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POLK COUNTY NEWS

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OUR COUNTY AGENT'S DEPARTMENT

Some Timely Talks to Polk County Farmers, and others, on Timely Subjects, by County Agent, J. R. Sams.

What I Saw at J. D. Blackwell's Farm Greens Creek Township.

When I drove up in front of his house; the first thing I saw was a nice substantial hitching post, well supplied with accoutrements for tying up a horse. The next thing was Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell with that genial smile that is always visible when one visits their home. The only difference in their visible anatomy was that Mrs. Blackwell was in possession of a watering pot, studiously applying water to some thirsty flowers by the walk in yard, while Mr. Blackwell was leisurely standing around seeing it well done; but it is well known that Polk county is famous for having the best woman in the world to take care of their husbands. But without further personalities. I saw something which I did not know what I saw, the whole surrounding was so changed that it was hard to realize what had happened, it looked as if the home grounds had taken a hair cut and a clean shave. Old boxwood and hedges had been trimmed up and the whole place overhauled almost beyond recognition, we first visited the hog lot where Mr. Blackwell had some fine porkers, nicely and comfortably enclosed for a bountiful supply of meat for the family next year, we then went to a near by Irish potato plat which is planted in an up to present day style, planted five feet apart with intentions of a row of corn between the rows, and cow peas to follow when this corn is worked the last time. We then visited a field of oats and vetch which had been properly inoculated and it makes our heart glad to see that such good stuff can be grown on boll weevil cotton-land in Polk county. We then went through a wheat field which is not so promising as the oats and vetch; but is safe to say Mr. Blackwell will eat biscuit from his own soil next year. We then passed through a field of oats and vetch that is a volunteer crop from last year's cutting, without one stroke of labor and it is almost as good as the one referred to. It only shows what a wonderful country Piedmont, N. C. is. We then passed by a little cotton house when Mr. Blackwell opened the door and there stood on end 9 bales of as fine cotton as ever grew in Piedmont, N. C., which grew year before last.

To hear Mr. Blackwell talk one would think he was about ready to take quarters in the county home; but look around over his farm and the idea is soon dispelled. We went to the garden which was well enclosed with good wire fencing, and first I saw a strawberry bed extending all the way across the good long garden. Next came several rows of cabbage, well cultivated and nearly ready for use. Then came some rows of beans and sweet corn, some Irish potatoes, English peas, beans, etc., with a strip of bur clover to grow seed to stock his entire farm. He then took me to a section of his barn where there was a pile of Irish potatoes, about 20 bushels, which he means to plant yet; not a sprout on them they have been kept so well. I asked Mr. Blackwell if he found it hard to pay his tax since the boll weevil had come; Pshaw! he responded, what do I care for the boll weevil

vil, when I can plant 3-4 of an acre of land and pay my tax and have that pile (20 bushels of potatoes left. In addition to all the resources for a support for his family. He has apples trees, peach trees, grape vines, sweet potatoes, sorghum cane, pastures and some good milk cows, and poultry. I asked Mr. Blackwell what plans he had for heading off the cotton boll weevil? He replied that he had him already headed off. That instead of being starved out by him; that he expected to starve Mr. Weevil out; unless he changed his mode of living—Mr. Blackwell buys no corn, no hay, no any thing except sugar, coffee, salt etc, and I would not be surprised if he improvised some way to get around the purchase of these articles. Let all farmers in the cotton belt do likewise and fare likewise.

To Polk County Farmers.

This is a very important season of the year. The season of binnings. If nothing is begun; Nothing will be accomplished through the year. The season up to now has been very unpropitious; but the sun is now shining and the leaves making headway on the trees. Gardening is an all important thing and needs attention. Don't allow the good wife to do all the planning and work too in the garden. Then it is corn planting time. Are you going to plant that little mixed yellow and blue grain non-descript seed or will you look around and secure the best seed corn possible. Then don't forget to plant a liberal supply of soy beans, cow peas, velvet beans etc. To make the best of feed for the milk cow next winter, and help to keep up the fertility of your land. If you have not pruned the peach trees, do so at once, it will not injure them nor thin the peaches. Everything is behind and calling for immediate attention. Don't work yourselves to death; but keep kicking like the "frog in the pail of milk" and you will not drown. On wet days, improve the pastures instead of loafing at the stores and foolishly spending your nickles for soda pop. See that the poor horse or mule that pulls the plow does not have sore shoulders. How would you like to be caught up and put in a tread mill with bit in your mouth and pull all day with raw shoulders, and go to your stall with bleeding shoulders, and unsatisfied stomachs? I have seen some milk cows last week so poor they could almost swim in a pint of milk, while I have seen others fat enough for good beef, which kind are you keeping? Now what about that sorghum syrup to test the market this fall. If you mean to do any thing; get busy. Plant a good lot of sugar drip cane, you can't go far wrong along that line, the stalk, fodder and seed will make fine feed for your cattle if you decide you don't want the syrup. Now is the time to think out all these things that you have not already thought out, and what ever you do, or don't do; don't plant to much cotton; but what you do plant, plant it in the best best cultivate, and fertilize in the most approved way, and as the summer comes on, keep cool, I mean your temper, for there will arise this summer many perplex-

ing things; but the man or woman who keeps a sweet temper and a cool head will be those who come through the year in best physical and financial condition. Be patient, watch, wait and see.

Odds and Ends.

Easter is gone and peaches plentiful on the trees.

The apple crop at this time is very promising.

The Farmers Federation is coming right along. All the way on earth it could do better, is for all farmers to come right along and join the brothers and sisters.

Why don't every Federation member subscribe for the Polk County News that will keep you posted on the market? See me or the editor, we have a little secret for you, ask.

In Polk County there are five banks pulling for themselves and for Polk-county. There are several merchants pulling for themselves and for each other, and there is the Farmers Federation pulling for itself and for all the rest, is'nt there going on a great pulling in the county. Now let us all pull together, a long pull a hard pull, and put old Polk on the map.

Honor Roll for the 8th Month of Tryon School.

- First Grade
 - Harley Kuykendall
 - Warrington Preston
 - Mamie Cantrell
 - Fred Swann
 - Cranford Hart
 - Second Grade
 - Elizabeth Avant
 - Julia Crawley
 - Nellie Bradley
 - Ruby Newman
 - Ruth Williams
 - Third Grade
 - Janet Durham
 - Florence Moore
 - Thos. Blackwell
 - Roy Blackwell
 - Jean Beatson
 - Roy Blackwell
 - Mary McFarland
 - Fourth Grade
 - Louise Andrews
 - Louise Averill
 - John Kittrell
 - Aberdeen Mills
 - William Screven
 - Iantha Pate
 - Edwin Wilson
 - Elsie Whitmire
 - Cleo Watson
 - Ollie Lindsey
 - Helen Leonard
 - Emma Pettit
 - Fifth Grade
 - Myrtle Kuykendall
 - Zella Ballew
 - Virginia Simmons.
 - David Caldwell
 - Sixth Grade
 - Sydney Sayre
 - Geraldine Sayre
 - Thelma Durham
 - Josephine Hill
 - James Fisher
 - Polly Screven
 - Seventh Grade
 - Dan Rion
 - Betty Doubleday
 - Hugh White
 - Rodman Smith
 - Carolyn Simmons
 - Caroline Jervey
 - Grace Durham
 - Louise Dunn
 - Sallie McClure
 - Mary Lockhart
 - High School
 - Ruth Andrews
 - Austin Wilcox
 - Margaret Doubleday
- This is our largest and most encouraging Honor Roll.
- For the past month, we had only 18 tardies; the fewest we have ever had. Still we have not reached our ideal.

Apple Growing

In the Best Undeveloped Section of the United States

On the Eastern Slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains lies a section of country which is exceptionally adapted to the growing of Fine Fancy Apples, grapes, peaches, strawberries, and other small fruits. The best commercial varieties of apples grow to perfection here. Such favorites as Starks Delicious, Stayman Winesap, Grimes Golden, Rome Beauty, Winter Banana, Senatore, and Limber Twig are all found in orchards here. Potatoes of first quality may be produced and dairy products, poultry and livestock all offer profitable returns. None of the above are now produced in sufficient quantities to supply close by markets.

At Saluda, in Saluda Township, Polk County, North Carolina, the conditions are particularly ideal. The soil is of good Porter Loam, rich in potash, and by the right attention will produce apples of the finest flavor and color and best keeping qualities in the U. S. This has been repeatedly demonstrated by competitive contests as far back as the Paris Exposition where North Carolina apples took first prize for richness of flavor. Good partly developed lands may be bought here at from \$15 per acre within five miles of the railroad. This section has a bountiful rainfall of about sixty inches, well distributed throughout the year. Being in the "Thermal Belt," the air drainage is as near perfect as can be found. The elevation dropping from 2500 ft. to 1000 feet in places causes the cold air to seek the lower levels and helps to insure a crop of apples. Many orchards here never had a crop failure. Being on the east slope of the mountain it is sheltered from severe storms and cold and thus produces a harvest two to three weeks earlier than some sections only thirty miles away, thus giving the advantage of the first markets.

Saluda is in the land of sunshine. The climate is mild in winter and most delightful in spring summer and fall. There are very few sultry days and always cool nights. Men unaccustomed to out-of-door work find they do not suffer when they try it here. Sunstroke is unknown. The Government reports more Ozone in the air than any where else. It is well watered by springs and streams of finest soft Lithia water. Many residents will testify to its lasting benefit.

Saluda is an undeveloped scenic gem. More fine views may be seen within a mile of the post-office than in nearly any other part of our country. The summer people attracted in large numbers by these natural advantages help to create a market for they buy and send home to their friends many apples.

Besides this one has access to all the big markets of the south and east through the Southern Railway with good passenger and freight service. However, as previously mentioned the immediate section, which includes Asheville, an excellent apple market, is not now producing enough for its own use.

Saluda is situated on the Federal Highway maintained by the State of North Carolina. This is one of the best roads from all points in South Carolina, and Georgia through Saluda to Hendersonville and Asheville.

FROM OUR FRIENDS IN THE COUNTRY

Items of Interest Gathered From Various Sections of Polk County by Our Corps of Faithful Correspondents.

Saluda.

May 5th, closed the commencement of the Saluda High School. Archdeacon Griffith gave the address to the graduating class. It is needless to say that every one enjoyed this address. After the address. Mr. Upton of Tryon delivered his medal in the prize essay contest to Jessie H. Green of the Saluda High School. There were good impromptu speeches by the local trustees. And last but not least there was the presentation of diplomas and the High School Commencement was over.

W. P. Davis, the oldest member of Mt. Page church passed away April 23, 1922. Mr. Davis was 90 yrs. 6 months and 10 days at the time of his death. He had been a deacon in Mt. Page church for fifty years. For several years Mr. Davis had been living with his daughter Mrs. R. W. I. Pace. At the funeral the deacons of Mt. Page church acted as pall bearers.

Robert Jones of Saluda died Monday April 24th and his body was laid to rest at Mt. Page on Tuesday. Mr. Peeler a Methodist minister of Asheville and a friend of the deceased assisted by Mr. Howard conducted the funeral. Mr. Jones is survived by his wife, Mary who was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Staten, and by two sons Harley and Louis both of Saluda.

The body of Cumby Page, who laid down his life in the World's War, arrived in Saluda May 4th. His mother, Mrs. Henry H. Pace had received a message stating the time of the arrival of his body and the funeral was arranged for at Mt. Page. A large crowd assembled to honor the departed hero. The ex-soldiers in and around Saluda acted as pall bearers. Cumby was wounded by German machine guns and died in a hospital in France Oct 29, 1919. The body was encased in two caskets and a box. There was the coffin he was resting in on foreign soil which was placed in a larger steel casket and then in a box to return to his native country. The whole was covered over with the U. S. flag and thus the body approached its third and last resting place.

Calvin Hill has accepted a position in Marion North Carolina.

A. M. Salley of Orangeburg visited relatives in Saluda last week.

H. Z. Nabers of Greenville spent the week-end in Saluda.

On the evening of May the 4th the Senior Class Day Exercises of the Saluda High School were held in Library Hall. Edward McQueen Salley on account of illness was unable to attend. The other eight members of the class carried out the program to the entire satisfaction of all present. After the exercises were over a reception was given to the senior class by the large crowd assembled in Library Hall. The stores of Saluda had furnished the punch and John T. Coats Jr. was kept busy an hour or so serving punch from his cozy corner.

A feeling of sadness was cast over the graduating class of the Saluda High School on account of the sudden illness of one of its members on the eve of his graduation. We refer to Mac

Salley who was taken to Biltmore Hospital for an operation, which he stood like a man and from which he is rapidly recovering.

I will be in Saluda every Thursday and Friday to do your watch and jewelry repairing. Leave orders at Saluda Pharmacy, W. L. TUCKER. 39-4w-pd

Columbus

The commencement of the Stearns High School was a great success. Large crowds attended all the exercises, especially Wednesday and Monday nights when the spacious auditorium was filled to overflowing. The medal for the best recitation was awarded to Hilda Burgess, with Jeanette Feagan a close second, the essay medal was won by Gertrude West and an English medal given by Miss Graham was won by Ida Carnegie, whose average was 99. The Baccalaureate sermon was preached by Rev. Mooney of Selby whose text was James 4:14, "What Is Your Life?" The literary address was given by Rev. Mr. Beaman once principle of what was then known as the Central and Industrial Institute. Diplomas were awarded by the principle, W. D. Loy, and by Prof. Cobb, to 12 from the Grammar school. The class day exercises were held Monday at 3:00. Those graduating were: Robert Landis, Leona Feagan, Eva Pace, Hilda Burgess, Pauline Rhodes, Elma Newman, Gertrude West, Veta Pack, Mamie Morgan, Estelle Pace and Ayrene Edwards. The H. S. play "Safety First," was well received by a large audience, \$46.50 was realized. Many say that this was the best play ever given at S. H. S. The comic opera "The Family Doctor," whose leading role was played by Prof. Loy was so well liked that by the numerous requests it was repeated Monday night. The H. S. Chorus and Girl's and Boy's Glee Clubs had several selections throughout the entire commencement. Piano solos duets and quartets added variety to the program. We are sorry to note that our principle will not return another year.

Mrs. Linsey Swafford of Spartanburg attended commencement here last week.

Mr. Croak and Walter Hooper came Monday for the graduating exercises.

Lindsey Smith has been attend the Asheville court.

Miss Ethel Hill of Rutherfordton visited friends here for the past week.

Miss Eva Clarke is visiting the Misses Lynch.

Plans are being made for a joint Childrens' Day to be given by the Baptist and Presbyterian Sunday school. The program will probably be given the second Sunday in June.

Miss Ruth Green has gone to visit her grandparents J. T. Waldrop and wife.

The Saluda base ball team composed of small boys played the Columbus team on the latter's diamond Monday. The game was very one sided the score being 7-19 in favor of Columbus.

Many people from Columbus attended Memorial day at Mill Spring and Greens Creek.

Alvin Lynch was in Rutherfordton.

(continued on page 8)

The News, \$2 a year