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SPLENDID OUTLOOK FOR MARTIN COUNTY TOBACCO CROP

The Opening of The Martin County Tobacco Market on August 18th—A Large Number of The Farmers Have Fine Crops—Prospects Good for Prices—Warehouse Men Making Big Plans For Large Sales.

The tobacco markets of Martin County will open two weeks earlier this year than last, as the Board of Trade has decided on August 18th, which will give many of the farmers the opportunity to bring in first primings. The outlook for a late and imperfect crop at the beginning of the spring, has been dispelled, as the crop has made a marvelous stride to perfection within the past month. Farmers are rapidly curing and there have been no rains to produce wet leaves to hinder the drying in the barns. Many of the oldest and best tobacco raisers claim to have one of the most promising crops they have ever had in their fields. A ride through the immediate section of Williamston, will give one an adequate idea as to the outlook. Crops of cotton, corn, tobacco and peanuts compare with those of any previous year taken as a whole.

Careful preparation for the handling of the weed has been made by the warehouse on the Williamston market. James G. Staton and J. W. Hight will operate the Dixie, and N. D. Young, the Roanoke.

Last year this market sold over three millions of pounds, and expects to sell five millions this season. Staton and Hight are veterans in the business, and furnish every convenience to the farmer who brings a load to them. There will be extra storage room, and plenty of graders to accommodate those who do not desire to grade at home.

N. D. Young is not unknown to the people of the county, as he was on the Robersonville market for several years. For the past few years he has been on the Washington market. He combines knowledge of the leaf with cleverness in dealing with his farmer friends. There will be a full corps of workers at both warehouses, and the interest of the farmers will be protected to the limit. The strength of the Williamston market will be increased to that degree that counts in the pockets of the raisers.

The American, Export Leaf Co., Imperial and all the independent buyers will be on the Williamston market to take the weed at the best prices, which will be held up by the warehousemen. Williamston's reputation for high prices will be maintained this year at the Roanoke and Dixie.

The Farmers Warehouse and the Taylor Warehouse at Robersonville will be under splendid management this season, the former to be managed by R. E. Grimes, Marion Green and Henry K. Green, and the latter by R. A. Bailey and W. H. Adkins. All of these tobacco men will give a square deal to every man who carries a pound to them. For strength and genuine interest in the farmer's welfare, watch the markets of Williamston and Robersonville in the season of 1915.

Remember the opening day on August 18th, 1915, and attend the sales whether you bring a pound or not. The market invites your inspection every day in the season.

The American Racer

The brilliant racing record of the Maxwell came to a scintillating climax in the opening race of the year over Chicago's million dollar speedway, June 26, when Eddie Rickenbacher, in the Maxwell car, No. 7, led home all other American contenders, winning third prize and only second in the rear of Resta and Porporato, foreign drivers, in cars which were developed by many years of experience in Europe.

Back of Rickenbacher finished all three members of the Stuntz team. Back of him too were three Sunbeams, two Peugeot, three Duesenbergs, the ex-international champion Delage, and a host of others of the fastest field, which ever faced a starter.

In this, the most important race of the year in the world, Rickenbacher's Maxwell traveled the five hundred miles in five hours, 11 minutes, 50-23 seconds—an average of 96.32 miles per hour—more than six miles an hour faster than Depalma's Mercedes, which won the last 500 mile race at Indianapolis, more than five miles faster than the former world's record for the distance, made over the famous Brooklands course in England by a specially built twelve cylinder car of much greater size and there were no other cars on the track.

In Honor Of Bride Elect

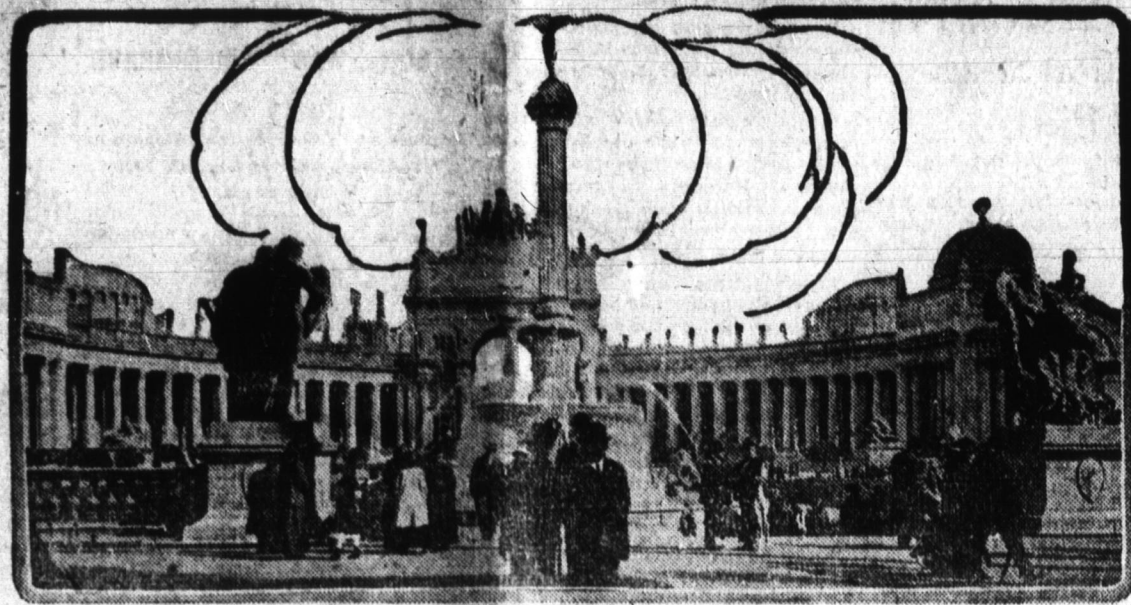
Miss Martha Ward was hostess to a number of friends on Wednesday afternoon at her home on Main Street in honor of Miss Ailie Hadley, who will become the bride of Mr. Z. Hardy Rose today at 4 o'clock. The guests were greeted by the hostess, and were given places at tables arranged where games of rook were played. After the games were ended, Master Paul Simpson, representing Cupid in all of his attractiveness, came in driving a coaster, appropriately decorated, laden with packages. The valuable load was presented to Miss Hadley, who found pleasure in disclosing the contents of the packages, which had been presented by friends. The articles were miscellaneous, and will serve largely in the beginning of the new life which the honoree is entering.

Delicious punch was served throughout the hour by Misses Lela Hadley and Della Kate Ward. Later an ice cream course was served and proved most refreshing and a pleasant ending to the afternoon.

To Be Modernly Equipped

Messrs. Everett and Ballard, who purchased the old Mobley mill some time ago, are erecting a building which will be modernly equipped for the grinding of meal. A representative from a manufacturing company at York, Pa., has been here this week placing orders for necessary machinery. The capacity of the mill will be 150 bushels of meal per day. A large motor truck will be used to transport the output to the neighboring towns. It is estimated that the plant will cost \$7,000, but prospects are fine for getting a handsome profit on this investment.

THE MIGHTY COURT OF THE UNIVERSE, THE HUB OF THE ARCHITECTURAL SCHEME AT THE PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION



All visitors to the Panama-Pacific International exposition at San Francisco at some time during their stay at the exposition make their pilgrimage through the Court of the Universe. This is the largest court on the grounds and is the central radiating unit of the architectural and ground plans. Noble sculptured groups embellish it, the two Homeric groups—the Nations of the East and the Nations of the West—surmounting the giant arches at the east and west portals. By night the beauty of the court is enhanced by the flood lighting effects.

'Befo' De' War Ghost Dog Story

Some time ago I wrote for The Enterprise the story of the origin of the name of Sweetened Water Creek. Soon after its publication I received from one of your subscribers a letter of commendation and a request for more of the same sort. Since then I have been thinking it over, but Williamston and its vicinity are not rich in local myths and legends. All it has here made in Europe—England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

The local people held a fair proportion of ghosts and witches, who were on visiting and speaking terms with our grandmothers, but these nocturnal visitants have not shown themselves there for many years past. The light of education, now so generally diffused, and more potent than ever was the bell-book-and-candle method of the Church of Rome, has been their undoing. They were creatures of the imagination, believed to be real only by children and adults of undeveloped mentality. But sixty years ago were there in goodly numbers, as almost any old woman in the country round about would have sworn and most of the negroes would have attested.

Even at that time these unnatural creatures seemed to avoid white men, but occasionally a black man would see things in the night, when he should have been asleep. I remember a negro man once told me of a strange experience he had one night when he was a runaway. His story was something like this:

"One bright moonlight night I was down in de woods back o' de fa'm 'n I thought I'd go over to de house 'n see if I couldn't git sump'n. I went out into de field 'n sta'ted to'd de house' but I hadn't got fer when I thought I heard dogs behind me. I looked back, 'n dere dey come. I don't know how many—right after me. I put back for de woods agin, hard as I could run, and dodged de dogs. Dey went on by me, 'n I laid down 'n went to sleep. When I waked up it was bright daylight. I looked 'round 'n listened, but didn't see or hear nobody, nor no degs. So den I thought I'd go 'n take a look at ne tracks me 'n de dogs made last night. I found my tracks—'n I'd fa'rly dug up the ground—but nary a dog's track could I find. So den I knowee I'd been runnin' away f'm ghost dogs."

A variant of the ghost dog is the headless dog. Being head-

less, you would naturally infer that no one would be afraid of it; but it is the most dreaded of all the ghost family, for it appears only just before some great tragedy is to take place. Sir Walter Scott mentions it in one of his novels, where it is called the ban-dog. It was part of the personnel of a prison, was considered a supernatural creature by the keepers, because it was never seen except on the evening preceding an execution. Our English, Welsh, Scotch and Irish ancestors must have brought the headless dog over with them, along with their witches. I introduce it here because of its connection with a local affair.

Some time in the early fifties, I think it was, William H. Carstarphen, a young merchant of Williamston, began to make frequent visits to Miss Mary King, who lived about two miles from Holly Spring Church. Mr. Carstarphen was a small man, short of stature. Miss King was tall and slender. I never heard one of Miss King's girl friends say a word about it, but the boys spoke freely to each other about "the long and short" of the couple.

Somehow the lads of the neighborhood discovered that Mary's little beau was timid, and that he was particularly afraid of dogs. In time it was reported that a mighty strange looking dog had been seen going along the road near the King residence. Its peculiar gait, droop of tail, unsteady, ambling trot, and an unaccountable habit it had of appearing about the same time of an evening, between sunset and dark, in the same stretch of road, always going in the same direction, and vanishing just before it reached the gate of the King homestead, were related with marked seriousness.

This story was handed around and elaborated among the boys, until most of them believed they had seen the strange dog. Then it was talked of openly, in such a manner that the timid young man from town was sure to hear of it, and be frightened. I don't know how he felt about it, but his visits did not cease. Evidently he was brave enough to take the risk of a meeting with the strange dog. Then some one discovered that this uncanny beast had no head—was a headless dog—a ghost of a dog—maybe a ghost and a dog—making the scare doubly strong. But still the timid little man persisted, and in due time he took the young lady home with him to Williamston, where they lived happily all the rest of their days,

and dying, left behind them good names and several sons and daughters, all now well known and highly respected.

I have heard of this same headless dog being seen on Hamilton Road, near the city cemetery, but it had no special business there; that is, the report of its presence was not put out for any special reason that I remember, and the evil aspect of its presence was not known to me until many years later.

Holinshed, in his "Chronicles" of nearly everything in England in the 15th century, in the chapter on English dogs, mentions "the tie-dog, or band-dog, so-called because many of them are tied up in chains or strong bands in the day time; a huge dog, stubborn, eager, ugly, burthenous of body, terrible and fearful to behold. He does not name the bull dog in his list, but goes on to say that the ban-dog is taught to bait the bull and other beasts, and notes its tenacity to hold."

From this I conclude that the dog here referred to is at present known as the bull dog. Consider the short and very stout neck; the short head, stubby, no larger than the neck; ears cropped close, making, with some use of the imagination, the appearance of a dog whose head has been cut off—and you have the headless dog.

This dog was the largest, strongest and most ferocious dog known in England in the middle ages. So was probably kept as a part of the garrison of prisons, tied up most of the time, so not seen by the keepers, until, on the eve of an execution, as an additional safeguard, it was brought forth. So may have originated the myth of the headless dog and the tragic omen of its appearance.

W. H. WYATT,
Rutherford, N. J.

Left For San Francisco

The Gattis party which left Raleigh on Saturday, the 24th, carried three Williamston people: Messrs. W. J. Whitaker, W. H. Gurkin and Harry A. Biggs. This party numbered 150, and the fares for the trip will amount to \$70,000. The trip will be made through the heart of the West, and the return via the Southern Pacific. Seven days will be spent at the Exposition and three at Los Angeles. Every point of National interest will be touched going and returning. Several more here intended at one time to join this party, but later decided otherwise.

NEW TOBACCO FIRM IS ORGANIZED

In the columns of this issue appears the advertisement of the Farmers Warehouse at Robersonville, Martin County. This house will be run this year by Messrs. Robert E. Grimes, Marion Green and Henry K. Green. Neither one of these men need an introduction to the farmers of the county. Each of them is an experienced tobacco man—one who knows the weed from the plant bed to the warehouse floor and after. They offer the best to the grower of the leaf, and they will give what they promise. The Farmers Warehouse last year gained a splendid reputation, and the personnel of the managers this year, without doubt, will tend to strengthen the house in every way. The Farmers expect to handle a large part of the Martin County crop and that adjoining and guarantee to give every pound the highest market price. The opening is on August 18th, and the tobacco farmers are invited to spend the day with them and see that their leaf brings good prices. Read the ad carefully and find what they have to offer in service, courtesy and prices.

Mrs. Henry James Dead

News was received here by relatives Tuesday night that the death of Mrs. Henry James had occurred at the home of her father, Mr. James Bullock, at Robersonville. Mrs. James was only nineteen years old and had been married about one year to Henry James, of Bethel. For some time her health had been precarious, as she had been afflicted with St. Vitus, Dance some months ago. She was a most estimable young woman, and much sympathy is felt for her husband and parents.

Court House Being Renovated

The interior of the court house is being thoroughly renovated. The walls have been cleaned and painted, and the different offices given a special tint. Public buildings are so often marred by people who think walls were made to write upon. It is hoped that some means may be taken to protect the court house in the future. It has needed renovating for some time. Dr. Long, chairman of Board of Commissioners, is giving it his personal attention.

North Carolina Leads.

North Carolina leads the Union in the manufacture of chewing and smoking tobacco, with a record of 104,329,283 pounds for the year ending June 30, 1914.

Nearly 74 million pounds of the total were manufactured in the 5th district. The total internal revenue taxes collected in this district amounted to nearly six and one half million dollars. For the whole state the amount was nerly twelve million dollars.

Friday night of last week, a crowd of the young people of Hamilton drove down to Spring Green late in the afternoon, ate a delicious lunch and then came on to Williamston, where they attended the show at the Gaiety. There were thirty in the party, and they spent a most delightful evening.