

THE FORT MILL TIMES.

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TO FORM PARTY CLUB.

Democrats of Fort Mill to Hold Meeting Friday Evening.

Based, it is stated, upon the recent decision of the supreme court of South Carolina holding that to be able to vote in any general election held within six months after the last day of the year the citizen must have paid all State and county taxes due by him between October 15 and December 31, 1920, the Democrats of Fort Mill, 163 Fort Mill Democrats, complying with the rules of the party as adopted at the State convention held in Columbia on May 19, 1920, have signed a petition addressed to F. E. Ardrey, mayor of Fort Mill, stating their intention to organize "The Fort Mill City Democratic Club," presumably to nominate candidates to enter the race for municipal offices in the election to be held in Fort Mill on January 10, 1922, and to nominate candidates for subsequent town elections.

On the rolls of the Fort Mill Township Democratic club for the State and county primaries held in August, 1920, there appeared the names of 223 men who gave their residence as the town of Fort Mill. The rules of the party state that town Democratic clubs may be organized upon petition of not less than 15 per cent of the voters residing within the town. Taking the township club roll as a basis for computing the number of voters living in Fort Mill, it will be seen that considerably more than the requisite number have signed the petition for the organization of the club they propose.

Friday night, November 25, at 7:30 o'clock, has been selected as the time for the organization of the club and the town hall as the place, according to information reaching The Times. It is said to be the purpose of the sponsors of the club to perfect the organization along lines similar to those employed in forming township clubs, which conduct the State and county primaries. If these plans are followed it means that there will be elected a president, one or more vice presidents, a secretary and treasurer and an executive committee as the club's officials, and if it is decided to hold a primary for the nomination of candidates for town officers in the election to be held in January, it will be necessary to open books of registration at an early date and to provide that the primary be held before the end of the year or early in the new year. As there will be some expense involved in holding the election, it is presumed that the candidates will be required to pay a nominal fee for entering the primary.

An interesting phase of the rule of the party under which it is proposed to organize the local city Democratic club is the recall provision. Under the rules which may be adopted at the meeting Friday night it would be in keeping with an amendment adopted at the State convention in Columbia last year providing that the successful candidates entering the club's primaries did so with the understanding that if their services were not satisfactory to a certain percentage of the citizens participating in the election these citizens could petition for a recall election in which it would be necessary for the officials at which the recall was aimed to seek vindication at the hands of the voters. This provision of the party rules, however, appears to be optional with newly formed clubs, which may or may not make it a part of their rules.

Authority for the organization of town or city Democratic clubs is found in section 44 of the amendments adopted by the 1920 State convention. The amendment was the only one of several adopted by the convention which the executive committee considered of sufficient importance to emphasize by having it printed in black face type in the rules of the party.

Mrs. Minnie Donohue and Alvin Howell, both of Fort Mill, were married on November 16 by Magistrate J. R. Haile.

FOOTBALL SEASON ENDS.

Fort Mill Boys Did Well Considering Inexperience.

The football season which came to an end a few days ago for the Fort Mill high school eleven, while not a brilliant success, cannot be said to have been a failure. Of the seven games the team played, two were won, one tied and four lost. Hard luck seemed to follow the team through the season, for only once or twice did the breaks come Fort Mill's way, while in numerous instances the team's opponents scored on flukes or fumbles.

The team was developed from inexperienced players, younger and lighter than any team in this section of the State. Only one or two of the boys had ever before played football and several had never seen a real game. The average age of the players was 15 1-2 years and their average weight 130 pounds.

Reviewing the work of the individual players it may be said that Edward Kimbrell played well throughout the season at center. As guards and tackles Jack Mills, Allan Parks and Dixon Phillips were aggressive. As ends, Dudley Crook and Pat Brown did some fast and heady work, especially toward the end of the season.

The team's backfield was especially good and was feared by the opposing teams. Douglas Nims, captain, at fullback, ran the team well and probably gained more ground than any other member of the team. Luther Patterson, at quarter, was efficient and frequently got away for long end runs. Mike Link, at left half, was noted for his line plunges and his good defensive work. Tom Harris, at right half, developed toward the end of the season into a clever open field runner.

In the first game of the season, with York, the score was 7-7. The game was mediocre. While the game against the University school of Charlotte was lost, 6-0, it was virtually a victory for Fort Mill, as the team was expecting to lose by a big score. It was in that game the discovery was made that the local eleven could play good football.

The third game of the season was won from Rock Hill high, 7-0. The team clearly outplayed the "Good Town" boys and the prospects looked bright for a successful season.

Overconfidence helped to bring an overwhelming defeat from the Chester champions, whose team had more experience and outweighed the Fort Mill boys.

Kershaw was defeated on the home grounds, 18-0. The score should have been larger, but the Fort Mill boys seemed to lack the punch to put the ball over the last few yards of the visitors' goal.

The team had a delightful time in Winnsboro, but the boys are still explaining why they lost, 7-0. The fast and heavy Winthrop Training school team outplayed Fort Mill in the first half, but was jolted when Link scored for the local boys on a forward pass in the third quarter. The training school lads won, thanks to Fort Mill's indifferent work during the first half.

Lancaster was faced with a crippled team, Nims having quit school. But every member of the team did the best he could and many thought Lancaster was outplayed, although they won, 13-2. The team has gained some valuable experience during the season and with most of the members expected to return to school next year, the prospects are bright for a winning team in 1922.

A marriage of interest to many Fort Mill people was that of Miss Estelle McManus, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. M. McManus, to T. Andral Ferguson, in York Saturday evening at 9:30 o'clock. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. K. Walker, pastor of the York Methodist church, in the presence of the following relatives and friends of the young couple who accompanied them to York from Fort Mill: Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Ferguson, Miss Cleo Bailes and Earle Bailes.

NEWS OF YORK COUNTY.

Current Items of Interest From the Yorkville Enquirer.

W. H. Hope, well known merchant and prominent citizen of Rock Hill, who has been sick for some time past, is able to be out again, although he has not fully recovered. Mr. Hope has been suffering from the effects of influenza, which he had last year.

Night work was to begin at the Clover cotton mill Tuesday night and it is expected that it will be continued indefinitely. A number of new families have recently moved to the mill village and as was announced a week ago, the mill management is preparing to build new houses with a view to providing for still further help.

Farmers of the Clover section are still sowing lots of wheat and oats, and seed wheat is said to still be in great demand. Some farmers who for years have been accustomed to sowing a little wheat just from force of habit more than from any other cause are growing into the wheat growing business with all seriousness this fall and are going to pay more attention to the growing of grain than ever before.

The total assessed valuation of the taxable property of the county this year is \$13,816,094 against \$13,193,551 last year, an increase for this year of \$622,543, which, of course, does not include the polls. The aggregate assessed valuation of the personalty this year is \$7,267,587 against \$6,691,509 last year, an increase of only \$56,455, the total valuation this year being \$5,515,345 against \$5,458,890 last year.

Indian women from "the nation," the Catawba Indian reservation near Rock Hill, were in that city Saturday selling pottery. They had quite a variety of pots, pipes and other articles, and they were making strenuous efforts to dispose of their wares. It used to be that the Catawbas traveled all over York, Chester and Lancaster counties in the summer and fall selling pottery of their own manufacture. Now they hardly ever go anywhere except to Rock Hill.

In his charge to the grand jury Monday morning in opening the November term of the court of general sessions and common pleas, Judge Hayne F. Rice dealt at length on violations of the liquor laws. "There is no question," said he, "that the liquor laws are being violated extensively, but my judgment tells me that there is not so much drunkenness in the State and not so many violations of the liquor laws as there were during the regime of our iniquitous dispensary system."

Rock Hill's municipal political pot is beginning to boil. Report has it that Dr. David Lyle is going to be a candidate for mayor to succeed Ralph Armstrong, the present mayor. Rock Hill people are expecting Mr. Armstrong to be a candidate to succeed himself. The election comes in January and there will be a number of changes in the city's method of government. The number of councilmen is to be increased from three to five and the mayor is to be elected by direct vote.

Secretary Fewell of the York County Fair association was busy Saturday checking up receipts and disbursements for the recent York County fair. The secretary's figures were not available, but it was stated that if the ledger showed a balance on the right side it would be a small balance. It will be of interest to many to learn that in all probability the last carnival has played at a York county fair. The carnival which was a feature of the recent fair raised a storm of protest because of alleged gambling games and devices which were a feature of it.

W. F. Harris, well known Fort Mill citizen, was stricken with appendicitis last Thursday and Friday afternoon was taken to a hospital in Rock Hill, where he was operated upon Saturday. The operation proved successful and Mr. Harris hopes to be able to return to his home by the end of the week.

PROFIT IN PECANS.

B. M. Lee Making Success of Industry Near Fort Mill.

That no finer pecans are to be obtained anywhere in the country than those from the grove of B. M. Lee, two miles south of Fort Mill, is the consensus of opinion of many people who have seen the size and tasted the quality of the nuts Mr. Lee has offered for sale in limited quantities on the local market within the last two or three weeks. The yield from Mr. Lee's trees was larger this year than in any year since he planted the first of his grove several years ago, but there was such a demand for the nuts that he was able to offer only a small part of his crop for sale locally.

Except his nearest neighbors, not very many people even in Fort Mill township perhaps know of the extent of Mr. Lee's pecan grove. Several years ago he set out 250 trees, which are now bearing. Last year he added 137 trees to the original grove and is just now putting in the ground 40 more. His oldest trees were set out about 11 years ago and the average yield from a number of these this year sold for \$25. He found ready sale in Rock Hill and elsewhere for the pecans at 60 cents per pound.

Mr. Lee is an enthusiast on the subject of pecan growing and to The Times expressed the opinion a few days ago that the industry offered the farmers of this section an avenue of escape from the damage the boll weevil is expected in time to inflict upon them, for, said he, there is an ever widening market for choice pecans at good prices.

"But the pecan is a nut which cannot be grown overnight," he continued. "It takes time, patience, good trees set in good soil and constant care of the trees to make them bear successfully. The life of a pecan tree is unknown. In San Antonio, Texas, there is a mammoth pecan tree which is estimated to be 218 years old. Last year it produced 35 bushels."

"Pecan trees do not produce their fullest and most abundant crop until they are about 25 years old. They begin to bear when they are about five years old, but when they are young a crop cannot be depended upon every year. But at that, it is interesting to calculate how profitable a pecan grove may be at the age of 25 years. Figuring 100 pounds per tree, with 20 trees to the acre, making 2,000 pounds of nuts per acre, at 50 cents per pound, it will be seen that the yield from the acre will bring in \$1,000. I never heard of any cotton farmer being able to do so well."

Ginning Season Nearing End.

Twenty-one hundred bales of cotton have thus far been ginned from this year's crop at the Fort Mill gin, according to a statement yesterday made to The Times by J. P. Crowder, superintendent, who estimates that not more than 100 bales are left to be ginned locally. Mr. Crowder also said that the gin was several hundred bales ahead of the ginnings for the same time last year, but attributed the fact to the early opening of the crop and the favorable weather for gathering it. In his opinion, the present crop will be several hundred bales short of that of last year. Ordinarily more than 3,000 bales of cotton are annually sold in Fort Mill, but not all this cotton is grown in Fort Mill township. Some of it is brought to the local market from Lancaster county and a considerable number of bales from Mecklenburg county are sold here.

Mrs. W. H. Windle has moved to Fort Mill from her home in the upper section of the township and is occupying the Massey cottage on Hall street.

A letter received from the Rev. R. H. Viser by an officer of the Fort Mill Presbyterian church indicates that he expects to come to Fort Mill next Wednesday from Laurel Hill, N. C., and will conduct his first service as pastor of the church on Sunday, December 4.

ROAD BONDS SOLD.

Fort Mill Commission Disposes of \$75,000 Issue.

Purchasers for the \$75,000 issue of road bonds approved by the voters of Fort Mill township at an election last spring were found Monday in the firm of Sidney Spitzer & Co. of Toledo, Ohio, when the commission opened the bids that were invited several weeks ago. The price at which the bonds were sold will net the township \$74,625, including accrued interest, this being the best bid received.

The commission, composed of Col. T. B. Spratt, chairman, W. B. Meacham, secretary, and C. P. Blankenship, proposes to build a hard surface road from the river connecting with the street paving which it is expected will be laid in the town at an early date and completing the hard surface road between Fort Mill and Rock Hill, according to an announcement of the commission made yesterday. Federal aid in the sum of \$10,000 has been approved for this road, but the commission hopes to have this amount largely increased, and also to have the county assist in the project, since, as a member of the commission pointed out, the road will be a part of the highway to be constructed by the county under the Stewart road law.

Sand-clay or top soil roads will be constructed to the North Carolina line and to the Lancaster county line and other roads in various parts of the township also will be improved, the commission stated.

The question of federal and county aid remains to be determined before anything further can be done by the commission, matters which the commission hopes will be settled within the next 30 days.

Pleasant Valley News.

Charlie Hudson and his children of North Wilkesboro, N. C., are visiting at the home of Mrs. Hudson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Elms.

Mrs. L. R. Therrell and her little daughter are visiting relatives in Greenville.

D. O. Potts spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Hall in the Harrison section.

Robert Harris came down from Charlotte and spent the afternoon with relatives in this community last Friday.

The parent-teacher club met at the local school house last Friday evening and carried out an interesting program. Refreshments were served.

Ex-Service Men's Club.

Members of the Fort Mill American Legion post have organized a social club composed of ex-service men and have rented the building formerly occupied by The Times on Calborne street for their club rooms. The building is to be renovated and repainted at once and otherwise made attractive for the use of the former soldiers. The members of the club are anxious to have the public become interested in the organization and will welcome the contribution of pictures, books, magazines or furniture to assist them in making the rooms inviting. It is requested that persons disposed to help to this extent communicate with Brice D. Culp, adjutant of the Legion post.

Friends of J. E. Harper, for several years master mechanic at mill No. 1 of the Fort Mill Manufacturing company, will regret to learn that he contemplates moving away from Fort Mill in the near future. Mr. Harper gave up his place at the mill several days ago and is this week on a visit to a brother he has living in the lower section of the State.

John Reid, Fort Mill township negro, who some months ago shot and dangerously wounded a negro woman in the Flint Hill church neighborhood, was convicted in the court of general sessions in York Monday on the charge of assault and battery with intent to kill and was sentenced by Judge Rice to serve three years on the county chain-gang.

GREAT RIVER OF NORTH.

Yukon Second Only in Length to the Mississippi.

"The closing of the Yukon river to navigation because of ice, noted in a press dispatch late in October, serves the double purpose of bringing annually to the attention of stay-at-home Americans one of the greatest of their rivers, which to the majority is probably little more than a name, and of warning of the southward thrust of the icy fingers of winter which will soon grasp the shore and straits of the Great Lakes," says a bulletin of the National Geographic society.

"The Yukon, despite the general failure to recognize it as such, is one of the great rivers of the world," continues the bulletin. "It is over 2,300 miles in length and is both the longest and the largest river flowing into the Pacific waters in the Western Hemisphere, surpassing by a considerable margin its nearest competitors, the Columbia and the Colorado. Among all the rivers of North America the Yukon is surpassed in length only by the Mississippi system and the Mackenzie. It is longer than the St. Lawrence as well as all the other rivers except the Mississippi system which flow into the Gulf of Mexico or the Atlantic."

"Though the discharge of the Yukon has not been accurately measured it is its tremendous volume of water rather than its length that causes it to be ranked as a great river. It is of course far outdistanced by the vast Amazon, greatest of rivers, and the Congo, which probably ranks second. But the Yukon has been estimated to have three-fourths of the volume of discharge of the Mississippi, and if this estimate be accurate the stream which it pours into the sea is probably among the half dozen greatest in the world."

"To Alaska, heretofore having no highway of steel into its interior, the Yukon has been indispensable. Because of the shallow bars at its mouth, ocean steamers cannot enter the river; but at the harbor of St. Michael, just north of the mouth, freight is transferred to shallow draught, stern wheel river steamers which ascend the stream not only throughout the breadth of Alaska, but for several hundred miles into Canada."

"The Yukon, flowing through Alaska roughly from east to west, divides the territory into northern and southern halves. Large areas along the banks of the river and its tributaries as well as at considerable distances from the stream can thus be served by freight boats. The principal objective of the river steamers, however, are Dawson, on the Yukon about 60 miles in Canada, and more than 1,300 miles from the mouth, and Fairbanks, the 'metropolis' of interior Alaska. "The Yukon is an international river, rising nearly 500 miles within Canadian territory, and sweeping in a great arc to the north and east. Although the river is over 2,000 miles long, one of its sources, a small lake, is within 25 miles of the salt water to which it makes such a round-about journey."

"The existence of such a large river as the Yukon in the far north was long unsuspected. A Russian lieutenant, Zagoskin, entered its mouth by boat in 1842 and traversed it for several hundred miles. The Hudson Bay company had discovered its headwaters in Canada, but the two bits of information were not pieced together. The existence of the river as a stream of great magnitude first became really known through the daring and romantic project of installing land telegraph wires between America and Europe across Alaska, Behring strait and the wastes of Siberia. Robert Kennicott, in connection with this enterprise, blasted the Yukon trail by descending the river in 1865. The first trading steamer ascended the stream in 1869. The Yukon really came into its own with the discovery of gold in the Klondike in 1896."