

Early Days of Sandhill Citizen Recalled by \$1.00 a Day Reporter

Only A. S. Ruggles and Bion Butler Left of Editor M. B. Clarke's Original Staff

By Bion H. Butler

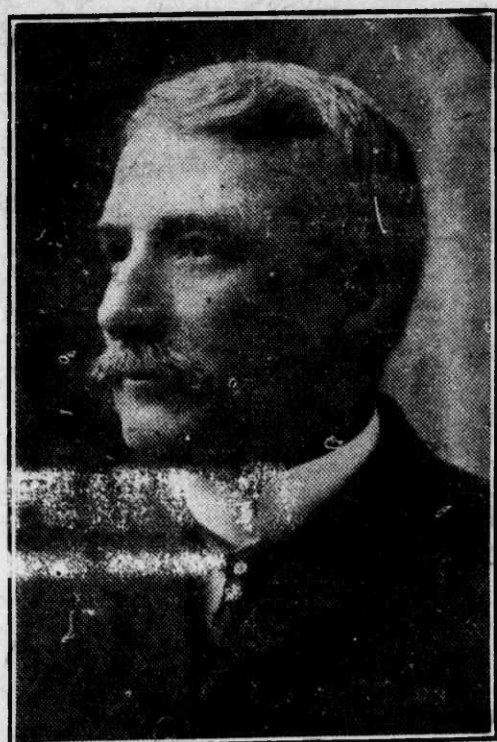
The removal of the name of Foss & Morris from the top of the Citizen at Southern Pines closes a page of local history that has been interesting. Foss & Morris was a partnership that succeeded Foss & Stradley, in which Dr. H. E. Foss was the factor that came more directly in contact with the people, for Stradley was a reserved fellow who devoted his efforts to the mechanical oversight of the institution, a likeable chap, a man of friends. Foss came to the Sandhills years ago from Philadelphia, where he had been the head of one of the foremost churches. Stradley was also from Philadelphia, both coming to Southern Pines as invalids.

In due season they came into possession of the paper, then called the Tourist, and they made excellent use of it during their life time. Foss became mayor of Southern Pines and added materially to the standing of the village at the time when it was changing from the short pants of childhood to the knickers of the present day. Stradley was one of the old time printers, and he set up a standard for good printing, although the Tourist had gained a reputation in that direction before he reached proprietorship. For Stradley had been in the employ of the Tourist as a printer before coming to ownership.

Established in 1903

The paper was established by M. B. Clarke in 1903. Clarke was a tourist printer, who had wandered over much of the earth and one of the most eccentric geniuses who ever came this way. He was the son of old Capt. A. M. Clarke, who when mustered out of the army in 1865 with the rank of captain, had not yet reached his twenty-first birthday. Young Clarke knew newspapers and he had a dream of a paper in Southern Pines that would wake things. He started the Bulletin, later changing the name to the Tourist and inducing a number of local folks to put some money in a corporation that made the Bulletin a live one for the time. Clarke had his arrangements made when I came to Southern Pines in 1903 and as I was building my house on the farm I lived in the village and I was drafted to the Bulletin force in my spare time. Stradley was then a printer in the shop, and he knew how to make a nice looking sheet. So did Clarke. A. S. Ruggles was another member of the force, and with an old press from the Colt Arms factory, a good one in its day, but rather an aggravating machine when Ruggles operated it, he got results in printing it that have never been surpassed. Book paper was used, and there commenced the high class style of newspaper printing that has been common in this section ever since. He had a genius by the name of Whitehouse on the editorial force, and a young woman whose name I have forgotten, but she was an actor in picking up social stuff and community chat. Patrick had built the Piney Woods Inn and Charlie St. John had opened

Former Editor



THE LATE JOSEPH F. MORRIS

It. The town with Clarke at the head of the movement brought the government down from Raleigh to a dinner and reception, and we had the world gathered there about the table. The Bulletin arranged with St. John for a list of the place cards, and printed a story about the affair, with a diagram of the table and the location of the guests, and having secured a synopsis of the governor's talk, was able as the dinner was winding up to deliver to the guests before they left the table a story of the whole affair, with their names and the complete event. Ruggles and Stradley and Whitehouse covered themselves with glory that day and Milt Clarke was a hero among newspaper workers in this part of the state for a time. Ultimately he felt the move of the wandering foot and he turned the paper over to the stock company and drifted north, to fall in with Senator Moses of New Hampshire and ultimately drift with him to Washington where for years he was in the government employ. Ruggles and I are left of the early gang.

After Clarke left a Mr. Irwin, newspaper man and theatrical man, down here for his health, took the paper for the corporation and carried it on a while in vigorous style, and then Foss & Stradley arranged for its management, and successfully operated it until Stradley died. Mr. Morris, a newspaper man from New Jersey, secured the Stradley interests, prominent place in its production. The rest is modern history.

We were a queer aggregation. My memory says Whitehouse was from Detroit, but I am not sure. He received salary enough to pay his board which at that period did not run high. Stradley, one of the most finished printers I ever knew, got about the same figure, and worked when he felt like it, but he was interested in working nearly all the time. I received the generous sum of a dollar a day. The young woman, received hard money, and earned it. Ruggles did not get rich on his salary. But we had a lot of fun and the people received the paper with a cordiality that was encouraging.

1,000 Foot Well "Comes Across" to Save Drillers 100 Per Cent Record

Dowdy & Butler Find Water Aplenty in Hole They Abandoned Some Two Years Ago

Well drilling is a rather interesting industry. During the spring Dowdy & Butler were engaged to drill a well on the McKinney estate near Hoffman. They sunk a six inch hole about 200 feet, with little success as far as finding water was concerned, for the ground penetrated appeared to be dry. Mr. McPherson suggested moving to another location close by, but Dowdy & Butler told Mr. McPherson and Mr. McKinney that they would try another trick. They brought down a bigger machine, the one that drilled the 2,400 feet hole at Havelock, near New Bern, in the search for oil some time ago, and they started a hole 22 inches in diameter. They went down with that rig almost 200 feet and finally they cut into an abundance of water and today the flow is about 45 gallons a minute. Curiously the first well had started to deliver water to the pump now, although in insignificant quantity since the big one has overshadowed it. This is a sufficient supply for a town of moderate size.

Mr. McKinney has now ordered another deep well at the lake on his property less than a mile distant.

Two or three years ago this concern drilled a well up at the coal mines in Chatham county. They had

To Sing on Air

Miss La Nilta Wimberley of Aberdeen on WPTF Program Next Wednesday

Miss La Nilta Wimberley, of Aberdeen will sing over Radio Station WPTF next Wednesday, September 2 from 2 to 2:15. One of the numbers will be "Bonnie Heather," which Miss Wimberley sang some time ago and dedicated to the memory of the late J. McN. Johnson.

drilled other wells in that section and found plenty of water within two or three hundred feet. But they drove the well in question down into the rock without effect. They kept on until they were over a thousand feet below the surface, dry all the way, and the well was abandoned. Not long ago it was noticed that the well had water. A small pump was rigged up and a good supply of water was found in the hole. Then a big steam pump was erected, and the well seems to be abundantly filled with water, a well over a thousand feet deep, in solid rock all the way.

It was this same concern that drilled the well at the Mountain plant in Aberdeen and found no water down to over 500 feet. They brought in from a

nitro-glycerine factory in Kentucky a hundred quarts of nitro-glycerine and exploded it at the bottom of the hole, the only shot of nitro-glycerine, so far as The Pilot is aware, ever fired in central North Carolina. The belt of country on each side of the Seaboard in this part of the state is very complicated geologically, and only the drill can tell what is below. Dowdy & Butler keep accurate well logs of every hole they drill, and their glass bottles with sample sands are interesting. They bring up shells from many hundreds of feet below the surface and some fossils from trees that are as perfect as wood cut from a tree today except that they are hardened and show the effect of age.

They have three machines running in this section now on deep wells. The change in the rain fall is a factor in their work. A few years ago they drilled a well, and found a little water. The man they drilled for thought they had enough, but they advised to go deeper as the small amount in the dry season looked as if it would soon pump out entirely. They went deeper into ground without a sign of water, and finally out into moist earth below. The man said that was plenty of water, and they stopped there. The next year was a dry one, and they were called in to drill much deeper, and found water again at the lower level. The ground in the past fifteen years has seen the water level ground fall many feet below its level previous to that. But the wells drilled in the dry periods have water now for sure, although Dowdy & Butler say that since the 1,000-foot well at the mines filled up they have a record of no dry holes in their career.

Enrollment on Wane in Local High Schools

Moore County Shows Decrease of 6.3 Per Cent in the Last Five Years

Enrollment of white children in the high schools of North Carolina increased 61.3 per cent in the rural and 36.7 per cent in the charter schools, or a state-wide increase of 51.3 per cent, in the five-year period from 1924-25 to 1929-30, it is shown in a table in "State School Facts," monthly publication of State Superintendent A. T. Allen.

White enrollment increased from 67,088 to 101,485 in all high schools, the rural enrollment increasing from 39,832 to 64,232 and the charter school enrollment from 27,254 to 37,254 in the five-year period, the table shows.

Negro enrollment in all State high schools increased 129.3 per cent in that period, or from 6,507 to 14,924, the rural schools showing an increase from 1,237 to 4,813, or 289.1 per cent, while the charter schools showed an increase from 5,270 to 15,924, or 191.9 per cent.

Moore county, the report shows decreased 6.3 per cent in white high school enrollment in the five-year year period, or from 389 to 366. On the total enrollment, 11.7 per cent of the pupils were in high school, the county taking 79th place among the 100 counties. In 1930 this county graduated 44 white pupils from the high school.

ABERDEEN VOTES TO BACK TOBACCO MARKET 100%

(Continued from Page 1)

divided into three tobacco belts, a majority of the markets will be open when the new bright belt starts its sales.

Seven border belt markets have been open two weeks and 17 old bright belt markets, including Aberdeen, will open on September 22.

The 18 markets in the New Bright Belt market which will start sales next week are Wilson, Goldsboro, Greenville, Farmville, Rocky Mount, Williamston, Robersonville, Kinston, Smithfield, Ahsoskie, Enfield, Tarboro, Wallace, New Bern, Windsor, Wendell, Zebulon and Washington.

Wilson, the largest tobacco market in the world, has more warehouses than any other market. Last year nine operated there to sell 77,788,672 pounds of producers tobacco. In addition dealers' resales of the weed totaled 4,232,571 and total season sales were reported as 85,884,616 pounds.

All markets of the new bright belt reported producers' sales last season of 205,148,313 pounds, compared to producers' sales in 1929 of about 260,000,000 pounds.

The average price for tobacco sold on the new bright belt last season was about \$13.41 per hundred pounds, compared with a 1929-30 average of about \$18.00 per hundred.

Mrs. William Page has returned to her home on Maine avenue, Southern Pines, from the Moore County Hospital following her recovery from a tonsil operation.

Bus Transportation New County Problem

Must Transport Nine Per Cent More Pupils for 48 Per Cent Less Money

The problem which puzzled the Moore County Board of Education most in making up the school budget for the ensuing year was how to transport 9 per cent more rural children to school in 1931-32 for 48 per cent less money than was used for this purpose in 1930-31. The State Board of Equalization has allowed, under the new school law, \$12,894.00 for the transportation of 1,775 children to the rural schools of the county for the year 1931-32, which is exactly \$11,633.04 less than the expenditure of \$24,617.04 for the transportation of only 1,623 children to the same schools last year.

The Board of Education has decided that it can cut transportation cost in the county approximately 8 per cent and at the same time absorb an anticipated increase of 9 per cent in the number of children to be transported next year. This will make a total per capita reduction of about 17 per cent in the cost of transporting rural children next year as compared with last year. The difference between the estimated cost of \$22,664.00 next year and the State allowance of \$12,984.00 is \$9,680.00, which will necessarily come from county funds.

County officials are now busy on plans for transporting the pupils at a minimum cost, and are considering a five-year plan which involves the purchase and maintenance of county-owned busses.

You Can Fish Now

If You Have \$1 for Permit, \$1 per Trip and \$1 for a Boat

You can now fish in the Southern Pines City Reservoir. That is, if you have the price. It is going to cost a dollar to get a permit, and then each time you fish you pay a dollar on showing your permit, and another dollar for use of a boat. Of course if you fish two in a boat you can split that dollar two ways.

Non-residents will not be permitted to fish unless accompanied by a resident.

ROCKINGHAM GOLFERS BEAT SOUTHERN PINES

With their course in splendid condition, Rockingham golfers Wednesday afternoon redeemed their defeat of two weeks ago, beating the Southern Pines team by a score of 13 to 5.

While the greens were fast no contestant scored under 80, the only spectacular feature being the contest between Woodward and Dr. Daniels playing Pittman and Smith, the match running to 22 holes for a decision of 1-2 point to Southern Pines and 2 1-2 to Rockingham. Other scores were Jordan and Clarke, S. P.—1 1-2, Walter and Cole, R.—1 1-2; Shepard and Montgomery, S. P.—0; Dix and Braswell, R.—3; Davis, father and son for S. P.—0; Hardison and Smith, R. 3; Malcolm Grover and Johnson, S. P.—3; Culbertson and Newell, R.—0; Mills and Maitland Grover, S. P.—0; Phillips and Johnson, R.—3.

Vass-Lakeview School To Open September 8

John McCrummen of West End and Most of Last Year's Faculty To Return

The Vass-Lakeview School will open on Tuesday, September 8, for the fall term. John McCrummen of West End, under whose management the school has gone forward most satisfactorily during the past four years, will again be in charge, and last year's faculty, with the exception of five members, will return. There will be a total of fourteen teachers, and approximately the same number of pupils as were enrolled last year.

Mr. McCrummen has called a meeting of his teachers for 4:00 o'clock Monday afternoon, September 7, at the school building at which time final plans for the beginning of the school year will be made. Patrons and friends are invited to be present for the opening exercises at 8:45 Tuesday morning.

The list of teachers is as follows: John McCrummen, principal; A. M. Calhoun, Laurinburg, English and boys' athletics; Miss Alberta Monroe, West End, history and mathematics; R. L. Mayfield, agriculture; Miss Neolia McCrummen, West End, 7th grade; Miss Lena Mae Palmer, Sanford, 6th grade; Miss Vera Newton, McColl, S. C., 5th grade and girls' athletics; Miss Lois Buchanan, Broadway, 4th grade; Miss Elizabeth Wood, Newton, 3rd and 4th grades; Miss Beulah McLean, Raeford, 3rd grade; Miss Bessie Cameron, Cameron, 2nd grade; Miss Jessie Mae Sugg, Ellerbe, 1st grade; Miss Ruth McNeill, Vass, 1st and 2nd grades; Miss Martha McKay, Buie's Creek, piano and public school music.

HOLD YOUR HORSES!

Don't hitch 'em up to the Tobacco wagon yet!

THE Aberdeen Market

OPENS

Tues., Sept. 22

Hold your Tobacco for ABERDEEN

and mix up a good time with High Prices