectators, coming in to see how the market started off.

They found common tobacco selling low, in fact just about as low as prices ever get. Hundreds of piles of common sand lugs were knocked down under five cents per pound. Good leaf is selling very well, but growers claim they were under last year's prices.

The principal reason given for the low prices is that the manufacturers and dealers are overstocked with common tobacco and are, therefore, not anxious to buy more at any price. Today's averages were about 16 cents.

### QUALITY POOR AND PRICES UNSATISFACTORY, REIDSVILLE

Reidsville, Oct. 4.—Two hundred and sixty-five thousand pounds of tobacco on floors of Reidsville's warehouse today at very unsatisfactory prices as was the case on all old belt markets which opened today. The tobacco super-charged with moisture from yesterday's storm and in high order was generally accepted reason for the unexpected low prices. Later in the day prices stiffened and less dissatisfaction was noted.

The continuous heavy rain yesterday whipped into fine spray late in the afternoon by winds that threat-

ened to assume gale proportions created a very unfavorable atmospheric condition. Tobacco was handled in this moisture laden atmosphere and soon absorbed too much dampness. Prices were considerably lower than last years prices.

### AVERAGE OF 17 CENTS REPORTED IN DANVILLE

Danville, Va., Oct. 4.—The "Old Belt" markets of Virginia and North Carolina swung into another selling season today at 15 regional centers with large breaks of tobacco notable for its fine color. In Danville about 600,000 pounds was sold for an average price of approximately 17 cents, definite figures being delayed pending the balancing of warehouse books tonight. While buyers agreed that the crop as indicated by the first spread would be a profitable one, it was noted that medium and common types were distinctly off in price some piles bringing one and two cents a pound. Farmers registered criticism of this claiming that much of the tobacco sold today while not of the fancy type was good serviceable tobacco and should have commanded prices fully equal to those of last year. Many took their leaf away and refused to accept the prices. Others successful in producing types most needed by the cigarette manufacturers were cheered at the prices some lots selling for 53 cents, the top price registered here. Warehousemen pointed out that the first sale was not typical for following the usual custom, farmers brought to the trial sale second rate tobacco. One reason for the let down in prices for the medium grades was said to be the internal strife in China which has demoralized the tobacco business. China has been a large consumer of coarser types from America which they mix with native grown leaf. Again Europe's increasing production of common tobacco has greatly reduced the demand and dealers have large stocks already on hand which they were unable to get rid of. Colorful scenes were witnessed here with great crowds at the ten warehouses and the bells rung in a new season. When the fancy types begin to come in the price levels are expected to improve. It usually takes two weeks to assume its stride.

### Sales of Tobacco in Oxford Warehouses

Oxford, Oct. 1.—Tobacco sold on the Oxford market for the week ending Friday is officially announced as 611,410 pounds at an average price of \$17.43. This price is a decided advance over the average price paid during the first week. The advance in price due to the fact that better grades of tobacco are being sold now. The total number of pounds sold to date is one and a quarter million pounds.

### Farmer Killed When Driver Misses Bridge

Statesville, Oct. 3.—Gus Daniels, 55, a farmer was killed and four other men cut and bruised early today when an automobile overturned on the Wilkesboro road 22 miles north of here.

Mr. Daniels was pinned under the car when it ran off an embankment six or eight feet high on the approach to a bridge. He died within a short time.

In the car with him were Mack Laws, who was driving, Lloyd White, J. Oscar White and Burr Nicholson. They were not seriously hurt.

The accident occurred at a bridge approached from a sharp curve. The driver missed the bridge.

Mr. Daniels is survived by his widow and several children. Funeral arrangements have not been made pending arrival of a son from the West.

### Westfield Resident Dies

Mahlon Cook, of Westfield, route 2 died at his home Saturday of pneumonia following an accident about three weeks ago in which he suffered a broken leg and other injuries. Mr. Smith was about fifty-three years old. His wife and several children survive.

The funeral was conducted by Dr. Tom Smith and Rev. Jim Morrison at the old Westfield church.