

Another Bridge Spans the Yadkin

New Departure in Construction of Rockford Bridge—Large Crowd Attends Opening July 4th.

Traffic is now passing over the new bridge across the Yadkin river at Rockford, built by J. Frank Bland, former resident of Rockford but now located in Winston-Salem. The bridge carries toll charges for its use, the charges being the same as paid the ferry that is being discarded. The bridge was started on June 1st and the first vehicle passed over it on June 20th.

In the erection of the bridge a new departure in the engineering design of it was put into use. The bridges are spanned up and down the Yadkin are piled high in the air, supposed to be 10 feet above the water at high tide. But this new bridge does not afford such an imposing spectacle for it is built just five feet above the normal water level of the river. It is the theory of Mr. Bland that bridges are endangered more by debris, logs, trees, etc., floating down against them than they are by the water that flows across them. It is further noticeable that this foreign debris does not begin to float down the stream until the water gets eight or ten feet high. Working upon these theories Mr. Bland reasoned that with his bridge built close to the river level the water would be flowing over the bridge at high tide and carrying the debris over it and not lodging against the bridge, but floating harmlessly by.

The bridge is in two sections. In the middle of the river is an island and this island is utilized to afford part of the crossing. In constructing the bridge concrete piers were sunk to solid foundation about every 25 feet and between them are strung 12 heavy railway rails and on these rails the flooring is laid. On top of the floor is also a stringer of rails with bolts going through to hold the plank in place. A small railing on each side affords protection from getting off the side of the bridge. The bridge is 20 feet wide, affording two-way traffic. The structure is said to have cost less than \$5,000 and the people of the county and the engineers of this section will watch with interest the effect that the river floods will have on it.

A large number of people gathered at Rockford July 4th and witnessed the formal opening of the bridge. Dinner was served on the island and about 500 people are said to have taken part in the festival.

Popular Service Man in Hospital

G. S. Hawkins, service man for the E. P. U. Co., the fellow who keeps our fuse plugs in and who sees that the electric ranges are all heating properly, is off the job for next few weeks. Mr. Hawkins was taken suddenly ill Sunday night and examination revealed an attack of appendicitis, the operation being performed Monday. His condition is satisfactory and until he is able to get back on his job the service work in the city is being cared for by Mr. Brinkley, of the meter department.

Miss Mary Virginia Pendergraph submitted to an operation for the removal of her tonsils Wednesday, at Martin Hospital.

Officers Divide Money From Sale of Safe Crackers' Car

Deputy Sheriff J. E. Monday was this week exhibiting a roll of Uncle Sam's green backs that he is dividing among the six officers and citizens who took part in the chase of the safe crackers who were run out of this county several weeks ago. In the chase the robbers abandoned a good Buick sedan which was taken possession of by the officers engaged, but they made good their escape.

The officers laid claim to the car as their private property, but E. F. Folger later on claimed it on the part of the county, and precipitated a kind of argument with the officers by his action. Attorneys were engaged and the matter was in a fair way of getting into the courts. The officers then advertised the car for public sale as abandoned property and at the sale it was bid off by J. H. Hunt, of this

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION AT ANTIUCH

Record Breaking Attendance Expected; Dates Are July 10 and 11.

All indications point to a record-breaking attendance at the Annual Surry County Sunday School Convention which is to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 10 and 11. The convention will be held with the Antiuch Baptist Church, five miles west of Mount Airy, on Lowgap road. The opening session will be held at 8:00 o'clock Tuesday night, July 10.

According to announcements made by the officers of the County Sunday School association, the program has been prepared with the idea of having a "convention for the discussion of practical Sunday School plans and problems" the plan being to have something in the convention that will help workers in all departments of the Sunday school.

Among the prominent speakers on the program will be Miss Daisy Magee, Raleigh, Children's Division Superintendent of the North Carolina Sunday School Association; and Prof. J. O. Webb, Waverly, Ala., Superintendent of Methodist Sunday School, and Principal of High School. During the convention these workers will discuss various phases of Sunday School work.

As has been previously announced, a pennant will be presented to the Sunday School having in the convention the largest number of representatives, sixteen years of age and over based on the number of miles from that particular church to the church with which the convention is held. The contest is open to all Sunday Schools of the county, except the Sunday School with which the convention is held and others within one mile. The pennant will be presented at the close of the session on Wednesday afternoon.

Hylton Book Store Adds Fountain Service

A modern soda fountain was this week installed by Hylton Book and Stationery Store on North Main street, and in the future this new place of business will be able to give the public full fountain service, together with milk drinks, ice creams and sandwiches. The equipment just added by Mr. Hylton is of the latest design and is electrically refrigerated throughout.

U-Drive-It Station Changes Hands

Earl Beamer has purchased the U-Drive-It station in this city from Baxter Snow and took charge Monday. The business will be conducted at the same location on Franklin Street by Mr. Beamer, who has quit the barber trade and will devote his time to his new enterprise. Mr. Snow is leaving soon for an extended visit to Montana where his father has lived for a number of years. He has not decided what he will do on his return.

Grady Frank Wins Tennis Tournament

Grady Frank was the final winner in the Mount Airy Tennis tournament and the trophy given by the Leonard jewelry store was formally presented at the Grand Theatre Wednesday night with J. H. Folger as spokesman.

Rev. R. L. Berry and Grady Frank played the final match Wednesday morning.

Road Mileage in Va. to Be Allocated

Counties Get Additional Mileage Under New Law

Announcement has been made from Richmond that the Virginia State Highway Commission will make a tour of Southwest Virginia in July to hold public hearings on the subject of what mileage the various counties will ask to have taken into the state highway system under the new law.

Under this new law Carroll County will get 17 more miles of state highway, Patrick 15 miles, Grayson 16 miles. The state takes into consideration the recommendation of the various county governments in the location of this additional mileage and in Grayson the road from Galax to the top of the Lowgap has been acted favorably upon, while in Patrick the road from Stuart to the North Carolina line connecting with Mount Airy has been recommended.

The first hearing is to be held at Bristol July 11, 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. and includes those counties in the Bristol highway district.

These counties and the mileage allotted under the law are:

- Bland, 13.41.
- Buchanan, 19.16.
- Dickenson, 12.11.
- Grayson, 15.52.
- Lee, 16.61.
- Russell, 19.47.
- Scott, 20.22.
- Smyth, 16.20.
- Tazewell, 19.78.
- Washington, 22.49.
- Wise, 15.64.
- Wythe, 17.94.

Roanoke Hearing

The second hearing will be in the Market Auditorium at Roanoke the following day, July 12, during the same hours. Counties included are:

- Bedford, 29.46.
- Botetourt, 20.41.
- Carroll, 17.08.
- Craig, 12.42.
- Floyd, 14.
- Franklin, 25.96.
- Giles, 15.74.
- Henry, 16.54.
- Montgomery, 14.93.
- Patrick, 18.06.
- Pulaski, 12.40.
- Roanoke, 25.

Rules for Appointment

The mileage under the new law is apportioned on the ratio that the county area bears to the total area of the state. No county, however, may receive less than 8 miles and no county within which lies a city, wholly or in part, of 50,000 population or more, shall receive less than 25 miles.

Mileage designations must be made on or before September 1, one-half to be taken over for maintenance as of October 1, next, and the remainder as July 1, 1929.

Too High a Life For the Sheriff

Returning to this city Monday from an extended trip to the Pacific coast Sheriff Haynes reported some of his experiences as being too high a life for him to live. Especially was this true when he was on the top of Pike's Peak, the highest point in the United States. Up there they cannot boil eggs on account of the rarity of the air. And the Sheriff experienced much physical discomfort from the depressing effect of the atmosphere on the Peak. Some of the party say he was stricken with a hurting in his eye and began calling "Oh Lissy! Oh Lissy!" before they got him in a barber shop and relieved the pain by the application of hot towels. It was then, they say, that the Sheriff realized he was not in his home on Rockford Street but was sitting on the top of the world in the Rockies.

The party composed of the Sheriff, J. B. Sparger, J. W. Lovell and J. D. Smith made the trip to attend the International meeting of the Kiwanis Club at Seattle. Coming back they traveled for three days through the wheat belt of Canada.

R. H. Banner and daughter, Mrs. Maust, of Dallas, Texas, arrived in this city last Saturday to spend a few weeks with old friends and relatives. Mr. Banner is now 81 years old, although he appears not to be over 70, and went to Texas from here 25 years ago.

The Cunningham family has moved into one of the new houses on Willow street.

Ex-Sheriff U. G. Belton Reveals Some of the Inside Maneuvers of His Party

Escapes With State Evidence

For several months there has been several efforts to break open the safes of different business concerns in this city and the officers have been careful to watch closely the movements of any suspicious characters that might pass through our midst. This watchfulness resulted in the arrest and detention of three young men who were found in the neighborhood of the Hollingsworth Lumber Co., Sunday morning about four o'clock. Officers Snow and Jessup were making their rounds of the city and while near the lumber yard they saw an old Ford drive up, stop and a man alight and walk off among the lumber piles. They followed him and when they saw him drop a pistol and a pair of work gloves they took him in custody. Going back to the car they arrested the other pair and made a search of the car. In it they found all the tools necessary to make up a burglar's outfit. The implements included a large shoulder brace for drilling steel, chisels, hammers, etc. Over the rear light of the car they had tied an old dirty cloth as a to hide the light and keep the license numbers from showing in the night.

After the search of the car and the three arrested, one officer took two of them in the police car and the other officer brought the third man in the captured Ford. Jessup was driving the police car, with the two robbers by his side and when he reached the corner of Main coming up Franklin the outside man jumped out of the car and tried to make his escape. Jessup grabbed the man sitting by him. Coming up behind was Officer Snow in the captured Ford with the third arrested man by his side. But when Mr. Snow saw the other fellow dash out of the car in front of him he too joined in the chase and captured the man trying to escape, but in the meantime the fellow Mr. Snow was bringing to the police station saw his chance, and he immediately took the steering wheel in hand and drove off during the excitement. And he made good his escape with the old Ford, and all the suspicious tools.

The two who failed to escape were given a hearing before the Recorder Tuesday and bound to court for trial. They gave their name as Charles Collins and Toney Donevant. The man who escaped was named W. S. Smith. Their homes are in Winston-Salem where officers say they have a shady reputation. They are nicely appearing young men, about 25 years old.

Joe Fowler Enters Garage Business

Joe Fowler has purchased the interest of W. E. Lindsey in the Pontiac-Oakland business in this city and in the future will be connected with J. D. McCollum in handling the agency of this General Motors product. The name of the business has been changed to the North Main Motor Co. with office and garage in the McCollum garage above the dry bridge. Mr. Lindsey is now connected with the new button factory that will soon get started here.

J. F. Shelton, of Hamlet, who was called here last week by the condition of his father Conductor W. G. Shelton which necessitated a double operation, was joined by his wife and daughter Saturday night. Friends of the family will be glad to know the elder Mr. Shelton is recovering nicely.

Mount Airy Wins Double-Header

The local fans had the thrill of seeing their team win a double header in this city the afternoon of the fourth from the strong Winston-Salem high school organization. Each team was a 7 man and the winner was Mount Airy. The game was won by a score of 10 to 0.

Laments the Loss of 2300 Republican Majority; Blames Present Leaders

Has Never Asked For Appointment as Road Superintendent; "The Same Men Who Tried To Defeat Me For Sheriff Very Likely Have Been Trying to Defeat My Appointment as Road Superintendent," Says Mr. Belton

The article in The News two weeks ago on the political situation in this county as it affects the Highway Commission created considerable interest. Since then there has been much discussion as to who should be made superintendent of the roads, following the discharge of W. L. Kirkman by the County Commissioners, which was effective last Monday. In the opposition that was said to be against the naming of Ex-Sheriff U. G. Belton to this office Mr. Belton claims to see the hand of his political enemies who he blames with the defeat of the Republican party in this county for the past three campaigns. Mr. Belton in the following article goes into detail and makes the first publication of his version of the troubles that are said to infect the ranks of the Republican party:

Mr. Belton's article follows:

"Editor Mount Airy News:

For many years, until the year 1908, the Republican party in Surry County was in good condition, having satisfactory majorities each year and increasing from one election year to another.

In the year 1908 J. M. Davis was nominated by the Republican convention for Sheriff of Surry County, having served in a satisfactory way several terms before this. Notwithstanding he was nominated by the Republicans of the county and was the nominee of the Republican convention, certain Republicans set about to defeat his election and were successful. Some of these men who turned their backs upon the Republican party that year are living. Those dead should not be mentioned but the principal ones among the men who were not willing to accept the action of the Republican convention and turned against Sheriff J. M. Davis and defeated him are Vestal Taylor, W. M. (Gum) Jackson, W. W. (Bill) Hampton, D. A. Robertson and others. After J. M. Davis was defeated in the election of 1908, especially with the efforts of those men named and others whose names are not mentioned because of the fact that they are no longer living, in the campaign of 1910, W. W. Hampton was the nominee for Clerk, Vestal Taylor for Sheriff, S. E. Marshall for the House and Wesley York for some office. In 1910 Hampton was elected Clerk of the Court by a small majority; Vestal Taylor was defeated by over 400; Marshall elected by a small majority and in spite of the fact that I, though my best friend had been politically swallowed up by these men, did the best I could to help elect the Republican ticket. I was requested to aid in the defeat of these men who in the main had defeated J. M. Davis in 1908 but I declined and supported the ticket because of my loyalty to the Republican party, though it was hard for me to forget the treatment J. M. Davis had received two years before that.

In 1912 I was a candidate for nomination for the office of Sheriff and some two weeks before the convention T. W. Davis came out as a candidate and I was informed that if he himself was not nominated the men who had defeated J. M. Davis would defeat me and that the split would probably endanger the entire Republican county ticket. In spite of the advice of my own friends, in the interest of harmony and for the success of the Republican ticket I withdrew in favor of T. W. Davis and T. W. Davis was nominated and with the remainder of the ticket was elected, his majority being about 500. In this campaign I went from township to township begging my friends and the friends of J. M. Davis (J. M. Davis having died in the fall of 1911) to elect T. W. Davis and the Republican ticket. I think it should be stated that T. W. Davis and the Republican ticket were elected by a majority of 2300 votes.

to succeed himself, was re-elected by a large majority. At the same time J. A. Jackson was elected Clerk of the Superior Court and in this campaign too I gave my time and my means to the Republican ticket.

In 1916, after T. W. Davis had served two terms as Sheriff, I sought and received the nomination for Sheriff of Surry County and was elected. In 1918 I was re-nominated and ran against R. C. Llewellyn, a resident of Dobson township and a very popular man, was guaranteed, as I found out afterwards, that if he would run certain Republicans, including those I had helped to nominate and elect, would see to it that he, Llewellyn, was elected.

In that campaign J. A. Jackson was a nominee for re-election to the office of Clerk. I who had been elected two years before by a majority of 905, was now running against probably the strongest candidate in the county. I had worked in every election since I was twenty-one years old, had seen my best friend defeated with the help of professed Republicans but continued to work for the ticket and withdrew in 1912 in the interest of harmony in the Republican party and yet in 1918 I found that members of my own party and those that I thought were my friends were seeking to defeat me in my election in 1918. I knew that Dobson township was a large township; that R. C. Llewellyn was a resident of that township and I planned to go into Dobson township for the purpose of looking after the vote there. But in talking over this with J. A. Jackson, who was Clerk of the Court at the time, and a candidate for re-election, I was assured by J. A. Jackson that he himself would take care of me in Dobson township and asked me to take care of him in Mount Airy, where W. D. Haynes, a candidate against Jackson lived. I took care of the Clerk in Mount Airy township but a tremendous vote was registered against me in Dobson township and I found that J. A. Jackson had remained in his office practically the entire day on election day at Dobson and rendered no service whatever to the candidate for Sheriff. Notwithstanding this and the opposition of men who had previously fought J. M. Davis, I was elected again Sheriff of the county but by a reduced majority, being elected by 295 and the remainder of the ticket by 1000 to 1200. During my first and second years of office the then Clerk had undertaken to run the Sheriff's office and finding that he could not do so, that he could not name jurors and do other things called for in the Sheriff's office or induce me to grant him other privileges, turned against me and was willing for me to be defeated in the election.

In 1920 Warren G. Harding was elected President of the United States. There was only one appointment that I asked for friends and that was for the appointment of Wright Ashburn as Prohibition Enforcement officer. Others of the leaders in Surry County were for different men and some of these received appointments but Ashburn also received his. Ashburn served until he resigned, filling the office for several years and his record is without a blot. In this year 1920 J. A. Jackson started out for Tom Samuels as Republican nominee for Sheriff and finally as he thought, got me to help nominate Samuels. I did work for Samuels and continued to work for him until he was defeated, but about two weeks before the convention Jackson informed me that Samuels would not do and that he was going to work against him. There were other nominees—W. L. Albright and A. L. Ashburn—but Samuels won the nomination with a majority of 1000 votes.