

County Affairs Become More Tangled With Effort To Discharge Kirkman

Some Would Name Former Sheriff U. G. Belton to Head County Road Work; Highway Commission Standing Behind Their Superintendent.

The confusion that has existed in county matters between the County Commissioners and the Highway Commission last week took a further step in the same direction and the relations between the two bodies became more complex. The latest move was made by the County Commissioners when they met in special session last Thursday afternoon with the purpose of discharging the Highway Commission's road superintendent, W. L. Kirkman, and naming as his successor, former sheriff U. G. Belton of this city.

For months the Highway Commission has been getting tips from other officials that it would be wise for them to call for Mr. Kirkman's resignation. Not only has this been suggested to the Highway body, but B. F. Folger the county pay master, for a year now has refused to honor the salary vouchers issued to Mr. Kirkman by his employers. The Highway Commission is standing back of their superintendent almost solidly, and refuse to recognize the authority that the County Commissioners have tried to exercise since B. F. Folger became supervisor of all county affairs.

Mr. Kirkman stands indicted for embezzlement and other offenses as a result of evidence submitted to the grand jury by Mr. Folger and from an audit of the Highway books, but the Highway Commission has found nothing in the audit that has caused them to discredit their superintendent. The Highway Commission has had access to the audit the same as Mr. Folger and other county officials. It has studied the audit and given it careful consideration, and to this time nothing has been revealed by the audit that, in the minds of the Highway Commission, has caused it to find any criminal or even inefficient conduct on the part of the road superintendent in his conduct of the office. It is for this lack of evidence and the confidence that the Highway Commission has had in its superintendent for more than six years of service that it refuses to discharge a man on the advice and wish of some outside parties.

The move made last Thursday to oust Mr. Kirkman would lead the public to the conclusion that there is more back of the effort to get Mr. Kirkman out than has been heretofore sensed. This last move would lead the public to believe that it is necessary to oust Mr. Kirkman in order to pay off a political debt by way of appointing Mr. Belton to be his successor. It is charged that six years ago Mr. Belton bolted the party that had made him its sheriff on another occasion, and he gets credit for bringing into the folds of the Democratic ranks more than five hundred good solid Republican voters at a time when the Republicans had been rolling up majorities in the county beyond the fifteen hundred mark. It was noticeable that when Mr. Belton became out of harmony with his party that the vast throngs of Republicans that once swarmed around the lower wards of Mount Airy township failed to appear.

To the ardent politician, to the one who gives politics his only thought, to the one who places shrewd politics above every other interest, the movement to name Mr. Belton as head of the road work in Surry County would be a master stroke of political strategy. Even then, in such a person's conception of reward, Mr. Belton would be but poorly rewarded for the five hundred votes that he can be credited with bringing into the Democratic fold.

But the effort to name Mr. Belton last Thursday is hailed for a time at least. Even in the ranks of the County Commissioners a cog slipped somewhere. Mr. Folger and the County Commissioners had reached the point where they thought it would be safe for them to take the Highway Commission's affairs in hand and they were agreed that Mr. Kirkman should be fired. So far everything was running true to form. But when it came to putting Mr. Belton's election across a chink in the political stream was struck and the craft went to pieces in the whirl pool below. Mr. O. H. Yokley nominated Mr. Belton as the successor to Mr.

Kirkman. Mr. Folger gave his characteristic nod to the nomination and was in the act of recording the election of Mr. Belton, but a second to the nomination was slow about coming forward from the other two members of the board, Mr. Swanson sat in silence and gave not the slightest hint as to what was revolving back in the innermost recesses of his mind. Mr. Conham, the chairman, could not put the motion without a second. After a few moments of embarrassing silence the subject was changed and the meeting soon adjourned without any action.

The puzzling question that the meeting last Thursday brought out is who gummed up the machinery that was supposed to elect Mr. Belton into the road superintendent's office. The old theory "to the victor belongs the spoils", to some extent could be applied in the case of Mr. Belton, but somewhere down the line there is evidently some serious thinking going on before making a move that would have all the earmarks of paying Mr. Belton for his five hundred or more votes during the past three campaigns.

Costs \$7.96 To Park Over Hour

Seven of our citizens learning what it costs to park over the one-hour limit on Main Street when they paid their penalty in the Recorder's Court Monday. So far the court has assessed the minimum penalty of one cent and the cost, but the costs amount to \$7.96 where there are no witness claims and no bond executed. Of this cost the city fund gets \$3.20 the officer fees that are assessed, but the officers being on a salary permits the city treasurer to come into possession of this amount. The remaining \$4.76 is paid to the treasurer of the county and goes into the fund for paying the salary of the judge and solicitor of the court. The seven offenders took their trial with the best of spirit and realized the officers were playing no favoritism in enforcing the new parking regulations.

Miss Folger To Wed Bailey Glenn June Thirtieth

The following invitation was mailed to friends here and throughout the state last Thursday: "Mr. and Mrs. John Hamlin Folger request the honor of your presence at the marriage of their daughter Marguerite Nell to Mr. Samuel Bailey Glenn on Saturday, the thirtieth of June, nineteen hundred and twenty-eight at eleven o'clock. The Central Methodist Episcopal Church, Mount Airy, North Carolina."

Baseball Friday And Saturday

The local baseball team will play two games in this city Friday and Saturday afternoons. Friday the strong team from Pinnacle will come up and Saturday the N. & W. team from Winston-Salem will be here. Both of these teams rank high among the amateur class and their coming will give promise of an interesting contest.

Cosch Bob Sides has returned from his bridal tour and is again back on the bench as manager of the Mount Airy boys. He is now preparing the summer's schedule which will afford the fans of this city some real sport in baseball.

Rube Eldridge's Thomasville team is coming back for another engagement next Tuesday. In a former game with his aggregation Mount Airy won, scores 3 and 5. Those who saw the game pronounced it the best one of the season on the local grounds. The three games listed above should draw a record attendance for no better line up of visitors could be wished for.

Russell Hunt and Charles Walker left Sunday for Fort Bragg Officers' Military Training Camp to spend a month.

Airplane Makes Forced Landing

When the motor began misbehaving on a flight over this city last Sunday afternoon, E. V. Foley, pilot for E. A. Micky's commercial airplane, gently glided the machine to earth and landed in the pasture field of W. E. Merritt on Ararat river. The plane was doing its usual amount of Sunday business carrying passengers on short flights. The machine was soaring over the city and the pilot felt the plane slip back as one of the cylinders began to miss fire. The pilot played safe and did not attempt to make the flight back to the landing field on the Pilot road but came down at the first suitable landing spot. So easy and orderly was the landing that the young man who was passenger did not know the cause of the sudden termination of the pleasure trip until he climbed out of the pit and inquired from the pilot. The engine was soon tuned up and running with a smooth purr but it required two hours to prepare a place from which the plane could rise. A part of the field fence had to be taken up and moved out of the way and when this was done the plane rose gracefully in the air and continued its flights of pleasure.

Contract Awarded For Building Road to Patrick Line

In Raleigh last Tuesday the State Highway Commission received and accepted bids for the construction of 160 miles of roads in the state at a total cost of \$1,500,000. In the letting was the remainder of the road from this city to the Patrick County line, going out by Sparger's orchard. A part of this road had previously been graded and filled, but there remained five miles unfinished, and this five mile stretch is now contracted by the state. It is to be regraded, topped and later a coat of oil and gravel put on as a dressing. The cost of the five miles was given as \$25,000.

Other projects contracted for in this section of the state included four miles of dirt road from Sparta to Whitehead, going out by the home of Congressman Dougherty; and five miles of concrete road leading out from Winston-Salem toward Belevs Creek.

Masons Elect Officers

The Masons of this city held their annual election of officers in the lodge room in the Banner building Tuesday night, with the following result: W. S. Wolfe, Master; J. C. Hill, Senior Warden; M. A. Pendleton, Junior Warden; John Letich, Treasurer; O. Binder, Secretary.

Installation ceremonies will be held Monday night with refreshments and a buffet supper following.

Business Women Enjoy Outdoor Lunch

Members of the Business and Professional Women's Club are this evening enjoying a picnic supper on the grounds of Mrs. Willie Moore Gentry's home.

Former County Treasurer Dies

W. H. Hauser, aged 52 years died at his home in King Tuesday evening at 8:20 o'clock. He had been afflicted with rheumatism for several years and had been confined to his room since last August.

Mr. Hauser was a native of Shells. He was a member of the firm of Hauser Bro. Wholesale Grocers of Winston-Salem, and was treasurer of Surry County for two years. He was widely known throughout the Piedmont section and the news of his death will occasion keen regret among his wide circle of friends.

He was first married to Miss Ellen Owen, who preceded him in death nine years. About two years ago he was married to Miss Mary Slate, of King, who survives, together with his two sons, Elmer and Fred Hauser of King; his mother, Mrs. C. V. Hauser, one sister Mrs. A. A. Moser of Winston-Salem and eight brothers Hubert C. and Oliver F. Hauser of Shells, J. O. Hauser of White Plains, R. N. T. C. S. E. and Roy Hauser of Winston-Salem and G. C. Hauser of Mount Airy.

The funeral services will be conducted at the Methodist Protestant Church of Shells of which he was a faithful member, Thursday at 2:00 P. M. by his pastor Rev. A. L. Hunter, assisted by Rev. E. W. Turner. Interment will be in the church cemetery.

Youth Drowns In The Ararat River

Junior Tatum, aged nine, son of Harry Tatum, of Roanoke, Va., was drowned in the Ararat river near this city Tuesday afternoon. He and his smaller brother was visiting their aunt, Mrs. J. R. Sargent on Cherry Street, and had gone to the river to wade in the water in company with the little boy of T. Daber. The children had not been gone but a few minutes when cries from them attracted people passing on the quarry road and when they reached the scene below the bridge they found that the elder Tatum boy had gone down in about seven feet of water. The two children said their playmate had slipped off a large slick rock into the water, and in a scramble to get back to the bank had scratched one of them on the hand trying to take hold of the one on the bank. The body was recovered in about 30 minutes by men who soon gathered on the scene and was found 30 yards below where it went under. When brought to the surface the child appeared to be clutching at the bottom of the river with its fingers, as they were holding to clumps of mud and twigs. He was hurried to Martin Memorial Hospital, just a short distance away, where a pulmotor was used in a vain effort to revive him but it was soon realized that it was a hopeless case.

The body was prepared for burial here and carried to Roanoke where the interment took place.

Handsome New Office Building For North Carolina Granite Corporation

Structure Will Be Started July 1st; Three Stories and Modern in Every Detail; Dust Removing Equipment Adds to Comfort of Workmen in Cutting Sheds.

Plans have now been completed and surveys have staked off the foundation for a new and modern office building that will get under construction for The North Carolina Granite Corporation on July 1st. For several years this company has operated on the north side of the quarry tracks, but fire burned them down and since then the business has occupied improvised quarters up on the hill. The plans now call for the erection of a structure in keeping with the progress and development of the quarry along all its various lines. The new building will be erected on the road beyond where the present offices are located and will command an imposing view of the entire quarry, overlooking the operations embracing the territory from the big shed all the way across the ledges of rock to the big crusher up the hollow.

The building will be three stories, with a commodious left room for laying out large patterns for stone work. On the first and second floors will be offices and drafting rooms for the various departments, as well as an up-to-date and fully equipped printing room for the developing of blue prints.

Mr. Sargent, president of the corporation, is now in the city busily engaged looking after the work about the quarry and the many improvements that are constantly being undertaken. One of the most useful pieces of work that has been done in this part of the country is the installation of dust removing equipments that are now being placed in the various cutting sheds of the quarry. The outfit in the new steel shed is now in operation and workmen are installing a like equipment in the new section

of the big shed. This rid the atmosphere where the workmen labor away on the stone from an the dust that formerly endangered their health and made their work disagreeable. But now powerful motors pull the dust from around the man and convey it to containers through metal pipes.

Many of the old sheds are being removed that formerly were scattered here and there about the quarry and new and modern structures of steel and stone are replacing them. Even the inspiring tall wooden trolley poles are no longer used, but instead the neat trim steel spire of fabricated material is now used. In the way of improving the property Mr. Sargent has gone further than just the physical output side. He has considered the land holdings of the quarry, bought various small tracts of land around the quarry and put into effect a system of grading the terrain down to symmetrical proportions pleasing to the eye, filled in ravines, reforested open places where the land was bare, and dotted the drive ways over the quarry with scores of California walnut trees.

More and more as the days go by this property is becoming the pride of our city and within a few years it is destined to be one of the most beautiful pieces of man's handwork in this part of the state as well as a prosperous and progressive manufacturing enterprise.

J. A. Turnmyre of Granite Falls is spending a few weeks in this city superintending the erection of the new bungalow being built on North Main Street by his son, A. P. Turnmyre, the druggist.

Golf Tournament And Reception To Feature Opening of Country Club

The formal opening of the Mount Airy Country Club, to which the public is invited, will take place next Thursday, June 28th, featured with an all-day tournament in which the members of the club and professionals from other clubs of the state will participate. Workmen are now engaged in putting the finishing touch to the grading around the club house and the course is now in good playing condition.

The playing on the course Thursday morning will be participated in by the members only when the club championship will be determined. About 40 are expected to take part in the morning tournament which starts at 8:45, the different matches being off in five minute intervals. The starting will be in charge of Leonard Davis, professional, and all members are urged to be on time so as to start exactly on the minute. The winner will be determined by medal score for 18 holes.

The following matches composed of local members will tee off in the order and time named below:

- No. 1-9:45-A. F. Turnmyre and J. G. Harrison.
- No. 2-9:50-J. F. Prather and Dr. E. C. Ashby.
- No. 3-9:55-C. M. Whitlock and Dr. J. L. Ashby.
- No. 4-9:00-W. W. Christian and W. M. Johnson.
- No. 5-9:05-W. Fulton and Dr. J. D. Hagan.
- No. 6-9:10-John W. Prather and W. D. Merritt.
- No. 7-9:15-Geo. E. Marshall and Dr. R. C. Mitchell.
- No. 8-9:20-Jeff Smith and Haywood Merritt.
- No. 9-9:25-H. M. Foy and Edw. L. Linville.
- No. 10-9:30-Billie Carter and Fred Smith.
- No. 11-9:35-J. F. Yokley and R. M. Smith.
- No. 12-9:40-Joe Brock and M. A. Pendleton.
- No. 13-9:45-J. E. Cockburn and E. E. Imman.
- No. 14-9:50-O. H. Yokley and J. D. Smith, Jr.
- No. 15-9:55-J. D. Sargent and W. H. Keadyinsky.
- No. 16-10:00-C. Binder and Dr. Blair S. Martin.

No. 17-10:05-B. H. Williamson and W. E. Hines.

No. 18-10:10-J. B. Yokley and W. E. Merritt, Jr.

No. 19-10:15-L. M. Lamm and T. C. Barber.

The afternoon program promises to be one of thrilling interest as it will consist of a match or medal play tournament between professionals coming here from some of the best courses in the state. The tournament will begin at 2:30 and will be played by Bill Gobel, of the Charlotte Country Club; Paul Andrews, of the Forsyth Country Club; Duncan Aycock, of the Bealin Country Club; and Leonard Davis, pro. in charge of the Mount Airy Club. All these pro's have outstanding records in the golf circles of the country and their coming to the Mount Airy Club for this event will prove to be one long remembered by the members and the public witnessing the match.

A reception will be held in the club house on Friday night June 29th, to which all stockholders, their wives, and lady friends are invited. During the evening music will be furnished by an orchestra headed by Lou Gogerty and his Carolina serenaders, concert programs featuring the evening, with refreshments served during the intermission. Following the reception dance music will be rendered for any who may wish to dance.

The club was organized last summer and is now composed of 89 stockholders. The charter provides that only those are eligible for membership who own at least three shares of stock in the club, at \$100 per share, and there are only a possible membership of 107 stockholders. All the stock has been sold and any person now desiring to become a member will be required to make purchase from some of the original stockholders who possess more than one block of stock. The present membership fee is \$50, but at a meeting of the directors of the club held Wednesday night it was recommended that this fee be raised to \$100 on Jan. 1, 1929. It was pointed out that this increase was in line with the rates charged by other clubs in the country with the same features and accommodations that are available with the local club.

Happenings Twenty-one Years Ago

Interesting Items Gleaned From the Files of The Mount Airy News 21 Years Ago This Week

John Hardy, the negro who shot and killed a policeman in Roanoke, Va., paid the penalty for his crime on the gallows last Friday. The first time the drop fell the rope broke and it was necessary to again put him on the scaffold. He was not killed the first time and after the second drop he was pronounced dead in five minutes. When the rope broke the body rolled over under the scaffold, but there was not a groan or a twitch. It was seen that he was not extinct, and it made the second execution necessary. In a minute after the fall the officials took him back on the scaffold, placed him on the trap and held him while the rope was being readjusted and sprung the trap a second time. Before this was done one of the officers in passing over the trap fell through.

Owing to the death of the groom's father a few weeks ago only a few intimate friends and the relatives witnessed the wedding of Mr. James Dunn of Winston-Salem and Miss

Maxie Smith, of this city, which was performed in the spacious parlor of the handsome residence of the bride's father, Z. T. Smith, on Tuesday morning, at 11:30. A wedding breakfast was served after the ceremony and the couple left on the 1:30 train for Canada and northern cities.

Eugene Padison of Piedmont, W. Va., is spending a two weeks vacation with relatives in this city.

T. L. Garner of Bluefield, W. Va., has bought the printing plant recently owned by C. L. Hennis and moved his family here. Mr. Garner has had years of experience in the printing business.

The salaries of the rural route carriers will be increased on July 1st. On route one, Geo. Edwards carrier, the salary will be raised from \$254 to \$310. On route two, J. B. Vaughn carrier, from \$252 to \$310. On route three, Geo. Harris carrier, from \$239 to \$300. On route four, F. E. Marshall carrier, from \$252 to \$300. On route five, Carl D. Pugh carrier, from \$232 to \$290.