

THE FORT MILL TIMES.

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SHORT NEWS STORIES FROM MANY SOURCES

**Current Events Gathered Here
and There and Boiled Down
For Times Readers.**

Birmingham, Ala., and the country for 50 miles around was shaken Sunday morning by an explosion in the Dolomite coal mines. No one was injured.

The Chicago police will use gas bombs hereafter in fighting fugitives who have barricaded themselves and offer battle to the policemen. The bombs contain iron nuts, formaldehyde, sulphuric acid and permanganate of potash. "The gas will force the criminals into the open air in a hurry," said Police Chief Fitzmorris, in explaining the latest method of dislodging criminals.

The nation's divorce story for 1920 is one which far overshadows the broken ties of any other year, according to statistics just published. The palm for breaking the divorce record goes to Seattle, Wash., with 2,430. Atlanta comes into prominence as the "Reno of the South," and shares the distinction with Savannah, where the courts, when put to it, can turn out divorces at the rate of one a minute.

Sixty million firecrackers are being manufactured in Hongkong to be shipped to American boys to celebrate next Fourth of July.

Married 14 times in three years, a deserter from both the army and navy and now serving a term in a naval prison comprises the alleged war record of Harold Hammond, 20 years old. This was revealed in New York city in annulment proceedings brought by the first and second women he married.

The nation's gratitude will be shown for the bravery and valor of its soldiers who fought in the World war by bringing home from the battlefields of France the body of an unknown soldier and interring it with elaborate ceremonies in Arlington cemetery, near Washington. Legislation supported by the American Legion for that purpose has become a law. While details have not been worked out, it is the plan to have the ceremony in Arlington May 30, in which President Harding and all the officials of the army and navy and representatives of foreign countries will participate.

A liquid poison so strong that three drops will kill anyone whose skin it touches has been discovered by the chemical warfare service of the war department, it was announced Saturday. Sprayed from airplanes, two tons of this annihilating poison would cover an area 100 feet wide and seven miles long, destroying all life within the district not protected by a special covering. The chemical warfare service is now developing protective clothing to make the wearer impervious to the poison. It can be easily manufactured and the United States could make several thousand tons a day if necessary plants were built.

In line with the campaign of the Southern Cotton association, the manager of the Mississippi convict farms has announced that he will reduce his acreage to cotton this year by as near one-half as possible—planting just enough to keep the convict force of 1,200 well exercised. Heretofore the State has cultivated 10,000 or more acres. The land thus released from cotton will be put in corn, sweet potatoes, peas and oats, and it is also proposed to raise a sufficient number of hogs to furnish all the meat the convicts will need. Mississippi has lost over \$1,500,000 on her cotton crop of the last two years, all of which remains unsold.

McConnellsville Youth Shot.
Walter Barnes, son of J. T. Barnes, who operates a store at McConnellsville, was shot and dangerously wounded Saturday night by a negro who had broken into his father's store. Young Barnes was taken to a hospital in Chester and the negro was locked up in York jail. The youth was sleeping in the store and was awakened as the negro entered. Shots were exchanged, Barnes being struck in the left chest by a ball from the negro's revolver.

THREE AT MANASSAS.

**Trio of Fort Mill Veterans Left
Who Were at Famous Battle.**

Reference in a conversation on Main street in Fort Mill Monday to the plan to make a Southern memorial park of the Henry farm on which the First Battle of Manassas was fought brought forth the statement from a Confederate veteran that, beside himself, there are only two old soldiers now living in the Fort Mill community who were present at the battle, the three being A. H. Merritt, Jas. P. Epps and Ira Patterson, all members of Company H, 6th South Carolina regiment.

The First Battle of Manassas was fought on July 31, 1861, and was a decided Confederate success. It was there that Gen. T. J. Jackson received the sobriquet bestowed upon him by Gen. Bee, South Carolina brigade commander, who shortly afterward fell mortally wounded leading his troops against the Union forces.

Confederate veterans as a rule do not seem to recall the First Battle of Manassas with the degree of gratification that one would naturally expect. "There was where we lost our best opportunity to win the war," remarked recently a Confederate veteran. "With the Union forces disastrously routed and running helter-skelter, we stopped to celebrate our victory instead of pursuing the enemy straight into the city of Washington, which we could have captured with little difficulty and then there ended on our terms the war. If we had gone on to Washington we would have saved the four years of bloodshed that followed, and think of the suffering and humiliation the South would have escaped, to say nothing of what it would have meant to those of us then alive and to future generations for the Southern Confederacy to have taken its place among the world's permanent governments. Did you ever stop to think," continued the veteran, "that if we had won the war the Southern people would have today been the richest people per capita on the face of the globe? Why? Because we could have fixed our own price for our cotton crop and then refused to allow a bale to go out of the country for less than the minimum price. I shall never cease to regret that our armies were at last overwhelmed."

Baptist Women to Meet.

The Rock Hill division of the Women's Missionary Union of the York Association, Baptist church, will meet with the White Street church, Rock Hill, on the third Sunday in March, at 2:30 p. m. The division consists of nine churches, Catawba, Rock Hill First church, Park, Northside, West-End, White Street, Flint Hill, Fort Mill, Pleasant Valley. Mrs. J. T. Garrison, superintendent, expresses the hope that each church in the union will be largely represented at the meeting, the program for which follows: Devotional, reports of societies by departments, reports of associate superintendents; discussion, "Making and Sending Quarterly Reports," "Mission Study Certificates," "Loyalty in Paying Campaign Pledges," talk on stewardship, closing message on soul-winning.

Negroes in High Favor.

Northern and Western negroes are in high clover and high favor in Washington just now, says "Buck" Bryant, writing to the Charlotte Observer. They come and go at the White House as other folks do. The other day as a party of newspaper men passed the "front porch" they saw two large, swollen up negro men wearing jimswingers, diamonds and walking sticks, and accompanied by their families, some of which were highly perfumed, coming out of the front door of the executive mansion. "Who are the big colored guys?" asked a man from the West. "Oh, they are not seeking office, but paying their respects," answered a correspondent who had been at Marion during the campaign. "Some Ohio friends of the president."

NEWS OF YORK COUNTY TOLD IN PARAGRAPHS

Items Concerning People and Things Briefly Related by the Yorkville Enquirer.

Farmers were offered 20 cents a dozen for eggs on the Yorkville market Monday.

The upper road between Yorkville and Rock Hill is now in much better condition than for many months past. The average Ford time between the two towns is now about 40 minutes.

Citizens of Clover school district on Wednesday, by a vote of 84 to 21, decided to issue school bonds in the sum of \$40,000 to be spent in the construction of a new high school building.

Moonshiners operating in York county are careful to get their liquor away from the place of distillation as soon as it runs out of the worm, lest the officers come. Horace L. Johnson, special State constable, said Monday that although a number of distilleries had been taken this year, he had not captured and whiskey since before Christmas.

Only a part of the Clover Cotton Manufacturing company's mill is in operation, about 100 employees having been laid off last Saturday. Employees laid off, it is said, were given no intimation when work would be resumed. The Hawthorne mill continues to run.

Inquiry among a number of people in position to know something about it develops that there is so far little building in prospect for Rock Hill this year. There will be a few residences erected perhaps and a new theater building, but that is about all, it is said.

Mr. T. A. Bean, venerable shoemaker of Clover, celebrated his 71st birthday last Friday with a birthday dinner to which were invited a number of his friends, including several of the ministers of Clover. A variety of good things to eat were served and the occasion proved an enjoyable one to all present.

Since last October the State highway commission has expended on reconstructing the roads between Rock Hill and Yorkville and between Filbert and Clover the sum of \$13,545.26. The Yorkville-Rock Hill work has cost \$8,679.31 and the amount so far expended on the Filbert-Clover work is \$4,815.15.

The congregation of the First Presbyterian church of Clover estimates that it has saved \$20,000 or more by not proceeding with the construction of the new church edifice early in 1920. The estimated cost of the building at that time was from \$60,000 to \$75,000. W. T. Beaumgard, contractor, Monday estimated the cost of the building now in process of construction to be from \$35,000 to \$40,000.

What is believed to be one of the oldest clocks in the United States from a standpoint of continuous service is a clock of the "grandfather" type in possession of J. D. Gwin, a citizen of Sharon. The clock has been running continuously for 130 years and it is believed that it is good for that many more years.

Because of the decline in the cost of living, it is said, the town council has reduced the salary of the chief of police from \$150 to \$125 a month. The salary of the night policeman has been reduced from \$125 to \$90 a month.

Road Aid Promised.

Meeting with the board of commissioners for York county in York last Wednesday, Messrs. T. B. Spratt and L. A. Harris were assured that it was the purpose of the board to assist Fort Mill township at the earliest practicable date in the improvement of the public road between Fort Mill and the Catawba river. The board, it is understood, will recommend to the State highway commission an appropriation of \$10,000 federal aid to be used in conjunction with a like amount of county funds, either in cash or work of the chaingang, to be expended on the road. If the plan to secure the federal aid miscarries, it was stated that the county will make other arrangements to put the road in good condition.

FORT MILL BOY SCOUTS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY

Troop Receives Promise of United States Flag and Individual Banner From Mr. Fish.

Saturday morning Fort Mill troop, No. 1, Boy Scouts of America, celebrated its first birthday by having a field inspection on the grounds of the graded school near its quarters on the second floor of the school building, under the direction of the scoutmaster, B. H. Stribling. Each scout's equipment for the inspection consisted of half a shelter tent, rope, pole and pegs, blanket, haversack, mess kit with knife, fork and spoon and a cup.

From close order formation, the scouts deployed, pitched tents and displayed their equipment, which was inspected by Messrs. George Fish and C. S. Link, members of the local troop committee. Following the inspection, "strike tents" was executed and after assembling a few movements in close order drill were executed and the troop dismissed.

The inspection committee apparently was pleased with the exhibition and Mr. Fish expressed a desire to assist the troop and will present it with a handsome United States flag and a troop flag with necessary trappings.

Last summer the troop enjoyed a ten-day camping trip at King's Mountain battleground and has taken numerous hikes to the Catawba river and other points of interest. The members of the troop have earned all the money with which to buy the equipment they possess. They are again planning for a camping trip in the mountains this summer as well as shorter trips and excursions.

The troop has 14 members at present, but a number of recruits soon will be admitted to bring the strength to about double what it now is. At present the membership consists of Second Class Scouts Patrick Brown and Lee Carothers, patrol leaders; Mike Link, scout scribe, Earle Steele and D. C. Patterson; Tenderfoot Scouts Dudley Crook, James Ferguson, B. C. Ferguson, Elliott Harris, Thomas Harris, Henry Link, Eugene McKibben, J. B. Mills, Jr., John McKee Spratt, with B. H. Stribling as scoutmaster.

GAIN FOR CHURCHES.

Census for 1920 Shows Big Increase Over Preceding Year.

Churches in the United States made a net gain of 667,000 new members in 1920, according to a census compiled by The Christian Herald. This was said to be a marked increase over 1919, when the aggregate number of members gained was less than 44,000.

In 1919 decreases were shown in most of the churches. Dr. H. K. Carrol of Plainfield, N. J., who compiled the census, compared figures of some of the larger groups, showing that in 1919 the Methodist group lost 75,951, Presbyterian group lost 46,459 and the Baptist group lost 11,108. In 1920 these groups gained, respectively, 237,127, 43,031 and 129,283. The three large Baptist bodies, he said, have not completed their report. When the figures are all in, he said that it would show a gain of 129,000 members.

The Roman Catholic church showed a somewhat smaller increase in 1920 of 125,579.

Dr. Carroll pointed out that while the number of communicants was increasing, the number of churches and ministers was decreasing. "The Methodist church lost 200 churches in 1920 and 228 in 1919. The loss of churches for all other denominations in 1920 was 556."

Pageant at Winthrop.

Preparations are under way at Winthrop college for a great educational pageant which will depict South Carolina history. The pageant will be staged on May 6, on the athletic stadium on the rear campus, where seats will be provided for the thousands of visitors expected for the event. More than 1,000 people, mostly students of the college, will have part in the pageant and special costumes will be ordered.

Much farm work is now being done in Fort Mill township and throughout the county generally.

VISIT CATAWBA INDIANS.

School Children Spend Afternoon on Reservation.

Tuesday afternoon the pupils and teachers of the fourth and fifth grades of the Fort Mill graded school visited the Catawba Indian reservation, nine miles southeast of town. Two large motor trucks conveyed the 70 children and teachers to the reservation, where two hours were spent.

Some of the children were surprised to see real Indians living in houses instead of tepees and not wearing feathers in their hair but they did see a number of interesting things. Each pupil took a box of lunch and this was spread in picnic style.

Among the noteworthy observations for the children at the reservation were that the Indians there dress, talk, act and follow practically the same pursuits as their white neighbors. A visit to the Indian graveyard revealed the fact that they have even adopted the names of the white folk, only one real Indian name being noticed among many on the tombstones.

One of the older Indians recounted frequent trips he had made to Fort Mill in days gone by. That he is a good citizen was displayed by the fact that he was busy preparing his land for a crop and that he asked about the march of the allied troops into Germany.

ASKS HUNDRED THOUSAND.

McNinch Suit Against American Trust Company Being Heard.

Considerable interest attaches locally to the outcome of the trial in superior court in Charlotte this week of the case of S. S. McNinch against the American Trust company, in which the plaintiff is seeking \$100,000 damages he alleges the defendant company is due him for selling the Charlotte brick works, located at Grattan, two miles south of Fort Mill, for a sum much less than the actual value of the plant and in violation of an agreement entered into between himself and the company. The trust company held the brickyard in trust and some time ago disposed of it. The site of the former brick plant is now the property of Hamilton Carhart.

The jury in the case was selected Tuesday and that afternoon Mr. McNinch went on the stand. Much of his testimony was documentary.

The trust company insists that when the general depression prevalent in the country at the time of the sale is considered, it was in reality acting in the best interests of Mr. McNinch.

The Charlotte brick works was once a thriving industry, shipping its products to various sections of the country and giving employment to a considerable number of men. At one time the company operating the plant was owned by a number of stockholders, but eventually control of the business was secured by Mr. McNinch. Two or three years ago the plant was dismantled and the machinery sold.

LOAN BANK FUNCTIONING.

Fort Mill Association Again Receiving Applications.

A special meeting of the board of directors of the Fort Mill National Farm Loan association was held Saturday and C. S. Link, secretary and treasurer, was authorized to receive applications for loans under the federal farm loan act, this action following advice from the National Land bank at Columbia to the effect that the supreme court of the United States having rendered a favorable decision as to the constitutionality of the farm loan act, the bank was prepared to function again after a suspension of more than a year. Owing to the stringency of the money market at this time, and to the fact that a great number of uncompleted applications are on hand, advances on new applications may be delayed somewhat, but it is expected that within a few months the system will be operating more satisfactorily than before the suspension.

APPEALS TO COUNTRY TO HELP OUT FARMER

New Secretary of Agriculture Says Prices of Farm Products Must Rise, Other Prices Fall.

An appeal to "every good citizen" to do what he can to help the farmers of America through the period of depression, not for the sake of helping the farmer alone, but "for the sake of helping himself," was made Saturday by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace in his first formal statement.

Prices of farm products must rise and prices of other products come down before the normal relations between them has been restored, Mr. Wallace said. Talk of bringing prices back to a pre-war level, he declared, "is morally wrong and economically impossible," adding that "everybody would be better off" if an effort were made to bring about a price level, say 70 per cent above the pre-war normal.

Mr. Wallace said he doubted whether the people in the East "realize just what has happened to the farmers in the producing sections."

Citing conditions in the Central West as an example, he said that there, notwithstanding that "we have the finest rural civilization, taken as a whole, the world has ever seen," the farmers are now in "a most trying period and are suffering severe financial losses." Farmers throughout the nation, especially those in the South and West, he added, "are experiencing exactly the same trouble."

This widespread agricultural depression results from the high cost of production and because farm products have dropped "out of all proportion" to the prices of other things," Mr. Wallace said.

The department, the secretary said, would do everything possible to find an outlet for the great food surplus. Ways of producing more cheaply, new uses for surplus crops and better marketing systems, he said, would help the situation.

GIVING AWAY BUFFALO.

Responsible Citizens May Secure Bison From Government.

The forest service of the United States department of agriculture has more than 20 male buffalo of varying size and age which it desires to give away or loan to park or zoological associations or responsible individuals who will take good care of them for breeding or exhibition purposes.

The buffalo herd, established on the Wichita national forest and game preserve, Oklahoma, some 15 years ago with a nucleus of 15 animals, has prospered mightily. It now numbers nearly 150 head, including the 28 year old "gray gander" of the herd as well as the smallest and friskiest bull calf born last spring. As the herd has grown the number of bulls has increased more rapidly than the cows until now there are too many of the former.

Under the regulations the forest service can give or lend only one buffalo to an individual or institution. Although Uncle Sam is willing to make a present of these animals, the recipient must pay all expenses incident to the gift, including the cost of crating, hauling and freight charges from Cache, Okla., to the point of delivery.

An opportunity is thus presented to get a real life buffalo—not as gentle perhaps as a kitten but nevertheless a nice pet if you have plenty of room to keep him, surrounded by a 12 foot double ply-woven wire fence and the price of two tons of hay a year.

Jas. H. Bailes, father of Sergt. Eli Bailes, who was killed in the attack of the 30th division on the Hindenburg line on October 8, 1918, has received notice from the war department of the shipment of his son's body from France. The message to Mr. Bailes said the body would arrive in New York about March 18. A request was sent to forward the body to Fort Mill for burial and arrangement will be made here to give the people of the community an opportunity to honor the memory of the gallant young soldier. Sergt. Bailes was a member of the Fort Mill company.