

Discussion of County Affairs Brings To Light Duties and Power of Folger

The news story in this newspaper last week in regard to the audit of the county books now in progress caused widespread discussion among the citizens of the county and it was news to many of them. And from the discussion good is springing forth, for various parties are coming to see the other fellow's viewpoint and to show a willing spirit to cooperate along all lines. So far as we know the facts related in regard to the affairs existing in the county have gone undisputed except in two instances that have been called to our attention. One is that it has been more than three years since an audit of the highway books was made and it is contended the audit at that time was not sufficient to be of any service. The other fault brought to our attention is that some were lead to believe from our article that B. F. Folger was supposed to be the auditor of the county books.

The question of Mr. Folger's part in the work brought about an inquiry from us as to his duties and in so doing we interviewed him this week as to his work and what was expected of him in his official duties. There is no denying the fact that many had gotten the impression that the county auditor, (that is the official title of Mr. Folger), was superior in power to all the county governing bodies, including the highway commission, the board of education and the county commissioners. This impression no doubt gained headway among the people from the fact that all vouchers and checks issued by the various departments of the county had to be approved by Mr. Folger before the money could be secured, and in some cases he found it necessary to decline to approve the vouchers, which further lead to the belief that his authority was supreme. This opinion of the supposed high power he is credited with having is altogether wrong, Mr. Folger states.

The term "county auditor," he says, is misleading and the fact is he is just a bookkeeper for the three governing bodies of the county. At the same time he is treasurer of the county, receiving all funds from the sheriff and disbursing them on orders from the county commissioners, the board of education and the highway commission.

"It has never been my purpose, nor do I consider it within my power or authority," said Mr. Folger, "to alter, change or otherwise interfere with the wishes or actions of either of the governing bodies of the county, and the few instances where I have declined to approve vouchers sent to me have been for the reason that funds were not provided for their payment. I am supposed to keep check upon the issuance of vouchers and I would be violating the trust that has been reposed in me and subject to indictment should I pay off vouchers where funds were not available or where the budget for that purpose was exhausted.

This statement brings to mind the way the new county finance laws, that are in operation in all the counties of the state, are supposed to operate. On the first of July all the departments of the county get together and make out their budget, determine just how much money they will need for the coming 12 months and a tax is levied for the amounts that are needed for these various purposes. The tax books are placed in the hands of the sheriff and he is instructed to turn over the money to Mr. Folger as it is collected. In turn Mr. Folger pays it out on order of the various departments of the county. But in so doing he must keep an accurate set of books, examine all vouchers and accounts as to their accurateness in figures and amounts, and especially to determine if there are funds in his hands for such purposes. Sometimes, Mr. Folger says, one department may be found overdrawing its allotted amount that had been determined upon at the July meeting when the budget was adopted. In such a case he says there is nothing for him to do but to hold up its payment until provision has been made by the commissioners for additional revenue. In brief, Mr. Folger says he is put there to keep check upon the money that is on hand and when no money is found to be on hand then there is no way for him to pay a voucher.

The impression that has prevailed in the county as to Mr. Folger being

superior to all others in the county government was one calculated to do much harm to the party in power and to Mr. Folger. The citizens of this county have entrusted in the hands of the various governing bodies of the county certain duties to carry out. These positions are filled by the best men available—men who give their time and their thought to the county at a sacrifice to their own business and private interest, and the thought that they are being hampered and overseer in performing their duties by any single person is one that would be repulsive to any thinking man. The citizens have shown their faith in the integrity and ability of our various county officials and members of the various boards by practically drafting them into service and the citizens remain willing, so far as the record shows, to trust them with the official duties they are called upon to perform.

Kiwanians Go To Elkin

The local Kiwanis Club will go to Elkin Friday night and be guests of the Elkin club. Members are asked to leave the Blue Ridge hotel not later than 5:15, as supper hour is set at 6:30 in Elkin's new hotel. Mount Airy will have charge of the program. The quartette will render several selections and Dan Hoffman has been selected to introduce the visitors to the Elkin gathering. L. P. Wynn is also on the program to respond to the address of welcome.

Pres. G. C. Lovill wants to see a large delegation make the trip as everyone knows Elkin's reputation as being able to royally entertain her visitors.

Case Against Mount Airy Citizens Non-Suited

Some weeks ago deputies of the sheriff's office were busy summoning more than 50 witnesses from this city to attend civil court at Greensboro where Guy D. Grimes, of High Point, was suing C. W. Fulton and J. M. Fulton, of this city. The case grew out of a land transaction with the Fultons and resulted in Grimes starting suit for several thousand dollars damage. Owing to the large number of witnesses from this section the defendants petitioned the court for removal of the case to this county, but before this point was heard the plaintiff Grimes, through his attorneys, took a non-suit.

Fiddlers Convention

There will be a "fiddlers convention" held at Flat Rock High school Friday night October 21st at 8 o'clock. Approximately 30 old time fiddlers will be there who can "shuffe the bows". Even prizes will be awarded the winners in the contests. The proceeds will go towards buying laboratory material for the school. There will be special numbers, one of which will be an "Alabama Coon Jigger."

Attend this convention and enjoy an evening of clever entertainment. Admission 25 and 35 cents.

Studebaker Agency Gets New Models

The Mount Airy Buggy & Auto Co., this week received two car loads of Studebaker automobiles of the closed models. This company is the local agency for this popular car and recently started an advertising campaign in The News on this line. Their new shipment just received includes Studebakers and Erskines.

Record Made at Fire Drill

The fire alarm sounded Thursday morning and teachers and pupils made a record at Rockford Street school of 1 minute 28 seconds for the 600 pupils to get out of the building. At North Main school the building was cleared in 2 minutes and the High school in 1 min. 50 seconds. The fire truck drove from the engine house on Moore street to the Rockford Street school, and made connections ready to throw the water in 1 min. 42 seconds.

This record beats the record of last year.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Hale, of Bluefield, W. Va., are the guest of his parents Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Hale.

WELCH PROPERTY TO BE SOLD AND DIVIDED

Will Make Provision for Widow and Equal Division of Property Among Children—Bank of Mount Airy Named Executor.

The Bank of Mount Airy, Edw. M. Linville, trust officer, this week recorded the will of the late G. C. Welch in which the bank was named as executor of the will and invested with powers to administer on his estate. The will was drawn by Mr. Linville at the direction of the deceased on Feb. 1st, 1927, and makes provision for the support of the widow during her life time. The will sets aside United States and North Carolina Bonds to the amount of \$15,000 the interest from same for the use of his widow during her life time. At the same time she is given the new house on Church Street for her home and a house on Worth street. All this property, including the bonds, is to be held in trust and at her death to be divided equally among his children. They will also requested the executors immediately upon the death of Mr. Welch to pay his widow \$1,000 in cash as an emergency fund.

After making provision for his widow as above outlined the will instructs the bank to convert the remainder of the property into cash and divide it equally among the six children. This means that all the real estate of the deceased will be sold at some future date. Mr. Linville says that the property will be put on the market within the next 15 months. It consists of the home place on Church Street, two store buildings now rented to Wagoner's and Bowman's and the Welch block on South Main Street, also some 15 houses in various parts of the town and suburbs. Besides the real estate Mr. Welch owned 10 shares of stock in the Bank of Mount Airy and has on hand several thousands dollars in notes. The executors estimate the estate to be worth around \$100,000.

Sheriff Has New Tax Books

Sheriff Haynes received the new tax books last Monday the amount of the tickets being something over \$350,000. The books arrived in the Sheriff's office about noon and the first one to pay the 1927 tax was A. L. Money of this city.

A tax round is being advertised in this issue when the books will be taken to various parts of the county for the convenience of the tax payers.

Takes Airplane Ride At Eighty-Three

Mittie Anne Haymore, wife of Oliver Haymore, giving her age as 83 years expressed her desire to take a trip in Y Key's airplane and the flight was made Sunday afternoon, the necessary cash being furnished by a bystander.

The aged sport expressed herself as being pleased with the experience the only trouble she didn't get to stay up long enough.

County Audit Was Not Ready Last Monday; Public In Dark So Far

The audit that has been in process of preparation practically all summer is still tied up in the secret chambers of the county officials and the auditor. The highway commission and the county commissioners were called to meet with the auditor last Monday at which time it was stated the audit would be received, but for some unknown reason the matter went over, and the same officials were called back for a meeting Thursday afternoon, this week.

In fact the audit has been expected for a long time, and the delay has been such as to cause some to gamble on its appearance as though they would a ball game or prize fight. It is said that money was offered that the audit would not be ready at the time set for last Monday and the fellow they say is now claiming his money since the matter is still held up and other meetings are being found necessary. Just why all this delay no one is willing to state, as all the transactions that are taking place between the auditor and the officials are behind closed doors. The meeting last Monday was of short duration

DRIVE UNDER WAY FOR MEMORIAL FUNDS

Number of Places in County To Be Visited by Musical Organization.

The big patriotic musical program for Surry county, under the auspices of the Board of Welfare, swings into action with a strong card of feature events the coming Saturday, October 14th, at Mountain Park and Bryan Consolidated Schools.

The program of entertainment opens at 3 P. M. with a football game, Mt. Airy high school vs. Mountain Park Institute. Following the football game comes a basketball contest on the Bryan court between the Elkin high school and Yadkinville high. These contests are free to the spectators. At the close of the basketball game begins a session of eats and refreshments of all sorts.

At 8 o'clock the big Memorial Convention for Bryan township begins its program of instrumental and vocal music with prizes for the best performers, totaling \$50.00. A large number of musicians are lined up for the event, including several string bands and vocal quartets. A rare treat of music is in store for those who are fortunate enough to obtain seats.

The children of every school in the township are racing to see who can sell the most tickets and win various prizes for themselves and their schools.

The Musical Convention will be opened by a patriotic address by Judge J. F. Hendren of the Elkin Recorder's Court.

This event is the first of a series of musical conventions to be given over the county this fall. The dates for other conventions are as follows: Lowgap Theatre, Oct. 22; Beulah Consolidated School Auditorium, Oct. 29; Ararat Consolidated School Auditorium, Nov. 5; Rock High School, Nov. 12; Salem School Auditorium, Nov. 18; Elkin High School Auditorium, Nov. 22; Siloam School Auditorium, Nov. 26; Pilot Mountain High School Auditorium, Dec. 2; Little Richmond Consolidated School Auditorium, Dec. 3; Franklin High School Auditorium, Dec. 9; Copeland High School Auditorium, Dec. 17.

The dates for White Plains, Westfield, city of Mount Airy and Dobson are to be arranged later. No convention can be held in Eldora on account of no large auditorium being in the township. Eldora people will attend the convention in other townships nearest to them.

The proceeds of all these conventions, outside of expenses, will be added to the \$1400 Monument Fund, started in 1923, to erect a memorial in honor of Surry county's World War heroes. This monument is to be on the court house square at Dobson and will be unveiled on July 4, 1928.

Nurses In Session

As we go to press the nurses of the Winston-Salem District Nurses Association are in session at the Martin Memorial Hospital Nurses Home. About sixty members and visitors will attend the session this afternoon which will be followed by a two course luncheon.

Presence of Lugs Keeps Tobacco Market Down; Houses Buy Liberally

COWELL-RAMSEY MEETING AT HAYMORE MEMORIAL CHURCH

Leading Baptist Evangelist of State Now in City—Services Every Evening—Choir Singers Needed.

Evangelistic services are now in progress in the Haymore Memorial Baptist Church in this city conducted by Evangelist John C. Cowell, Jr., of Fayetteville and Evangelist William J. Ramsey, of Wilson, evangelists of wide reputation and abundant success in points all over the state and in other Southern states.

Evangelists Cowell and Ramsey recently conducted a series of evangelistic services in Clinton with over 500 conversions and reclaimations. Services in Clinton were conducted in a tobacco warehouse where the seating capacity was 3,500 and each service, after the first week, found the house full, large delegations driving over to Clinton from Durham, Wilmington, Fayetteville and other points in that section to hear these noted evangelists.

The evangelists are issuing an urgent call to Christian people of all denominations to join forces with them in this campaign to pray and work for a great spiritual awakening in the church and community at large.

This is the only single church meeting in which Mr. Ramsey has taken part in more than eighteen years, his time has been taken up with working with leading evangelists like the Rev. George R. Stuart, of the Methodist Church, and Rev. M. F. Hamm, leading evangelist of the Baptist Church, being associated with Mr. Hamm in evangelistic campaigns for sixteen years prior to the first of last June when the Rev. Mr. Hamm accepted the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, Okla.

The Hamm-Ramsey campaigns covered a wide section of territory and were conducted as union tabernacle campaigns in which all denominations, worked harmoniously for the salvation of souls.

Since Mr. Hamm has retired from evangelistic work Mr. Ramsey has associated himself with a young evangelist, the Rev. John C. Cowell, of Fayetteville, N. C. He was converted in a Hamm-Ramsey evangelistic campaign in that city more than four years ago and since that time he has devoted much of his time to preparation for the ministry, having studied in the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and other schools fitting himself for the task of soul saving. He has become one of the ablest young ministers in the South today, a man full of earnestness and zeal and filled with the spirit, sound in his presentation of the gospel and a fundamentalist to the core.

All musicians and singers of the community are invited to volunteer their services and help in the choir. The work is somewhat handicapped by the limited capacity of the church but by hearty cooperation of all christian people a great work of soul saving can be done in this community.

The public is invited to all services preaching each evening at 7:45 o'clock, Sunday at 11:00 A. M., 3:00 P. M. and 7:30 P. M.

The Burt Concert Company A Winner

"Audiences every where are becoming more and more exacting" says Miss Burt, soprano and manager of the Burt Concert company which will put on a lyceum program here October 24, in referring to the success her company is having on its concert tours. "We are delighted to have them so, the more exacting the demand the more exhilarating is their appreciation," continued Miss Burt.

The Burt Concert company is composed of artists who are professionals and well able to please the present day audience which requires high class musical and dramatic ability. The company includes only three performers but they are recognized as people giving a program equal to the work of six people of average platform ability.

The Evelyn Burt Concert Company is toured and directed by the Piedmont Bureau of Platform Service.

It would be delightful to write about the tobacco market here if conditions were such as to tell an encouraging story about how it is selling. There is no disposition on the part of this newspaper to hold back the truth or to color up the facts in a way to mislead any one. There is much depression in this part of the country due to the way tobacco is selling. No one will deny this fact. It may be just as well to look at conditions as they are and make the most of them. We have visited the sales here this week and watched the sales and were impressed with the fact that good tobacco is selling for an average of as much as 20 cents a pound. The tobacco as it appears on the floor is bright in color and well prepared for market. At this time there are many piles of what have come to be called sand lugs—lugs that were primed off the bottom of the stalk before the better leaves were pulled. These sand lugs are all bought in by the warehouse where we saw the sales. They tell us that no buyer is bidding for them and that the warehouses are buying them, rather than see them not sell at any price. Of course the warehouses can not keep this up, for they will naturally get stocked up on these low grades and have no place to store them. The better grades of tobacco, the body of the stalk, sells for a price that is high enough to impress one that the average for all of it would be as high as 20 cents. We suspect that if all the sand lugs were off the market the impression about the sales would not be so discouraging, for these piles of sand lugs often have some good tobacco mixed in with the poorer quality, and when these piles go for one and two cents it looks like giving it away.

Every one knows about the custom of former years when tobacco was primed and the bottom leaves thrown away and the whole stalk cut and cured and later the leaves stripped and tied for market. Then the World War came and the demand for tobacco was so great that the bottom leaves were all saved and sold for a good price. Thus the people were educated to save the ground leaves and expect a fair price for them, certainly enough to pay for saving them. Now all this has changed and manufacturers are refusing to buy the ground leaves. If they persist in this course there is nothing for the planter to do but throw away his ground leaves, for the price now prevailing will not nearly pay for the cost of stripping and hauling to market.

Much tobacco is being sold on this market and sales are daily attended by interested crowds of planters and business men who watch the sales knowing that the success of the farmers is necessary to the success of all other classes of citizens.

Preparing for Red Cross Roll Call

W. G. Sydnor, chairman of the Surry County Red Cross, is getting his organization in shape for the annual roll call drive in the county. Attorney W. W. Carter of this city has been named chairman of the campaign.

Attending Gillum-Smith Nuptials

Jeffrey D. Smith, Jr., left Sunday for Hannibal, Mo., where on Wednesday he was wedded to Miss Davilla Gillum of that place. Accompanying him were his brother Dr. Robert Smith, of Winston-Salem, his mother Mrs. J. D. Smith and Mrs. W. E. Merritt, of this city. Mrs. Merritt will remain in Missouri several weeks for a visit to relatives.

Fire Facts

There were 286 people burned to death in North Carolina in 1926 and twice that number were injured. Mount Airy was one of the lucky cities with no deaths from fire and no one injured during the year. While we did have 23 fire calls with a loss of \$145,000.

The annual inspection is now being made and I respectfully ask the cooperation of everybody to reduce our loss and make this a banner year. M. F. Patterson.