

# The Mount Airy News

ONE SECTION  
10 PAGES

A Weekly Journal of Authentic News Devoted to the Best Interest of the Community

ESTABLISHED IN 1889

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA JANUARY 31st, 1929.

\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

## Criminal Court At Dobson Next Week

Judge Hoyt Sink, one of the youngest judges to sit on the bench in this state, will hold a one week term of criminal court at Dobson beginning next Monday. Judge Sink is from Lexington and for a time was pardon commissioner under Gov. McLean.

The court has a heavy docket and a large part of it will have to go over to the April term. There are in jail alone 33 defendants awaiting trial, and these necessarily will be disposed of first in order to relieve the county of the expense of boarding them. As it is now the county is paying close to \$25 a day for boarding them. The jailer gets a straight price of 35 cents a meal for all prisoners he feeds. The docket has no cases of great importance.

## Sam Stoltz, 20 Yrs., Takes His Life

Sam Stoltz, 20 years old, committed suicide last Sunday afternoon at his home in the Ararat section between this city and Pilot Mountain, by shooting a load of shot into his abdomen with a shot gun. He was in the company of some friends at the time and they tried to stop him when they earned that he was in the act of taking his life, but they did not reach him in time to stop the firing of the gun. He was brought to Martin Memorial hospital in an effort to save his life but he died in a few hours from the wound.

The funeral and burial services were held at White Plains Tuesday afternoon. No cause for his rash act is known, although his friends suspected that he was brooding over a criminal charge of theft that had been lodged against him some weeks ago. At that time he was suspected of being implicated of a store robbery at Ararat and was held in jail for a few days and later released when the officers failed to connect him with the crime.

## Painfully Injured By Kick of A Mule

Zeb Hatcher, local hardware merchant, is nursing a fractured cheek bone and a badly bruised face this week because of a kick on the side of his face from a mule's foot.

For some time Mr. Hatcher had it in mind to purchase a pair of mules for his farm down at Brim and Sunday morning he was visiting a man's barn lot over at Bannertown and was told of the good qualities of a pair that were in the stable. Tom Hatcher put a halter on one of them and brought him out and Zeb went into the stall to halter the other one. The mule seemed to be frightened at his approach and wheeled around and kicked him on the side of the face. He was painfully hurt and at once carried to the hospital where it was found that he had a fracture of the cheek bone.

## Boxwood Thieves Go to County Jail

The two men, Brady Ladd and Pleas Jenkins, who spent last week in the city prison on the charge of stealing boxwood from the farm of John Simpson, had a hearing before Esquire Moore last Monday and plead guilty to the charge and went to jail in default of bond for their appearance at the next term of Surry Superior court.

The boxwood, the property of Fred L. Johnson, of this city was growing in nice rows by the side of a branch where Mr. Simpson had formerly had a tobacco plant bed. In this damp spot the boxwood cuttings were planted to take root, later to be transplanted in a field to grow into marketable condition. To make the cuttings grow they are protected from the sun and the extreme cold by a semi-shelter made of plaster lath laid on wire stretched a foot above the plants, the lath laid an inch apart. With this semi-shelter they grow and thrive. To get at the plants the men had to remove the lath. In their plea of guilty they told the court that they found the boxwood growing by the branch and supposed it to be a wild growth, the property of no one and of no value, so they took what they could sell and thought nothing of it. They are known to have realized as much as a hundred dollars for what they sold, and fresh reports keep coming in as to the extent of the business they were doing.

## Dr. John T. Burrus Moved To S. C.

High Point, Jan. 29.—Dr. John T. Burrus, prominent physician and surgeon who has been critically ill with pneumonia, was transferred from the High Point hospital today to Spartanburg, S. C., where he will rest in either the Mary Black hospital or in the home of Dr. Hugh Slack, his attending physician.

## Where the Hoovers Will Worship



The Orthodox Friends' meeting house at Irving and Thirteenth streets N. W., Washington, where Mr. and Mrs. Hoover will attend services during their occupancy of the White House.

## Austin Greenwood Dies From Injury

Austin Greenwood, second victim of the Fancy Gap automobile accident, wherein his friend, Haywood Mathis, was instantly killed, died in Martin Hospital Saturday after lingering for a week with a badly fractured skull. A large number of friends attended the funeral of the young man held at Epworth Methodist church, six miles north of this city, Sunday afternoon.

He and the Mathis boy were struck Sunday night a week ago by a car driven by Duane Ward, young man of Galax, Va. The driver of the car will be given a hearing in the Recorder's court on Feb. 11th, although investigation made of the accident class it as unavoidable.

## Religious Canvass Sunday Afternoon

Complete preparations have been made for the religious canvass to be held Sunday afternoon, Feb. 3rd.

An enthusiastic meeting of the workers was held in the Central Methodist Church, Wednesday evening at seven thirty. The members of the various churches responded so heartily to the call for volunteers that there were more present than were needed.

At this meeting all the details of the canvass were carefully presented, and at the conclusion of the meeting, the teams were given their assignments and their cards.

The committee would like to make this public appeal to the people of Mount Airy, asking them to stay at home Sunday afternoon until the canvassers have been to your home and secured the information they need. If the citizens of Mount Airy will cooperate to this extent, then a worthwhile census will be secured.

## Hospital News

Miss Nona Clayton, of Mountain Park, had an operation Wednesday for the removal of her tonsils.

J. B. Hutchens, of Siloam is suffering with a badly cut foot the injury was sustained with an axe.

J. W. Brinkley, of route 6 had an operation for acute appendicitis Tuesday.

Howard Williamson, 14 year old son of W. E. Williamson of route 4 is recovering from injuries received when his car turned over. The lads injuries are not serious.

Mrs. J. D. Klutt has returned to her home after having a tonsil operation the first of the week.

Mrs. W. M. Heckard, wife of the pastor of the Rockford Street Methodist Church, is doing nicely after an operation performed Monday.

Howard Miller, of Siloam, had an operation for acute appendicitis Monday.

Cordelia Gates daughter of William Gates, of The Hollow, Va., is a pleurisy patient.

Mrs. W. F. Carter, Sr., left the hospital Wednesday morning after spending a few days for treatment.

Mrs. T. E. Ashby is improving nicely and will probably return home the latter part of the week.

Frank Chappell, who suffered a fractured skull several weeks ago when the car bearing Valentine Ott to the hospital collided with Chappell's car and he was thrown against a telephone pole, is rapidly recovering and will be able to leave the hospital in a few days.

## Acorn Manager Buying Spring Goods

F. S. McGee, district manager for the Acorn Stores, is spending this week on the northern markets making purchases for the local Acorn store. The goods now arriving include the newest fashions in dresses, clothing and piece goods.

## Swapped Ford For Liquor—Now Walks

All right, this liquor law is a thing that many are trying their best to beat, and no doubt many are getting much satisfaction in playing the game of tag with the officers. There is something in human nature in the way of a defiant spirit that prompts many to go and do the very thing that is forbidden. A sort of perversity, a defiant attitude that gets satisfaction in overcoming any kind of restraint. That is what the law is—a restraining influence, made to keep a fellow from doing the things he would like to do.

One day last week somebody whispered into the ear of officer Edwards, had five gallons of liquor at his home. Now Mr. Creed is something of a Sherlock Holmes when it comes to ferreting out the ways of the breaker of the law. Let him get on a cold trail and if it is humanly possible he will follow it to the end and get his man. In this case officer Creed went to the home of the suspected citizen and looked about in a quiet way. It had just rained and the officer observed that a man had walked away from the house out through the soft land. That was enough. At once he was interested.

A good officer lets no chance pass up but sees importance in the smallest things connected with a case. That track out through the soft ground carried the officer straight to a place some distance from the house, and there was fresh dirt in was plain as the nose on your face where several fruit jars had been buried and recently taken from the ground, leaving their imprint in the dirt so plain that a blind man would have known that they had been buried there and recently removed. Then the tracks pointed directly back to the house. All this was as easy as taking candy from a baby. Once in the house the officer looked about and Sherlock Holmes like, spied a bit of dirt—fresh mud dirt, on the foot board of the bed, and closer observation showed that a man had recently placed his muddy foot exactly at that point on the bed. To do that the man could reach up to the ceiling. Naturally the officer got up on the footboard just as he suspected the man had done, and from that perch he could examine the ceiling of the room. In no time he had located a loose board and when it was removed there were several fruit jars hidden away and as much as one and a half gallons of liquor in them. Of course that meant that the man of the house, Mr. Edwards must answer to the court for possession.

In the Recorder's court Monday Mr. Edwards went on the stand in his own defense and told a straight story of how he had recently traded his old Ford car for five gallons of whiskey and was keeping it for his own personal use. He had a friend to whom he had made a present of three gallons, and what was not there when the officer made the find, he had himself consumed. The man told a story that the court believed and he was let go with a fine of \$15 and the cost.

## Surry County Loses An Aged Citizen

Miss Elizabeth Frances, aged 95 years 7 months and 3 days passed away Wednesday of last week at the home of her niece, Mrs. J. O. Gibbons at Ararat. Miss Frances was born and reared in Stokes county and came to Surry to make her home about 35 years ago. For the past twenty-one years she has made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons. The funeral was conducted from Stony Creek Church by Elder Fress Stone and the remains laid to rest beside those of her brother in the cemetery of the church.

Rev. C. A. Morrison and Rev. E. M. Wollman made a trip to Danville, Va., on business the first of the week.

## RELIEF FOR THE FARMER

There is no getting away from the fact that the demand for aid in some way to the cause of agriculture is a reasonable demand and one for which no wise man has yet found an answer. The congress has wrestled with the question for years and our own state has gone as far as it can in an effort to aid the farmer. One idea in the minds of many is something in the nature of a fixing of prices and thus assure the farmer fair returns for his labor. No way has yet been found to fix prices in a way to get this enacted into law. The truth is, no way has been found to aid the farmer further than in the way of education along lines that make farming more profitable. And it may be that the real help to the farmer will come in this way. When the farmer is able to get a larger yield from his land and produce a variety of marketable products then he will be able to get better returns for his labor.

It seems to us that many act as if they yet fail to comprehend that the standards of living have so changed that it costs much more to live now than it did a few years ago. This change in the cost of living calls for much more money than was necessary a few years ago and how to raise this extra money is the big question. We talked with a farmer a few days ago along this line and he said that he was living in a way that after producing his own meal and meat and general farm supplies for stock and family, he yet needed fifteen hundred dollars, we suppose to pay his taxes, buy gas and oil for his automobile and the hundred and one other things that must be paid for in these modern times.

## NOW GETTING LITTLE MONEY.

There are farmers by the thousand in this part of the state who produce on their farms just about what they were able to produce ten years ago. They grow about four acres of tobacco, harvest fifty bushels of wheat and two hundred of corn. In addition to all this they have their garden and truck patches and sell a few eggs. They get almost nothing for milk and butter and sales from the poultry yard. Figure it all up and a farmer of this type will not get cash to the amount of more than five or six hundred dollars for all that he sells off his farm.

Now this same farmer owns an automobile, has the doctor to come to his home occasionally, buys his shoes and clothing, and in many ways lives as do those about him. We mean, he spends a little now and then for soft drinks, drives about the country on Sunday in his car, takes in a show or moving picture now and then, and in one way and another finds demands made on him for cash. Just how he manages to get along with what cash he gets from his sale of farm products it would be hard to say.

There is a silver lining to many clouds and we are not trying to leave the impression that farmers as a rule, are in a bad way. Many of them are as independent as a reasonable man should want to be. They have all that is necessary to a comfortable living, they are securing all the things that go to make for comfort and happiness, they are educating their children and laying by something for old age.

## FARMERS HAVE HOPEFUL VIEW.

And while all this is true there are hundreds of farmers who are living in despair of ever being able to hold on to their land and live. Much land has been inherited and a man balks at seeing it pass out of his hands. In many instances he has been reared on it, has never lived elsewhere. But the land is poor and he is not able to get his living from it now. His tenants have moved to the town and secured work in the factory and left his fields idle to grow up in broomedge. He has had to place a mortgage on the land and each year the debt grows larger. This is no overdrawn picture. Every informed citizen knows that there are literally hundreds of farmers in exactly this condition all about us. There are hundreds of farms here in Surry that if put up and sold today would not bring the amount of the mortgage, and yet the owner is living in hopes of some day striking a streak of luck and paying off his debt and save his home.

## THE AID OF STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

There may be some other way, but up to this time the only way that has been found to a solution of all this is to do a better and more profitable kind of farming. It is to bring all this about that has caused our government to adopt the plan of educating the farmers by way of the county agents. These agents are trained men who can speak with authority on all subjects that interest the farmer and they have the aid of experts that are sent out from time to time by the department of agriculture. Every farmer in the county can secure the advice of a trained man from Raleigh or Washington if he will ask for his services. Any farmer can secure a visit to his land by one of these experts who will come and advise him how to lay off his fields, plan his crops for rotation, analyse his soil and give him all the aid that he needs to put his business on a paying and satisfactory basis. A county that fails to avail itself of all this in these times of high living and high cost of all that is essential to happiness, is standing in its own light. Counties that refuse to cooperate in this educational work are contributing to the aid of other counties, for the money has been appropriated for this work and is used where it is demanded. Our own county of Surry has not had an agent for much of the time in recent years, but Forsyth county has had two agents. You see if we fail to ask for an agent that makes it possible for some other county to secure the funds that would have come to our county. We can take this money or leave it, but to leave it simply means that some other county gets it. For don't forget that all of the appropriation will be spent, so great is the demand for the services of agents.

## COUNTIES CAN COOPERATE.

Some farmer writing in a letter in this newspaper last week suggested that every farmer interested in this work go to Dobson on next first Monday and be there to petition in person for a continuance of the farm demonstration work. That appeals to us as a right idea. The men who pass on this question are the county commissioners. These commissioners are successful business men and they are forever faced with the question of keeping the taxes at the lowest possible rate, but they are wise enough to know that the welfare of the people and the wishes of intelligent taxpayers must always be considered. They will continue this work if they can be made to see that it is the will of the people. If a hundred intelligent farmers will go before the commissioners and tell them that they will use the services of the county agent and cooperate with him in their farm work we would expect that the work will be continued. Our commissioners will be found to be ready to aid if they can be shown that by spending the money the interests of the farming class will be helped.

## Penny Store Opens In City Feb. 28th

The Fulton building on Main Street which has been undergoing extensive remodeling the past two months is about completed and ready for occupancy by the J. C. Penny Co.

Mr. S. H. Locks, of Winston-Salem, will be manager for the new store and will move his family here Friday and at once begin getting the stocks arranged for the opening of the store on Feb. 28th. Mr. Locks will occupy the new bungalow on West Poplar street.

## Birthday Dinner For Chief Lawrence

J. F. Hough, local representative of the Winston-Salem papers gave a birthday dinner Saturday night complimenting Chief-of-Police R. E. Lawrence who reached his thirty-seventh milestone. The dinner was served in the city hall at 6:30 o'clock by Johnson's Cafe and speeches were made by E. H. Lovelley, Judge of Recorder's Court and G. K. Snow, Atty. These present were Mayor Sykes, the members of the board of commissioners, the members of the police force and the fire department.

## More Details of Burkhart Murder

Widow of Victim Gives Full Account of Brutal Shooting; Officers on Trail of One, Two Held in Jail

Danbury, Jan. 28.—Approximately 20 Stokes County officers scoured the northern section of the county today in an effort to apprehend Otis Campbell, wanted on a charge of fatally shooting Nettie Burkhart, but the alleged murderer obtained to evade capture. A house-to-house canvass was made of that section, Sheriff Taylor stated tonight, but no trace of Campbell was found.

Sheriff Taylor stated that Louis Sheppard, held as an accessory to the crime, is again in the Stokes jail. Sheppard was released under bond a day or so ago but the bond was ordered withdrawn today. Glenn Rhodes, also held as an accessory has been held without bond since his capture last week.

The suit case alleged to have been taken from Mr. Burkhart on the night of the shooting was found today near the home of Sheppard, Sheriff Taylor stated.

A statement was received today from Mrs. Burkhart relative to the incidents preceding and following the fatal shooting.

The statement follows: Ethel Burkhart makes the following statement relative to the killing of Nettie Burkhart:

"We went to Price in Rockingham County on a visit; were returning home. A little before Christmas we had sold our house and land near the North Carolina Granite Corporation Quarries. On the night of January 2nd, or the morning of the 24th we stopped in Stokes County near Smith Town; had just built up a fire when two men, Otis Campbell and ——— Sheppard came up to where we were; they had liquor and were drinking. They sat down by the fire and tried to make my husband take some liquor; he finally took one drink and they left. Campbell and Sheppard came back a second time and left; then they came back a third time with Rhodes. They had a shotgun, fired one shot before they got to us and holloed. We started to leave. They asked my husband where we lived; asked how much we got for our place and he told them. They wanted to know how much money he had in his pocket. Sheppard did most of the talking, he tried to get up a .45 and my husband tried to keep out of it. We started off, Sheppard took my suit case and in the scuffle sprained my wrist or hand; Campbell had the gun. He fired, shot my husband and Campbell ran and my husband grabbed the gun and shot the other barrel at him. Rhodes and Sheppard were arrested and I identified them at Stuart. They admitted being there but denied the liquor and denied taking my suit case. Sheppard left in a car and Campbell and Rhodes ran through the woods. I went to find some one to look after my husband, found Mr. Tucker, who with his son, carried me and my husband to Stuart to the hospital. Campbell had the gun and they said to my husband 'hold up your hands and give up your money.' I got between my husband and them and while Sheppard was taking my suitcase, Campbell shot my husband. Sheppard got in the car with the suit case and left and the other two ran through the woods. Before the shooting they asked my husband if he had a gun and what sort of knife he had. He had no gun and only a little old knife. I went to Mr. Tucker's and he and his son went with us to the hospital at Stuart. My husband died about six o'clock Thursday morning."

## Shelton Accident Case Compromised

In the Guilford Superior Court this morning the criminal action that was pending against Claude A. Shelton, former resident of this city but now of Biler City, was compromised by Mr. Shelton paying the cost of the court action and \$1,000 in money to the parents of the girl who was killed in the automobile collision several months ago between the cars of Mr. Shelton and the young girl.

The accident occurred on the main highway of Guilford County when the girl drove out of a side road into the main road. Mr. Shelton was driving along the road and struck the car before he saw it coming into the highway. The girl driver of the car was thrown to the paved road and sustained a fractured skull resulting in sudden death. Other occupants of the cars escaped injury.

Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Davis, Mrs. W. C. Jackson, Miss Peggy Jackson and home guest Miss Morgan of Elizabeth, W. Va., spent Wednesday afternoon and evening in Winston-Salem where they attended the wedding ceremony and program of the new Carolina Theatre.