

POLK COUNTY NEWS

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A VALUABLE CITIZEN.

To Editor Polk County News

Dear Sir:—
I wonder if we have here in Polk County appreciated the work that is being done for us on a hill top on Pea Ridge a mile beyond Mill Spring.

There, a white headed and white bearded old man who will soon celebrate his 80th birthday is beginning a series of experiments in testing out fruit trees that many men of half his age would consider a scheme so colossal that they would hesitate to undertake it.

He is planning to try out every possible variety of apple, pear, peach, plum and grape and many varieties of small fruits, nuts and persimmons. He is testing different stocks for roots, trying whether root grafting of scions, or budding on one year seedling stocks gives the best tree, whether some of the pears that have apparently never been tried here cannot be made to succeed by grafting them into quince stocks.

He is trying to find out the best strain on which to propagate peaches, as well as the best varieties of peaches to grow in Polk County. He is getting scions and budwood from all parts of the country and testing them and has found out already a few facts, or what in the light of his limited experience here seem to be facts about certain varieties.

It is known to all horticulturalists, (Heavens! what a long word, but there is no other English word that means just what Horticulturalist means so we will have to study its meaning and use it; it means: a person engaged in the propagation and production of fruit edible by man). It is known I repeat, to all horticulturalists. Known, not guessed at that the seed of no fruit produces a tree that will bear fruit exactly like its parent. Then in order to produce a tree that will bear Elberta peaches, for instance, it won't do merely to plant the pit of an Elberta peach and trust to the Lord for the tree. We must get a portion of the wood of an Elberta peach tree and either by root grafting, budding or top grafting get this Elberta wood to growing; then, and only then will we get Elberta peaches to grow again for us. Yet this is not all we must do. We have to find what seed to plant to get the root, or stock on which to bud or graft the Elberta, whether it will be better on an Indian peach root or on the wood of some tame peach. This can only be determined by a careful painstaking and well planned series of experiments. Curiously, these experiments ought to be tried out for every new variation of soil and climate. A peach that might be the very top notcher for Saluda; because Columbus is 1000 feet lower than Saluda and two weeks earlier, might not do as well in Columbus as another variety that, in its turn, might prove a frost in Saluda.

In a general way the State Experiment station can advise what fruits to try, and their advice is conservative and good, but often some peculiar combination of soil, exposure, climate and rainfall would make some variety other than that advised by the Experiment Station very much more profitable to grow. The question is; how can this variety be found? The answer to this question is what, our wise, white-headed old friend on Pea Ridge is trying to find.

He has just finished setting out five thousand root grafts and slips, which will be transplanted to permanent homes.

So far he has not done much about grapes, having confined his attention mostly to apples, pears, peaches and plums. So far he has under way tests on 55 varieties of peaches, 20 varieties of pears, about 30 varieties of apples, quite a num-

ber of plums and 35 varieties of grapes.

He is certain that there is nowhere in the United States so singularly complete a place for fruit growing as Polk County.

The early Spring, with the slow putting forth of the flowers on the trees, the freedom from frost of the many hilltops and mountains sides, the frequent and copious showers, the hot days and cool nights during summer, the long late falls which give the trees so much time in which to harden up their wood for the winter, and the mild winters with many days in them which are so wonderfully pleasant to be alive in, make fruit growing, (Horticulture) in this region as near a certainly as possible.

Then the markets—and the prices—where could one find better or hope for greater. With the thousands of mill workers who as soon as our roads are finished will be only a few hours truck drive from our doors, and every one them clamoring for good fruit, willing to pay handsome prices for it, so willing, in fact, that they will buy anything today: they paid more than 80 cents a bushel for peaches, shaken from the trees and delivered in a dead-ex wagon last fall.

If there were 20, 30 or more farmers in Polk County running from 1000 to 2 or 3,000 fruit trees not one of them would ever have to go off his place to sell his fruit. The trucks from Spartanburg, Gastonia, Rutherfordton and all the way to Asheville would besiege him for it.

Isn't there some young man in Polk County who would rather grow fruit than cotton? If there is such a chap and he wants to learn the business from the root up, including propagation, pruning, spraying, harvesting, sorting, packing, selling, or canning and selling my advice to him would be to apply to Mr. Wm. G. Voorhies, Route 1, Mill Spring, N. C. for a job and stick to it for 3 or 4 years. If he didn't whoop it up for fruit growing after two or three years with Mr. Voorhies I'd lose my guess entirely.

Mr. Voorhies has been growing fruit for the market for more than fifty years and knows a great deal about it, more probably than everybody else in Polk County. But he would be the last man in the county to say he knew it all. But what he does know which will be of the greatest value to us in the county is how to experiment and how to learn the lessons his experiments will teach when they fruit.

He knows too, how to keep records of his experiments so as not to get them mixed. Even if he went no farther Polk county would be his debtor for what he has done for us so far. I congratulate him and I congratulate Polk county for its good fortune in getting Mr. Voorhies for a citizen.

Very sincerely yours,
EDGAR W. UPTON.

Dies at Rutherford Hospital.

Miss Florence Harris, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William D. Harris, died at Rutherford Hospital, Saturday, March 3, at nine o'clock p. m. and was brought to Montford Cove, near her home, for burial Sunday. Rev. M. M. Huntley, pastor of Pleasant Hill church, conducted the funeral services. Florence was sixteen years of age, and was loved by everyone who knew her. She has many friends in Polk County, who are sorry to learn of her death. 'Tho' she is gone—her friendly smiles for everyone will ever be remembered.

Mexican Big Boll Cotton grown in North Carolina has won out over the far-famed North Georgia in recent spinning tests conducted by the Federal Department of Agriculture.

SALUDA IS EXPECTED TO IMPROVE STREETS

There Is Opposition to Movement but This Is Being Overcome.

Saluda, March 11.—For the past month there has been an endless discussion among the population of this place as to whether or not to vote for street paving and water improvements. This question has just about split up the town for several weeks, but the advocates of the improvements have talked many of the opposition over, and from the angle now seen, it looks as though the vote would carry through by a narrow margin when put up to the people.

Under the city charter the town authorities could not vote any large sum for any purpose without the consent of the people, as expressed in an election, and under the State laws the city could not vote bonds over about 13 per cent of its total taxed valuation. Mayor P. H. Bailey, leader of the movement for the bonds, sounded out a large number of the leaders in Saluda and arrived at the conclusion that it would be wise to vote \$25,000 for improvement of the water works, and also a bond issue of \$65,000 for the placing of paved streets over the important sections of the town. This met with considerable opposition. The Mayor went quietly to work with his plans, and the next thing any one in Saluda knew about it, Representative Morgan, of Polk, had introduced a bill changing the city charter so as to allow the city to issue these bonds, in spite of the State law, which was made to concede with this bill. It passed without opposition, and is now a law, under which he people may vote on this sum. Under the new law the city council can vote on the bonds themselves, without putting it to the people. The council acted under this provision in the matter of the water works and voted the bond issue for \$25,000. There was some opposition on the board to this, but it was finally put through, and the question of the paving left up to the people.

Mayor Bailey called a meeting of the city council Friday night at which time it was expected to pass the resolution calling for a vote, but one member was absent, and another member of the council objected to calling the election. The matter could have been put over, as the advocates had a majority, but Mayor Bailey decided to leave it open until March 24, at which time the absent member will be present and the matter will be decided by a full meeting.

The present tax rate is 80 cents, and under the vote of the water bonds it will be increased to an even dollar to meet the requirements. A schedule has been arranged, showing the property owners that by an additional increase of 25 cents the town could have over three miles of paved streets to offer the tourists, and that this total of \$1.25 will provide a revenue more than sufficient to take care of the interest, retiring bonds and current expenses of the town, and will provide a surplus, something that Saluda does not have under the present amount of taxation.

The engineers are already at work on the water system. Under the new charter an election can not be called under six weeks after the vote for it. That will mean the election will take place about May 1, and if it passes work on the streets will commence as soon thereafter as possible, as the property owners in favor of it are very anxious to see Saluda turned from a country village into a modern resort town, with something definite to offer as competition to the other towns in this vicinity making bids for the summertourist

trade.

If this goes through, all of the business and residential streets will be paved. New water mains, sufficient to take care of the needs for years, will be put in. The program calls for a most attractive plan and one that will go far to make this once popular resort take a long stride forward to win back the thousands of people who were in the habit of coming here for the summer before the automobiles demanded paved roads and streets.—Asheville Citizen.

To Polk County Farmers.

Spring time is here. Seed time first and then harvest. Seed time is of most importance just now because it comes first and must be dealt with first. In fact there will be no harvest unless seed time is wisely used. Then again before planting the seeds; preparation of soil necessarily comes; and now is the time for that. See to it that the very best preparation in way of seed bed is made. If your fields have stumps and rocks, remove them, or at least a portion of them. Don't plow around big loose rocks and stumps that can be removed with little expense and labor. I am asked by many farmers what is the best means of getting rid of stumps. Common sense is the best method I have ever used or seen used. Dynamite for some stumps. A good stump puller for some and a matoc and a little elbow grease for others; but by all means get rid of some every year until every field is clear. When the field is ready for the plow see that a first class job of plowing is done, and that a good well prepared seed bed is made. Don't be in to great hurry to plant and neglect this fundamental operation. I say take time and prepare the land well for any crop, including the garden especially. When this is done, the next step is the seed you plant. All seeds, no matter what the crop may be should be of the highest quality; because "Whatsoever seed a man soweth, that shall he also reap. This is a law and cannot be evaded. All seed should really be tested before planting, and old unreliable seed not planted. After planting comes proper cultivation, harvesting and marketing in regular succession. Preparation of soil good seeds for all crops, proper fertilization and planting are the all important things just now.

Respectfully,
J. R. SAMS
County Agent.

HONOR ROLL FOR SIXTH MONTH.

- First Grade
Myrtle Lindsey
Bob Millikin
Elsie Mills
Billy Wilkins
 - Second Grade
Mamie Cantrell
Francis Justice
 - Third Grade
Sarah Millikin
Viola Lindsey
Eunice Rollings
Elizabeth Avant
 - Fourth Grade
(Not ready. Will come out next week)
 - Fifth Grade
Ollie Lindsey
Cleopatra Watson
Louise Averill
 - Sixth Grade
John Kittrell
David Strong
Louise Andrews
Katharine Jones
Virginia Simmons
 - Seventh Grade
Josephine Hill
Sidney Sayre
Geraldine Sayre
Polly Scriven
Franklin Little
- The High school and Fourth Grade Honor Rolls will come out next week. Because of the absence of many pupils on last Friday (the County Bread Contest) our work was somewhat delayed.

BLUE RIDGE POWER COMPANY HAS NOT ANNOUNCED SITE

Probably will Be Located in Polk County—To Generate Power by Hydro-Electric Progress.

PLANT IN HENDERSON

A new \$1,000,000 hydro-electric development along Green river in Western North Carolina was announced today by the Blue Ridge Power company, which has a plant on the stream in Henderson county at Tuxedo, which develops 8,000 horsepower and supplies power to cotton mills and several municipalities in North Carolina and in Spartanburg County in South Carolina. The location of the new development has not been made public, but it is understood it probably will be below the present plant, possibly in Polk County.—Asheville Times.

REMARKLE LETTER

(From Peoples' Journal, Aberdeen, Scotland.)

A remarkable letter, alleged to have been written by Christ, is being published in the United States and Canada, and the story of its seeing the light is surrounded by superstition worthy of the dark ages.

In the letter was an injunction that it should be published to the world by whoever found it, together with the statement that misfortune and bad luck would follow the person having possession of it in the event that it was not given publicly. There was likewise a promise that whoever might have a copy in his or her possession would prosper and be followed by good fortune.

According to the history of the letter, it was written by Christ just after His crucifixion, signed by the Angel Gabriel 99 years after the Savor's birth and presumably deposited by him under a stone at the foot of the Cross.

On this stone appeared the legend "Blessed is he who shall turn me over." No one knew what the inscription meant, or seemed to have sufficient curiosity to investigate, until the stone was turned over by a little child, and the letter which follows was discovered:

"Whoever works on the Sabbath day shall be cursed. I command you to go to church and keep holy the Lord's day, without any manner of work. You shall not idle or misspend your time in bedecking yourself in superfluities of costly apparel and vain dressing, for I have ordered it a day of rest. I will have that day kept holy that your sins may be forgiven you.

"You will not break my commandments, but observe and keep them, they being written by my hand and spoken by my mouth. You shall not only go to church yourselves, but also your man servant and maid servant. Observe my words and learn my commandments. Finish at Six o'Clock

"You shall finish your work every Saturday at six o'clock in the afternoon, at which hour the preparation for the Sabbath begins. I advise you to fast five days in the year, beginning on Good Friday and continuing the five days following, in remembrance of the five bloody wounds I received for you and mankind.

"You shall love one another, and cause them that are not baptised to come to church and receive the Holy Sacrament that is to say, baptism, and the Supper of the Lord, and be made a member thereof, and in so doing I will give you long life and many blessing. Your land shall be replenished and bring forth abundance and I will comfort you in the great temptation, and surely he that doeth to the contrary shall be cursed.

"I will also send hardness of the heart on them, and especially on hardened and unrepentant unbelievers. He that

hath given to the poor shall find it profitable. Remember to keep the Sabbath day, for the seventh day I have taken as a resting day to myself.

"And he that hath a copy of this letter written by my own hand and spoken by my own mouth and keepeth it without publishing it to others, shall not prosper, but he that publishes it to others shall be blessed by me, and if their sins be many as stars by night, and if they truly believe they shall be pardoned; and they that believe not this writing and my commandments will have my plagues upon you, and you will be consumed with your children, goods and cattle, and all other worldly enjoyments that I have given you. Do but one thing of what I have suffered for you, if you do, it will be well for you in this world and in the world which is to come.

Found By A Child.

"Whoever shall have a copy of this letter and keep it in their house, nothing shall hurt them, neither pestilence, thunder nor lightning, and any woman be in birth and put her trust in me she shall be delivered of her child. You shall hear no Scriptures until the day of judgement. All goodness and prosperity shall be found. Finished."

The story goes that the little child who found it passed it to one who became a convert to the Christian faith. He failed to have the letter published. He kept it, however, as a sacred memento of Christ, and it has passed down to different generations of his family for more than one thousand years.

During this period the family suffered repeated misfortunes, migrated to different countries, until finally one of them came to America, bringing the letter with them. They settled in Virginia, then moved further south, still followed by misfortune, when finally the last member, a daughter, approached her death bed and called a neighbor, giving her the letter, and related its history for more than one thousand years. The woman began the attempt to have it published, and it first appeared in 1891. It then appeared in the "Dalton Citizen," and an Indian woman clipped it and kept it in her possession for many years without an effort to have it published. She was followed by misfortune, which she attributed to her neglect in trying to have the letter published.

Still another woman is said to have a copy and failed to make an effort to have it published for three years, and was followed by a varied lot of misfortunes which she attributed to the fact of her neglect in this respect.

A Victrola Wanted

Has some one a Victrola that is in his way, and of which he'd like to make a gift, or sell very reasonably? The primary grades of our school are in need of one.

If you should like to dispose of one, phone Mrs. C. W. Kittrell, Chairman of Needs Committee of P. T. A.

MEN'S NIGHT

Friday evening at 7:45 there will be a meeting of the Parent-Teacher Association at the school building to which the fathers of the school children are especially invited. Both mothers and fathers and others who are interested in the school will be welcome however, and a programme has been arranged which will be both entertaining and profitable. Prof. Honeycutt of the Hendersonville school will address the meeting.

Unsprayed was 40 percent wormy; sprayed fruit was nine percent wormy according to tests made in the sandhills last year by the North Carolina Experiment Station.