

THE FORT MILL TIMES.

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HARD-SURFACE ROAD.

Highway From Charlotte to State Line to Be Improved.

A matter of much interest to the people of the upper section of York and Lancaster counties was the joint action in Charlotte Saturday of the North Carolina highway commission and the Mecklenburg county highway commission in agreeing to hard-surface the public road through Pineville from Charlotte to the South Carolina line, a distance of about 16 miles. The work will be under the supervision of the Mecklenburg commission, which purposes to get it under way as soon as possible, perhaps within the next few weeks. The work of improving the road will be expensive, costing, it is estimated, more than \$100,000, as the plans call for a road as good as a new city street. The macadam base of the old road will be used and a tarvia form of binding attached.

The public road from Charlotte to the South Carolina line runs almost parallel with the Southern railway as far as Pineville, a distance of 10 miles, and from there to the State line passes through the Harrison neighborhood to a point in Lancaster county, connecting with the King's highway. With the improvement of the Mecklenburg road there will be a first class, modern highway from Charlotte to Columbia, passing through Lancaster, Kershaw and Richland counties in South Carolina.

"Unless Fort Mill township gets busy and improves the Bailes bridge road from Fort Mill to the Lancaster county line before the Mecklenburg county project is completed, you may expect to see a considerable volume of trade now coming to Fort Mill from the Pleasant Valley, Harrison, Marvin and Belair neighborhoods diverted to Charlotte," a day or two ago said a Pleasant Valley citizen upon learning of the plans of the Mecklenburg commission to improve the Charlotte road to the State line. "Citizens of Pleasant Valley some weeks ago went to the expense of putting the cross road from the King's highway through Pleasant Valley to Bailes' bridge in first class condition by widening and top-soiling it the entire distance of four miles to be able to get to Fort Mill over a better road and now we think it is high time for Fort Mill township to show its appreciation of our efforts to more readily come here and transact our business by improving the road to Bailes' bridge."

BUFFALO FOR SALE.

Canada Puts on Market One Thousand Head.

One thousand buffalo are for sale by the Canadian government. The animals are for the most part bulls and represent the surplus of the herd of nearly 5,000 in the national park at Wainwright, Alberta.

The park is the largest wild game preserve under fence in the world. It contains more than 100,000 acres and could support 25,000 buffalo readily. But there is little winter pasturage because of the deep snows and a vast quantity of hay has to be cut every year to carry the herd through the cold season. This difficulty will make it necessary to limit the maximum size of the herd to 10,000 head.

The herd is now growing rapidly. As the number of breeding cows increases its rate of growth will be more rapid. Nearly a third of the animals are bulls. So large a proportion of males is unnecessary, and under the present plan they will be sold or killed and sold for meat. The slaughter will begin when cold weather sets in in the fall.

The Wainwright herd has developed from 800 buffalo bought in Montana in 1909. The national park is the prairie country that was the aboriginal habitat of the buffalo. The herd is the largest in the world. Of the millions of buffalo that once roamed the American continent only 9,311 remain, according to the last census.

OLD SLAVE MARKET.

Building in Charleston Reminder of Other Days.

In Chalmers street, Charleston, a short, narrow thoroughfare of picturesque tile roofed houses, the most of them built "San Domingo style," is a building of squat architecture, plain almost to grimness, a building that is a forceful reminder of the days when men sold human flesh. It stands almost beneath the shadow of Charleston's one skyscraper, the old and the new in startling contrast.

Unlike other cities where the trade was carried on, Charleston had no general slave market. There were two or three buildings where the sales took place. Most of the slave trading in Charleston was done through brokers, each firm having its own mart and adjoining buildings in which the slaves were lodged and fed preparatory to the sales. The old mart on Chalmers street was the principal one of these buildings. In the structure to the left, of similar though of more extensive architecture, were the slave quarters. The upper story of the old building is now used as a lodge room of a negro fraternal organization.

The first importation of slaves into the Carolina colony was in 1672, when Sir John Yeamans, an Englishman, afterward governor of Carolina, came from Barbadoes bringing with him a number of negroes who had been accustomed to labor in the tropical heat of the islands. The first ship to enter Charleston harbor carrying slaves for sale was a British ship. In 1713 Queen Anne herself was largely interested in the trade. By 1774 there were upwards of 80,000 negro slaves in South Carolina and the number rapidly increased from that time on.

During the years from 1804 through 1808, 202 vessels engaged in the slave trade entered the port of Charleston. From the published reports of the harbor master of that period it is shown that all except 13 of these vessels were owned in Great Britain and New England. Eighty-six of them had British owners, while more than 100 were owned in New England. 59 of this number in Rhode Island. None of these vessels were South Carolina owned. Of the 26,688 slaves landed in Charleston by these vessels during the period mentioned, 20,727 were brought in British vessels, for by this time the Royal African company, with James Duke of York its head, had a monopoly of the trade in slaves on the African coast.

There is a striking fact connected with the slave trade in South Carolina which is not generally known. At the beginning of the Civil war there were living in Charleston by actual count fully 300 negro slave owners—free negroes who not only owned negro slaves, but both bought and sold them!

That the traffic in slaves was carried on in South Carolina not only against the desire of the people of the State but in the face of vigorous opposition is amply shown by the records. No less than a score of petitions were sent, the majority of which were legislative petitions, from the South Carolina colony to the government of Great Britain imploring that the slave trade be stopped. The first of these, sent in 1756, protested against the evil as being directly against the wish as well as the laws of the colony. Great Britain's reply, now among the documents carefully preserved in the Charleston library, was to the effect that the petition could not be granted because of the injury it would do "the legitimate business of English merchants and skippers trading to our colony from the coast of Africa."

B. M. Lee recently purchased for his brother, T. K. Lee of Birmingham, Ala., the farm of Mrs. J. W. McElhany and heirs one mile south of Fort Mill. The consideration was \$7,325. The farm will be set to several varieties of pedigreed pecans.

IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.

Negro Boy Charged With Attempting to Assault Girl.

Mann White, 15 year old negro boy, Wednesday afternoon was committed to jail by Magistrate J. R. Haile on the serious charge of assault with intent to ravish a 12 year old white girl in Fort Mill township, a short distance beyond the corporate limits of the town, Monday afternoon. The boy was arrested by J. F. Lee, special constable, Wednesday at noon while he was picking cotton in a field near town. Late yesterday afternoon he was taken to the county jail in York by J. H. Patterson, constable, and J. F. Lee.

The boy was represented at the preliminary hearing by an attorney from Rock Hill. Very little evidence was brought out at the hearing, to which only a few were admitted, but enough, in the opinion of the boy's attorney, to warrant the magistrate in holding him for trial without bond. Under the section of the criminal code of South Carolina which was consulted and followed at the hearing the boy's offense, should he be convicted, is a felony and he may be punished by death or life imprisonment, depending upon the wording of the verdict of the jury.

A number of negroes and white men who had been attracted by the hearing were on Main street during the time the case was under consideration in the magistrate's court. There was said to have been some talk of violence against the boy, but there was no indication of such action while the hearing was in progress or after the constables left with the prisoner for jail. The fact that the boy did not lay his hands on the girl will not excuse him from severe punishment if he is found guilty by a jury.

Good Word for Weevil.

Editor Fort Mill Times:

Permit me to say a few words to my brother farmers. While I am not farming now, I have farmed for a long time and have heard so much about the boll weevil in this section recently that I want to express my opinion of the weevil. I think it is a great blessing to this old Southland of ours. It will cause many of our farmers to raise what they have been buying from the North and West. Since the Civil war, 56 years ago, we have been slaves to cotton and the credit system. I know plenty of men just as poor now as they were at the close of the war on account of all cotton, depending upon the other fellow to feed them. I have heard some of them say, "I can take a bale of cotton and buy all the horse feed I need," and right here is where they make the mistake.

You can go over this country and you can tell all-cotton farmers. His stock and everything around him will look bad. On the other hand, you can tell every one that makes his living at home. Everything is happy at his home and the boll weevil is not bothering him.

This thing of all cotton has ruined many a man and has caused some to commit suicide. It has caused many a woman and little child to go hungry and without sufficient clothing.

So, God bless the boll weevil.

D. A. Lee.

YORK CROPS GOOD.

In conversation yesterday with The Times reporter, Albert Fant, assistant State bank examiner, commented on the good crop conditions he had recently found in York county. In South Carolina, Pickens ranks first, Spartanburg second and York third, in Mr. Fant's opinion. In referring to the excellent condition of affairs as shown by his examination of the Savings Bank of Fort Mill, Mr. Fant remarked that this bank was one of the 16 State institutions in South Carolina which had no rediscounts or bills payable during the past year. Incidentally he also said that the Savings bank is also the 16th oldest bank in South Carolina.

GO TO WORK ON BRIDGE.

Contractors Prepare to Begin on York-Mecklenburg Structure.

The Hardaway Contracting company, which has the contract for building the brick and concrete portions of the York-Mecklenburg bridge across the Catawba river at "Buster" Boyd ferry, 12 miles northwest of Fort Mill, has shipped a number of carloads of machinery and tools to Worth, sidetrack between Griffith and Charlotte, preparatory to beginning actual work on the construction of the bridge. The machinery and tools will be hauled at once from Worth to the site of the bridge.

Some surprise was expressed in Fort Mill that the contracting company should have decided to make Worth the point to which its machinery and supplies were to be shipped instead of Fort Mill, as the distance to the bridge site from that point is 16 miles against a distance of 12 miles from Fort Mill, but the extra cost of the longer haul will be more than offset by the lower freight rate to the North Carolina sidetrack, according to a statement of an employee of the company.

The contracts for the York-Mecklenburg bridge were let a few weeks ago at a joint meeting in Charlotte of the York-Mecklenburg county commissioners for a little less than \$100,000, which is said to have been about one-fourth less than the bridge could have been built for a year ago. It is said to be the purpose of the contractors to rush the construction of the bridge, but at best several months will be required to complete the structure.

One Farmer Optimistic.

A Lancaster county farmer whose place is a few miles north of the town of Lancaster was in Fort Mill Saturday and remarked to The Times that the boll weevil was not only doing great damage to the cotton in his community but also had attacked the pea crop and was riddling it. "I do not feel discouraged over the outlook, however," he continued. "Within a year or two we shall learn how to grow cotton under boll weevil conditions as the farmers of other sections of the South have been doing for several years. The crop will not be so large as it has been, but that will be to our advantage—we will get a better price for it and it will take less work and less expenses otherwise to produce it. All along we have grown too much cotton. Now we shall have to produce more home supplies. I am surprised that so many of our farmers are ready to give up now that the boll weevil has invaded this section. That was the way the Hessians fought in the Revolutionary war."

PLEASANT VALLEY NEWS.

Interesting Items From Progressive Community.

Mrs. J. A. Younts of Pineville, N. C., is spending some time with Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Elms.

Mrs. Crawford Heath and children, Mrs. J. M. Hutchinson and children and Miss Roberts motored over from Fort Mill last Tuesday and spent the afternoon with Mrs. E. P. Stephenson.

Miss Thelma Potts entertained the Young Ladies' Missionary society of the Pleasant Valley Baptist church at her home Wednesday evening. Progressive conversation and refreshments were enjoyed during the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Potts and C. E. Patterson spent last Thursday in Kershaw.

The hot dry weather of the last two weeks has been broken by a number of refreshing showers and farmers of this community are busy sowing clover and other cover crops.

Mrs. B. J. Alexander was taken to a Rock Hill hospital last week where she was operated upon for appendicitis. Her condition is reported satisfactory and it is hoped that she will continue to improve rapidly.

"Spinner."

FROM GUTTER TO PULPIT.

Rev. Baxter McLendon Tells Audience of His Conversion.

Standing on a high chair and holding his hands in the air before an audience of 10,000 people in Spencer, N. C., last Thursday night, Rev. Baxter McLendon declared that he was just as much called to preach as ever was St. Paul, John Wesley or any man in history.

He gave the story of his life in such a vivid manner that the great audience was thrilled with his address. He said that 14 years ago he was a bleary-eyed, whiskey-soaked, godless professional gambler and a periodical drunkard, and that today he may be classed as a gentleman and preacher of the gospel.

He was reared in a pious home and at the age of 14 felt the call to preach, but he spurned this call, reveling in sin of the lowest type until his home was a veritable wreck on account of his degradation. He drank to the dregs and spent his time as a fugitive from justice. He told how he loved gambling and how he operated one of the biggest gambling places in his home town, patronized the bucket shops and spent much time and money fighting game cocks and bull dogs.

He told of many instances of how he evaded the courts, hopped from his home in South Carolina to the coal mines, worked as a miner, had many close calls for his life and tried in every way to get away from God, how he was led back home, came under the influence of a sermon by a devout minister, fought conviction for days and weeks, got into serious shooting scrapes, was sought by the officers for weeks and months, how his wife and parents tried to save him from ruin and how the devil and his associates pulled him back. Then he spent several days at the mourners' bench, though he carried two pistols there with him.

Finally he was converted, but resisted a call to preach until the very last. Since taking up the ministry he has seen most of his old associates converted. He asked the audience to tell him why and how it was that one day he was a professional gambler and the next a preacher of the gospel; how that one day he was carrying two pistols and the next day a Bible. Why was it that he was selling blind tiger liquor one day and the next day he was trying to destroy it?

He recommended Jesus to every vile and sinful man in his hearing and made a powerful appeal to them. In response to his appeal several hundred, mostly young men and young women, professed allegiance to their Maker.

Baptist Association Meeting.

The York Baptist association is meeting this week in its 53d annual session with the First Baptist church of Rock Hill. A number of delegates from the Fort Mill Baptist church are attending the meeting. The association is composed of representatives of 18 churches with a combined membership of about 2,500. A number of prominent speakers are present to discuss missions, benevolence, education and other topics of importance in the work of the church.

Many Loan Applications.

A recent report of the secretary of the Federal Land bank of Columbia showed that during the month of August applications for loans under the federal farm loan act were received aggregating approximately \$7,500,000, and loans to the amount of about \$1,500,000 were made.

The Fort Mill Farm Loan association has received, since the opening for business of the land bank in Columbia last spring, applications aggregating \$74,000, of which \$12,000 has been granted.

The family of the Rev. J. B. Black, who some weeks ago resigned the pastorate of the Fort Mill Presbyterian church, is this week moving to Morganton, N. C.

ELECTRIC CHAIR FOR TRIO.

Fox, Kirby and Gappins to Die for Murder of Young Brazell.

C. O. Fox, S. J. Kirby and Jesse Gappins, convicted murderers of William Brazell, 19 year old Columbia transfer driver, at 5:25 Tuesday afternoon were sentenced by Judge Thos. S. Sease, presiding in the Lexington county court, to die in the electric chair at the State penitentiary on Friday, October 21 between the hours of 10 o'clock in the morning and 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

The jury in the trial of the Kirby case, the trial of which was begun at 3:30 o'clock Monday afternoon, reached a verdict of guilty at 10:59 o'clock Tuesday morning, after deliberating 35 minutes, while Fox and Gappins, who were tried jointly, were convicted at 5:14 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, the jury having been closeted exactly 40 minutes.

The entire trial of the three men, begun with the swearing of witnesses for the grand jury at 10:15 o'clock Monday morning, occupied only about ten hours of actual time of the court during the two days. The grand jury returned a true bill against the three men at 11:45 Monday morning and a few minutes later the prisoners, defended by counsel appointed by the court, were arraigned.

At 3:30 o'clock Monday afternoon the trial of Kirby was begun, the case going to the jury at 10:24 Tuesday morning. Thirty-five minutes later the verdict of guilty had been returned and the trial of Fox and Gappins was begun. At 12:45 the State rested its case against the two men and at 5:14 o'clock the second jury had agreed that Fox and Gappins were guilty.

The three men were arraigned to receive their sentences and at 5:25 o'clock each of the three had heard his doom solemnly pronounced, and each then knew that there was only a few hours over 37 days of life remaining for him.

It was early on the morning of Monday, August 8, exactly 37 days from the time the men were sentenced to death, that young Brazell was killed by the three men near Leesville, Lexington county, after having been lured into a supposedly bona fide trip to "get some girls."

As a boy S. J. Kirby lived with his family near the dam of the Southern power company in Fort Mill township. After staying in the Fort Mill community a few years the Kirby family moved to Rock Hill, where S. J. Kirby earned for himself an unsavory reputation by acts of lawlessness. He served a term on the York county chaingang and was sentenced to the penitentiary for a year or two, but was pardoned before completing his term.

GOLD HILL NOTES.

News Items From the Upper Section of Fort Mill Township.

C. P. Blankenship is in York this week attending court.

Mrs. C. P. Blankenship and Mrs. S. P. Wilson are visiting Mrs. Tom Langston in Florence. Misses Cleo and Carrie Blackwelder of Charlotte spent last week-end as guests of Miss Winnie Crook.

Sutton Epps and Banks Patterson visited Tom Blackwelder in Charlotte several days last week.

S. W. Kimbrell and his family and W. H. Crook last Sunday attended quarterly conference of Pleasant Hill Methodist church in Pleasant Valley community.

Walter Pettus of the Belair community Sunday evening filled the pulpit of Philadelphia Methodist church for the pastor, the Rev. W. R. Bauknight. Mr. Pettus' message was short, but was enjoyed by all who heard it.

Miss Marie Epps has returned to her home, after visiting relatives in Ebenezer township.

J. W. Evans of Kingstree is on a short visit to Willard Wilson.

"Boagus."

Cotton Twenty Cents.

Cotton is selling for 20 cents on the Fort Mill market today.