

THE FORT MILL TIMES.

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NEW CHURCH COMPLETED.

Cornerstone of St. John's Laid With Impressive Service.

Sunday was a red letter day in the history of Fort Mill Methodistism, the day marking the laying of the cornerstone of the beautiful new building of St. John's congregation. The building was practically completed some months ago, but lacked until Sunday morning the finishing touches which were given when the cornerstone was placed in position. The church is considered one of the most modern houses of worship in the upper section of South Carolina and is a credit to the congregation and a source of pride to the community. It is the third house of worship occupied by the congregation since the church was organized in the decade following the Civil war, the first being a frame building on what is now known as Clebourne street and the second building, also a frame structure, occupying, on Tom Hall street, the site of the new building. It is modern in every respect, containing an unusually large number of rooms for Sunday school work, with kitchen and dining room, cloak rooms, pastor's study and an auditorium seating about 600 people. The building is steam heated throughout and is splendidly lighted and ventilated.

The congregations of both the local Presbyterian and Baptist churches joined the congregation of St. John's in celebrating the laying of the cornerstone and the auditorium was filled to capacity. The devotional exercises consisted principally of the sermon by the Rev. G. C. Leonard, presiding elder of the Rock Hill district. Mr. Leonard read the Scripture lesson from Nehemiah 4:12 and Matthew 20:1-6 and then took for his text Nehemiah 4:6: "For the people had a mind to work." He told of the difficulties that could be overcome by cooperation and the use of the means at hand, the result being success if the individual did his or her part. Mr. Leonard stressed the accomplishments of the Hebrews in their labor for the Lord after they had repented of their sins and had been forgiven. Following the sermon, the Rev. W. R. Bouknight, pastor of St. John's for the last four years and to whom much credit is given for the erection of the new house of worship, delivered a short address in which he thanked his congregation and the people of the community generally for the consideration they had shown him since his ministry began here. Concluding his address Mr. Bouknight expressed regret at the prospect of being assigned at the next meeting of the general conference to another field.

Following the address of Mr. Bouknight, the congregation repaired from the auditorium to the front of the church where the ceremony of laying the cornerstone was concluded. In the stone was placed a list of the contributors to the building fund, the names of the officers of the church, the Sunday school and the building committee.

Dance in Lancaster.

Says the Lancaster Citizen: The dance at the opera house last Friday night was an affair that was discrediting to any community, according to all accounts. Many of the young men and some of the young girls were intoxicated, according to some who were present, and their conduct on the floor was unbecoming.

Police were called upon to assist in quieting some members of the party after the dance, and as a result the city treasury was enriched in the sum of \$60, the amount of fines assessed for disorderly conduct. It is this sort of thing that brings the ancient art of dancing into disrepute. The fact that most of the disorderly conduct was from out of town does not relieve the situation, as the local boys and girls were in their company.

In Boston a mule kicked a traffic cop. And now there is serious talk of matching the mule against

UP-TO-DATE DANCES.

"I've been in my day what some folks might call a rounder," a day or two ago said a Fort Mill man, "and every now and then, or once in a while, as you prefer, I yet take a look in on phases of life which would not be recommended in Sunday school. For a year or two I flopped around in France trying to bump off Germans and otherwise having a good time, including a few visits to dance halls, gambling joints for both sexes, cabarets and cafes where liquor was sold and the women guests were of the free and easy class that gives the country none too good reputation abroad; but in all these places I did not see anything quite so advanced as the things one may see at some of the swell dances in this country.

"Not long ago I went to one of these dances in a town not a thousand miles from here. There was plenty of liquor to be had at the dance, but I did not drink any of it and was therefore in condition to observe what was happening. Some of the things I saw lacked a good deal of recommending the town for orderliness and gentility. The police finally came along after midnight and took in tow some of the young male drunks who were getting a little too gay with their obseep singing, loud swearing and other acts of debauchery; and that was all right, but the thing I could not understand was why some of the women at the dance were not also run in for indecent exposure of the person; but of course these things did not jar me, as I saw just about what I expected to see.

"Ever been to one of these up-to-date dances, where the paraphernalia of the women consists of enough clothes to flag an ox-cart and a sufficient quantity of powder to blow up a hill side and enough paint to cover several barn roofs, and the principal characteristic of the men for the time being is their liquored-up condition—ever been to one of these dances? No! You don't know what you have missed. The women are always full of 'pep' while the men are full of liquor and the combination means a gay old time. I'll take you along with me to the next swell dance or semi-swell dance we have in this section if you care to go."

Road Work Plans Misunderstood.

Although it is generally understood in Fort Mill that the road bond issue of \$75,000 authorized two years ago by the voters of Fort Mill township was in excess of the amount authorized by the constitution of the State and that purchasers cannot be found for more than \$60,000 of the issue, newspapers published in other towns of the State recently have been misled into publishing news items regarding the plans of the bond commission which the facts do not warrant. The Times is informed by a member of the commission that while there is the immediate prospect of selling something like \$60,000 worth of the bonds, as a matter of fact not so much as \$1 has yet come into the hands of the commission from the sale of bonds.

Within the last week the commission has invited bids for the improvement of the Steel Creek road from Fort Mill to the North Carolina line, which does not pass through the Gold Hill section as has been erroneously stated in newspaper articles, and the road from Fort Mill to Bailes' bridge, over Sugar creek. The money with which to pay for this work is not yet in the hands of the commission, but the commission is confident a sufficient sum will be forthcoming from the bond issue within a few days to meet the cost of the work, and it is therefore inviting bids for it. Contract for the construction of the permanent highway from the town limits to the Catawba river bridge, between Fort Mill and Rock Hill, is a matter to be attended to by the State highway department. When work on the road will be begun is not known in Fort Mill.

NEWS OF YORK COUNTY.

Items of General Interest Found in the Yorkville Enquirer.

Mrs. Lucia Ewart (R. E.) Quinn of Yorkville, who was defeated Tuesday in the race for county treasurer, gave birth to a son Friday morning. Mother and son are reported getting along nicely.

Jas. D. Grist of Yorkville went to Columbia Monday evening to represent the York county Democratic executive committee at the meeting of the State executive committee in the capital Tuesday. Dr. Campbell, the State executive committeeman from York county, was unable to go.

Chief of Police R. Ed Steele left for Roanoke Va., Sunday evening to bring back R. E. Montgomery, Jr., formerly of Yorkville, who was under arrest in Roanoke under a charge of taking an automobile, the property of T. K. Thomasson of Yorkville.

It is predicted that the November term of the court of general sessions is going to be the busiest that York county has known for several years at least. It is said that there are an unusually large number of defendants out on bond, almost twice as many as is the usual case at the November term, and that if all the cases are tried the criminal court will be in session at least two weeks.

Fire in Rock Hill Saturday evening about 8 o'clock destroyed two warehouses and contents, including more than 100 bales of cotton and a large quantity of seed, hulls and meal. The warehouses were owned by Ed Fewell and the cotton was also the property of Mr. Fewell. A portion of the other contents were also owned by him, while there were a number of merchants who had stocks of feed stored there. The loss is estimated at several thousand dollars, covered by insurance.

Following was the official vote in York county as tabulated last Thursday by the executive committee: For governor, Cole L. Blaise 2,960; Thos. G. McLeod 2,858; superintendent of education, J. H. Hope 3,602; John E. Swearingen 1,607; county treasurer, Mrs. Lucia Ewart Quinn 2,474; Walter D. Thomasson 2,701; county supervisor, Thos. W. Boyd 2,200; Hugh G. Brown 3,026; probate judge, James L. Houston 2,641; G. P. Smith 2,591.

Plans are being made for the staging of a big celebration at Boyd's bridge, over Catawba river, connecting York and Mecklenburg counties, at the time the bridge is completed about December 15, according to R. S. Riddle of Bethel, who was in Yorkville Thursday. It is proposed to invite the governors of the two States to meet with the people of York, Gaston and Mecklenburg counties at the time the bridge is completed. Reports from the bridge site are that construction work is now proceeding rapidly.

Allard H. Gasque, who was nominated for Congress from the 6th South Carolina district over Congressman Phillip H. Stoll last Tuesday, has a number of personal friends in York county. Mr. Gasque, who is superintendent of education for Florence county, a position that he has held for many years, is also State secretary of the Junior Order United American Mechanics. He is well known to members of the Junior Order in York county and they are much gratified to learn of his success in his race for congressional honors.

Gov. Wilson G. Harvey and Mrs. Harvey spent a few minutes in Yorkville shortly after noon Monday. They left Columbia last Friday morning on a visit to the up-country, reached Spartanburg Friday afternoon, spent a part of Saturday in Greenville and went back to Gaffney on Sunday where the governor made an address to a religious gathering. The visit here was unheralded, but within a short time innumerable receptions were in progress. Governor Harvey shaking hands with numbers of friends on the streets, while Mrs. Harvey greeted a number of ladies and gentlemen from her automobile.

NOT SUMMER RESORT?

Welfare Board Secretary Doesn't Like County Chaingang.

Reporting to the State Board of Public Welfare on the conditions he found on a recent visit to the York county chaingang, jail and almshouse, H. C. Brearley, assistant secretary of the board, made the following statements about these institutions:

"During the past year the York county chaingang has been improved by the repairing and repainting of the portable house for the prisoners and by the construction of a screened dining room for the guards and of a good portable kitchen. The authorities have also ordered an additional supply of bed ticks to make up for the present lack. The general condition of the camp was better than it has been for some time past.

"At the time of this visit (in July) 50 men were sleeping in the portable house, the whites and negroes being separated only by a wall three feet high. Only 21 beds were provided for the use of the 50 men. In addition to the overcrowding the ventilation of this shelter is far from good and on warm nights sleeping in it must be far from comfortable. The great need of the camp is for proper sleeping quarters and for the separation of the whites and negroes as required by law. Until they are provided the camp cannot be commended in spite of the other less important improvements.

"The York county jail maintains its position of being one of the best small jails of the State. The equipment is fair and is kept in good condition, the food supplied is above the average and the attitude of the management is excellent. During the past year 75 new blankets have been purchased and the grounds improved. A most commendable and unusual feature is the religious services conducted every Sunday afternoon by a group of ladies from the town.

"For the further improvement of this jail it is recommended that the prisoners' quarters be screened, that the building be all of a type that can be easily washed and the so-called 'debtors' room' be properly fitted up for the use of prisoners by the installation of sewerage and heating systems.

"The York county almshouse is easily one of the best institutions of its kind in the State. The buildings and equipment are very good and the management of Superintendent Boyd is quite commendable. At the time of this visit its condition was even better than usual because of the presence of several inmates physically able to do some work. The food supplied is varied, wholesome and well prepared.

"The quarters of all the inmates should be screened to protect them against flies and mosquitoes. In several places the concrete walls are giving way and should be repaired before greater damage is done to the permanent plant."

Didn't Like Texas.

A Gaffney dispatch says that Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lee, who left Gaffney one month ago to make their home in Clarksville, Tex., have returned to Gaffney and declare they would not live in Texas if the entire State should be offered to them.

Mr. Lee said that his brother owns 89 acres of fine black loam soil in Texas and will not be able to gather half a bale of cotton from the entire farm this year, owing to the drought and the boll weevil. Because all the pastures have dried up for lack of rain, it is declared that the cattle there are suffering and are all in very lean condition. The temperature, according to Mr. Lee, is "out of sight" in Texas and the water obtainable in some sections there is hardly fit for human consumption.

Tom Watson says he does not belong to the Ku Klux Klan. Is that a knock or a boost for the Klan?

GREAT LAKES STORMS.

Writing in the Dearborn Independent of storms on the Great Lakes, a correspondent asks and then answers the question how ships and men disappear without leaving a trace. Superior is the largest body of fresh water in the world and its greatest depth is 700 feet. If a ship goes down in that depth nothing is ever seen of it again and if the crew goes down with it the men stay there, because the water is so cold at all seasons their bodies do not come to the surface.

Lakes Michigan and Huron also are very deep in spots, but not many ships have disappeared utterly in those bodies of water. Both lakes have claimed their share of lives and ships, but usually there is some trace—bits of wreckage, an empty lifeboat bearing a vessel's name or something that tells a ship has been lost. The same applies to Lakes Erie and Ontario.

An element with which vessels on the lakes must contend is a short choppy sea. The lakes do not compare with the oceans in depth. On the oceans, during storms, the waves run high but they are longer and easier for a ship to ride. The short sharp waves on the lakes pound the boats severely, run high, too, in a heavy gale; the difference in length causes the hazard.

In the late autumn the lake freighters have ice to contend with and must fight their way out of jams. The boats are not built for ice crushing and such battles invariably damage them. Winter navigation probably will never become a practical fact on the lakes. A few steamers try to run on Lake Michigan the year round, but a cold winter plays bob with their schedules.

Winter navigation on this lake has not been without misfortune, for several boats and a number of lives have been lost in the business. The most notable of the ice disasters happened a number of years ago when the steamer Chicora left Chicago for a Michigan port across the lake, some 85 miles distant. The Chicora vanished with all on board—some 50 persons. It was supposed that she was crushed between the floes and went down.

Insurance companies will not take a risk on vessels leaving port after December 1, and many of them manage to get out with a cargo just before midnight on that date. If the boat is out four or five days and is lost, the insurance company pays. The attitude of the insurance companies illustrates what they think of winter navigation on the inland seas. In late years quite a number of vessels have left ports with cargoes after December 1. Of course they were not insured, and if they met with misfortune the owners stood to lose big sums.

Mrs. Jennie Belk Spratt Dead.

Many Fort Mill people were grieved to learn of the death at her home in Columbia Sunday of Mrs. Jennie Belk Spratt, widow of Walter E. Spratt, a former well known Fort Mill citizen who died about 18 years ago. Mrs. Spratt's remains were brought to Fort Mill Sunday afternoon and Monday morning were interred in the family plot in the city cemetery, following funeral services conducted by the Rev. R. H. Viser, pastor of the Fort Mill Presbyterian church.

Mrs. Spratt moved from Fort Mill to Columbia with her daughters about two years ago and had since lived in that city. She had been in declining health for several months and her family had realized for some time that her life was nearing a close. Mrs. Spratt was about 60 years old and was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian church. She is survived by four daughters, Mrs. R. B. Durham and Misses Roberts, Margaret and Mary Spratt, all of Columbia; one brother, R. C. Belk of Mt. Holly, N. C., and two sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Withers and Mrs. W. B. Meacham of Fort Mill.

FOR FREE TEXT BOOKS.

York Legislator to Introduce Bill for Public Schools.

The Reek Hill Evening Herald Monday printed the following news item:

"Representative W. R. Bradford of Fort Mill, who was again chosen as a York legislator in the recent primaries, stated today to a Herald representative that it was his intention to press for legislation at the next session of the General Assembly providing for free text books for all the public schools, up to and including the fifth (seventh) grade.

"Mr. Bradford is an advocate of free text books in the schools, but is of the opinion that this is a matter in which the public must first be educated. He feels that by trimming the expenses of the State government here and there, a sufficient amount can be cut from the appropriation bill to meet the cost of free text books for the lesser grades. Naturally he would like to see all grades in the public schools covered and believes that it is only a question of time until legislation will be provided whereby patrons of the public schools will not have to buy books.

"Naturally there are many details to be considered in drafting the free text book bill and Mr. Bradford is now gathering information that will enable him to prepare the measure. There is entirely too much changing of text books, Mr. Bradford believes, and with the State furnishing the books there will be less tendency to change. This year the change in books has necessitated the discarding of thousands of books and an expenditure of thousands of dollars by patrons of the schools. In Rock Hill alone, where the books are to be had at State-fixed prices, the total expenditure for new books reached an enormous sum, some families having to pay from \$6 to \$30 for the books used by their children.

"During the past year there has been more or less agitation for free text books in the public schools and the announcement by Mr. Bradford that he intends to press such legislation will, no doubt, cause those sponsoring free text books for all the grades to redouble their efforts and present the matter before the Legislature in such light that the necessary legislation will easily go through. Superintendent Swearingen has estimated that it would take about a half mill levy to purchase the books for all the public schools, which amount is far less than the average school patron has to pay out for books each year.

"At the general election the people of the State will vote on an amendment to the constitution enabling the State Legislature to exercise its discretion in letting the public printing. At present the Legislature is required to let this work by contract. In the event the amendment is approved by the people and ratified by the Legislature, it would be possible for the State to also arrange for the printing of the text books used in the primary grades, but Mr. Bradford states this is one of the details to be decided later."

Planning for County Fair.

The board of directors of the York County Fair association held an enthusiastic meeting Saturday. General Manager Poag announced that the fair grounds are in excellent condition for the fair. New cattle stalls recently have been built and the cattle exhibit this year is expected to be larger than that at previous fairs. Practically everything is in readiness for the fair, which is less than a month off, the dates being October 18, 19 and 20.

Instead of having only one big day at the fair as many fairs do in this section, it is planned to have all three days of the York county fair big days; but as has been pointed out, this cannot be done without the support and cooperation of the people of the county.

In these degenerate days some family trees produce nothing but