

THE FORT MILL TIMES.

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FORT MILL, S. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1921.

\$1.50 Per Year.

MUST PAY TAXES.

Otherwise Fort Mill Citizens Cannot Vote in Town Election.

Citizens of Fort Mill who wish to participate in the town election to be held here early in January, 1922, for a mayor and six aldermen, to hold office during the years 1922-1923, will not be able to do so unless they have paid all State and county taxes due and collectible between October 15 and December 31, under a decision of the supreme court of South Carolina handed down last Wednesday declaring null and void the election held some time ago in which it was proposed to annex a portion of Chester county to York county. The vote in the annexation election was 147 for and 66 against annexation, but on the showing of the opponents of annexation before the Chester county board of canvassers of citizens having voted illegally in the election, in that they had not paid their taxes in the time prescribed by law to enable them to vote, the board declared the election without effect. An appeal was taken to the State board of canvassers and thence to Judge Ernest Moore, both of whom sustained the ruling of the county board. Now the supreme court says the decree of Judge Moore was correct.

While the opinion of the supreme court will perhaps have the effect of causing some citizens to waive their right to take part in the municipal election in Fort Mill in January, as it is not anticipated that every citizen who is otherwise eligible to vote in the election will have paid his taxes by January 1, it is not expected that the vote will be materially decreased. Usually there is more interest in town elections in Fort Mill than in any other election held here and if early talk is an index to the amount of interest to be displayed in the forthcoming election it will not be an exception in this particular to most of its predecessors of recent years.

In addition to the payment of all State and county taxes due and collectible before January 1 it also will be necessary for Fort Mill citizens who wish to vote in the town election in January to present to the election managers both county and town registration certificates. The State law provides that county registration certificates to be honored must have been issued at least one month prior to the election at which the holder undertakes to vote and the law governing the issuance of town registration certificates specifies that the registration books be open for a period of 20 days, closing ten days before the election for which the certificates are issued. No date has yet been fixed, so far as The Times is informed, for the town election, but if precedent, if not the law, is followed, it will be held during the early part of January, necessitating the opening of the town registration books not later than December 10.

Mrs. Jennie Brittain Lewis Dead.

Fort Mill friends of Mrs. Jennie Brittain Lewis, who lived here a few years ago with her son, Frank Lewis, and her daughter, Miss Mary Lewis, were pained Monday to hear of her death last Friday in Fort Worth, Texas, where she was visiting relatives. At the time Mrs. Lewis lived in Fort Mill her son was secretary and treasurer of the Fort Mill Manufacturing company. The family moved here from Tazewell, Va., and had many friends in the community. Recently the home of the family has been in Greenville. The remains of Mrs. Lewis were taken to her old home in Virginia for interment.

Buried in Fort Mill.

The body of George W. Plyler, a former citizen of Fort Mill, who died in Rock Hill last Wednesday, was brought to Fort Mill and interred in the city cemetery Thursday afternoon. Mr. Plyler had been ill for some time. He was the father of Mrs. Elmore Gordon of Fort Mill and had other relatives living in this community.

NEARING COMPLETION.

New St. John's Church Soon to Be in Use.

After months of more or less vexatious delay, there is now the prospect that the congregation of St. John's Methodist church will be able to worship for the first time in their new and commodious church edifice on Sunday, November 27. For some time the building has been practically completed except for the installation of the heating plant and the window lights. Work on the heating plant has been rushed for the last ten days, however, and there now remains to finish this part of the contract only the installation of the boiler, which is expected to arrive and be placed in position within the next three or four days. The window lights have been shipped from Atlanta, according to a letter received the early part of the week by an officer of the church, and the work of putting them in will consume only a day or two. Apparently all will be in readiness for the morning service at the church on the last Sunday in the month.

With the completion of the new church building for St. John's congregation, the Methodists of Fort Mill will have what is considered by many one of the most modern and complete places of worship in the upper section of the State. Especial care was taken by the architect in designing the building to provide for the growing Sunday school needs of the church. There are rooms for the various advanced, intermediate and primary classes and the arrangement is such that the departmental idea in Sunday school work will be carried out as is found in few churches outside the large cities.

No special program has been arranged to mark the use of the church for the first time on November 27, but later on with the laying of the cornerstone of the building special services in celebration of the event will be carried out. The pastor of St. John's is the Rev. W. R. Bouknight and to his untiring work and energy much of the credit for the erection of the new church building is given.

GRADED SCHOOL NOTES.

Last Friday, Armistice day, was observed by the school. About 300 of the pupils and the teachers attended the county fair in Rock Hill in a body and most of them marched in the parade.

Miss Kathleen Armstrong has charge of the second section of the first grade in the absence of Miss Ethel Loftis, who is spending several days at her home in Greenville.

The members of the football team have received invitations to a banquet to be given in the school auditorium by the girls composing the basketball team. Among other things in store for the boys is the presentation of the high school letter to all who played in as many as four games this season.

There will be no school on the Friday following Thanksgiving, as the school will be closed for four days, from November 24 to November 27, inclusive. The last day will be made up during the spring term.

Patrons and other friends of the school are invited to visit the class rooms and observe the work being done. By dropping in at odd times one may see what is being done by any class. Such visits would not only help the school but would give a better idea of the work the children are doing and are expected to do.

Mrs. T. Grier Moffatt of Chester was a guest of her mother, Mrs. Augusta Culp, for two or three days the early part of the week.

The Rev. R. H. Viser of Laurel Hill, N. C., to whom a call was recently extended by the Fort Mill Presbyterian church, has informed Col. T. B. Spratt, clerk of the church's session, that he accepts the call and will be ready to take charge of the pastoral work about December 1.

PUPILS ON HONOR ROLL.

List of Fort Mill Boys and Girls Who Win Distinction.

More pupils than is ordinarily the case got on the honor roll of the Fort Mill graded school for the first quarter of the present session. In furnishing The Times with a copy of the honor roll, the superintendent, Capt. F. M. Mack, explained that first honor, or highly distinguished, is given to those pupils who make a percentage of from 95 to 100 and have perfect attendance marks—that is, no tardies or absences; second honor is given to those who make a percentage above 90 and have no more than two tardies and two absences during the time covered by the report. The honor roll for the first quarter follows:

Primary First Grade—First honor, Jennie Louise Bradford, Emilie Louise Meacham, Sarah Lee, Frances Mae Mills, Helen Phillips, Wilma Reeves, Lestina Potts, Inez Long, Boyd Griffin, Fred Harris, David Rodgers, A. Y. Withamson, Jr., Andy Morrison.

Intermediate First Grade—First honor, Margaret Baker, Randolph Robertson.

Advanced First Grade—First honor, Ruth Miller, Harry Doster, Furman Merritt, Erwin Hunter, Ona Dulin, Lane Smith, Odell Walker, Lillie May Archie, Edna May Erwin; second honor, Frank Hancock, Inez McCameron, Lois Starnes, Anna Sanders, Knox Dulin.

Second Grade—First honor, Inez Armstrong, Edith Oates, Troy Cauthen, Fenton Rogers, Lema Taylor, Marion Wilson, Gilmore Pitman; second honor, Frank Carothers, Sadie Stamper, Elizabeth Bradford, Marion Harkney, Murray Culp, Johnson Wilkerson, Rebecca Wright, Beady Wilson, Andrew Fite, Jasper Kimbrell, Johnnie Spinks, Anne Nims.

Third Grade—First honor, Della Mae Woods, Gilbert Gross, Harriett Carothers, Maria Culp, Jennie Lou Garrison, Margaret Wilson, James Allen Ferguson; second honor, Evelyn Robinson, Rochelle Patterson, Ethel Miller, Cleveland Lytle, Nora Lee Raily, Carl Lamberth, Eugene Patterson.

Fourth Grade—First honor, Mildred Medlin, Iona Montgomery; second honor, Charlie Carter, Beatrice Ferguson, Sarah Barber, Floyd Pitman, Mary Starnes, John McGuirt, Pearl Honeycutt, Louise Wilson, Ethel Wright, Howard Patterson.

Fifth Grade—First honor, Helen Ferguson, Annie McGinnis; second honor, Emma Bailes, Elmer Lowery, Myra Kimbrell, Julia McCorkle, Kenyon Young, Allie Bradford, Lula Parks, Willie Honeycutt, Melvin Carter.

Sixth Grade—Second honor, Mary Garrison.

Seventh Grade—First honor, Owen Patterson, Faulkner Parks, Ray Hunter; second honor, Myrtle Reeves.

Eighth Grade—Second honor, Hattie Parks, Cora Massey, Willie Bradford.

Ninth Grade—Nannie Lee Phillips, Ellen Crane, Dudley Crook.

Tenth Grade—Stephen Parks, Elmore Alexander.

Urges Corn as Fuel.

Secretary Wallace of the department of agriculture urges farmers in the corn belt of the Central West to burn corn instead of coal. He says it will pay both farmers and other people living in country towns to make the substitution. Corn at 10 cents a bushel will equal in heating value coal at \$5 a ton. The better grade of coal, however, is selling for \$10 a ton.

A Thanksgiving service will be held at Pleasant Valley Baptist church Thursday evening, November 24, at 7 o'clock. A sermon will be preached by the pastor, the Rev. J. W. H. Dyches and a box will be there for the reception of gifts of clothing, fruit, vegetables, money, etc., for the Connie Maxwell orphanage at Greenwood. There also will be special music for the services which the public is cordially invited to attend.

GASOLINE IN WELL.

Water at Palmetto Hotel Rendered Unfit for Use.

A mystery that remains unexplained after three days was discovered in Fort Mill Monday morning when W. F. Harris, proprietor of the Palmetto hotel, went to the well on the hotel premises to draw a bucket of water and found that in some way gasoline had entered the well in large quantities, making the water unfit for use. Mr. Harris drew from the well several buckets of the gasoline and water which he poured into a large pan and then applied a match to the admixture. It burned freely for several minutes.

Whence came the gasoline was a question asked by many, but the question remains unanswered. There is a small gasoline tank buried in the ground in the rear of the office of the Fort Mill Telephone exchange, about 50 feet from the well, but the owner of the tank, S. L. Meacham, says he does not think that, even should his tank have sprung a leak, enough gasoline is escaping to seep through the ground to the hotel well.

The next nearest buried gasoline tank to the well is that at the grocery of B. C. Ferguson, on Main street, 200 feet away. Mr. Ferguson is said to have stated that he is confident his tank does not leak, and there is the question whether, if it does, the gasoline trickles through the earth in as large quantities as was discovered in the well.

Gasoline in the well at the Palmetto hotel was not discovered for the first time Monday morning, however. Two years ago the fluid got into the well in some mysterious way. Then there was a buried gasoline tank at a garage about 50 feet away. The owner said the tank leaked and it has since been taken up. The water at that time remained impregnated with gasoline but a few days and the incident was forgotten. Now it is recalled by the reappearance of gasoline in the well.

WILL DO OWN PAVING.

The concrete paving which the town council of Fort Mill authorized on the grounds of St. John's Methodist church, to be paid for from the town treasury, will not be done with the assent of A. O. Jones, M. J. Adcock and T. F. Lytle, members of council, who also are members of St. John's church. Monday Mr. Jones stated that while both the congregation of St. John's and the three members of council were grateful to the town for authorizing the paving, that personally he and the two other members of council thought it unwise that the cost of the work be met by the town and that he was certain, as chairman of the street committee of council, that when the paving was put down it would be paid for by the church itself.

"I thought at the time the resolution authorizing the paving came before council it would be best not to adopt it, but for reasons that are hardly worth mentioning I did not oppose it," said Mr. Jones. "But now that I have turned the matter over in my mind a number of times, I have reached the conclusion that the best thing for both town council and the church is to decline to have the work done under the resolution. The paving from the street to St. John's church and around the building to the Sunday school rooms will be done in due time, but it will be paid for from church funds."

Registration Board Coming.

Arrangements have about been completed with the county board of registration to spend Friday, November 25, in Fort Mill for the issuance of certificates to citizens of the town who may wish to vote in the municipal election to be held in January and in other elections.

F. C. Rodgers, Jr., has accepted a position with the Hutchinson pharmacy.

WOULD AMEND LAW.

Citizen Holds Magistrates Should Issue Marriage Licenses.

"The marriage license law passed by the Legislature about ten years ago has done a great deal of good in South Carolina, but there is one defect in the law which should be cured, in my opinion," yesterday said a York county citizen to The Times. "As the law is written," he continued, "it is necessary for couples who wish to be married to go either before the judge of probate in person or appear before a magistrate to secure an affidavit setting forth the fact, as he sees it, that they are competent to enter the marriage relation, and then forward this affidavit to the judge of probate before the license is issued and returned either to the magistrate or the man applying for the license. The latter method frequently results in delay, but after all it is tantamount to the magistrate issuing the license, which if that official is able to issue indirectly by affidavit, he ought to be able to issue directly in the first instance.

"Take Fort Mill township as an illustration of what I have in mind. If an application is made to the magistrate here for a marriage license, of course he cannot issue it, but he can affix his official signature to an affidavit addressed to the judge of probate stating that the license should be granted, and that ends the matter, for the judge of probate seldom refuses to honor such an affidavit; but it is a roundabout way of transacting public business which could be transacted more expeditiously if the magistrate were authorized to grant the license without referring the matter to the judge of probate. Fort Mill is no more remote from the court house of York county than are hundreds of other communities in South Carolina from their respective court houses and the change I suggest would expedite the public business and at the same time remove a hardship many worthy couples are subjected to in securing their marriage licenses by having to go long distances to appear in person at the office of the judge of probate or wait until their application, after being approved by the local magistrate, is sent to the county official and he approves it and forwards the marriage license.

"Furthermore, the average magistrate is a man of as good judgment as the average judge of probate in deciding who should and who should not be married and there is no reason why his judgment should not be final in law as it already is in fact."

Saw Brown Mountain Light.

The story in The Times of last week telling of the mysterious light frequently seen in recent years on Brown mountain, N. C., was of peculiar interest to Miss Julia Boyd of Fort Mill, who saw the light some time ago from the piazza of a hotel at Blowing Rock, a few miles from Brown mountain. Miss Boyd was spending a summer vacation at Blowing Rock and having heard much of the light and the mystery surrounding it, was watching for it one evening about 9 o'clock when it suddenly came into view and after apparently hanging suspended above the mountain top for a few seconds disappeared.

The theory that the light was that of a locomotive on the Clinchfield road winding its way through the mountains toward the Tennessee line was exploded by the fact that the light was to be seen only at intervals, Miss Boyd said, adding that if it had been a locomotive headlight it could have been seen nightly as the train passed through that section. Nor was the light a trick of mountaineers bent upon furnishing the hotel guests and country side with a fake mystery, for camping parties on Brown mountain made sure that no deceptive methods were being used to produce it. In Miss Boyd's opinion, the best explanation of the light is that it is an electrical phenomenon, as was stated in The Times' article.

CHEERS FOR WILSON.

Rock Hill Man Writes of Ovation for Former President.

Writing from Washington Saturday to the Rock Hill Record of incidents of the parade held in Washington last Friday in honor of the unknown American soldier who was that day buried in Arlington cemetery, Eugene A. Hutchison of Rock Hill, secretary to Congressman Stevenson, makes the following interesting observations:

"Yesterday was a big day for Washington and it must have been a big day for Woodrow Wilson, for the ovation he alone received was wonderful. I am inclosing some clippings which speak for themselves. And they are from The Times, Hearst's paper.

"In the afternoon thousands went to Wilson's residence and again he was given a demonstration. The Washington Post, the court crier for Harding and the administration, said this morning that only 2,000 people went around to see Wilson. They missed it by 10,000 at least. The World says there were 20,000 persons standing bareheaded before Wilson's residence to pay tribute to the greatest soldier in the world," and that "he burst into tears" at the sight. "I don't think there were 20,000, but certainly 10,000 more than 2,000.

"The Post will not tell things as they are and none of the Washington papers, so far as I have been able to see, have said a word about Marion, Ohio, the president's own town, going Democratic by a thousand majority last Tuesday. Did you know it?

"I wish you could have seen the ovation given Wilson. The sentiment is turning again to him and in my opinion, if he had his health, he would be the next president.

"The armament conference, which opens today, is just another name for the League of Nations. Old Man Woody has hung something around their necks that they can't shake off. They might call the 'collar' by a different name, but it chokes just the same."

Car of Other Days.

An interesting relic of the days when the automobile industry was in its infancy may be seen in the rear of Starnes' garage on Confederate street in the shape of a Brush runabout. The car was built about 17 years ago and was the second automobile to be brought to Fort Mill for use locally. Fifteen years ago it was a familiar sight in Fort Mill chugging along over the streets of the town and nearby country roads as best it could with its single cylinder and other mechanism now considered antiquated.

The car was owned by W. F. Harris, who operated it in connection with a livery stable he was then running here. Mr. Harris got the car from a Lancaster man, to whom he traded six horses for it. A peculiarity of the car was that sometimes it refused to climb a hill in the ordinary way, but having greater motive power going backward than forward could always be depended upon to back up the steepest hill in this section.

Football Season Ends.

The Fort Mill high school football team played its last game of the season last Thursday with the high school team of Lancaster, to which it lost, 13 to 2. The game was played on the local gridiron. Fort Mill should have scored 21 points, said the report of the game written for The Times. Several times the team was within a few yards of Lancaster's goal, but the punch to put across a touchdown was lacking. The local team flashed a clever piece of football when three of the players, on a kickoff, downed an opponent behind his goal and got the two points credited to Fort Mill.

William S. Belk left Monday evening on a business trip to Atlanta. He was expected to return yesterday.