

The Manning Times. LOUIS APPELT, Editor. MANNING, S. C., APRIL 7, 1909. PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One year, \$1.50; Six months, \$1.00; Three months, \$0.50. ADVERTISING RATES: One square, one time, \$1.00; one month, \$3.00; three months, \$8.00; six months, \$15.00; one year, \$25.00. Liberal contracts made for three, six and twelve months. Communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer in order to receive attention. No communication of a personal character will be published except as an advertisement. Entered at the Postoffice at Manning as Second Class Matter.

EASTER CELEBRATION, ITS ORIGIN, ETC. The Annual Observance of Easter as a religious rite by the Romish church extending from about the beginning of the 2nd century, and followed by many Protestant churches which have dissented from many of the other practices of the church of Rome on the ground of their lack of scriptural authenticity, make it a subject of worthy consideration by those who would know its origin and import. It has at least figured enough in the controversies of religion to gain classic consideration in history and for it to be placed within the reach of common understanding. The custom is not without an interesting origin whose setting is found in an aged steeped in the rarest freaks of religious superstition.

THE ORIGIN OF THE FEAST. There is a classic reference to two sources of origin: one, the Jewish Observance of the Passover, and the other from a Pagan custom discovered in northern Germany and brought into England by the Saxons. In Chamber's Encyclopedia of Universal Knowledge the Pagan origin is recited as follows: "Many of the popular observances connected with Easter are clearly of Pagan origin. The goddess Ostara or Eastre seems to have been the personification of the morning or east, and also of the opening year of Spring. The Anglo-Saxon name of April was Estormonth: and it is still known in Germany as Ostermonath. The worship of this being seems to have struck deep root in Northern Germany, and was brought into England by the Saxons. It continued to be celebrated in many parts in the north of Germany down to the beginning of the present (19th) century, by the kindling of bonfires and numerous other rites. * * * With her usual policy, the church endeavored to give a Christian significance to such of the rites as could not be rooted out; and in this case the conversion was particularly easy. Joy at the raising of the natural sun, and at the awakening of nature from the death of winter, because joy at the rising of the Sun of Righteousness—at the resurrection of Christ from the grave."

The Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 7.—Page 613, substantially states the same thing: "According to Bede (De Temp. Rat. C. XV.) it is derived from Eastre, or Ostara, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring to whom the fourth month, answering to our April—thence called Easturmonath—was dedicated. This month, Bede informs us was the same as the 'Mensis Paschalis,' when the old festival was observed with the gladness of a new solemnity." Its Jewish source of origin is easy since it falls upon about the same season as that of their observance of the Passover. That the Judaizing tendency on the part of the Jewish converts to Christianity was strong in the days of the Apostles is evidenced by the conflicts they had with it in the historical account furnished by Luke in "The Acts," and more abundantly in Paul's numerous Epistles.

It is not surprising that in the 3rd and 4th centuries, when they could not justify the rite and its ceremonies upon Apostolic teaching and practice, they should justify it on the ground of its semblance to or outgrowth from the Jewish Observance of Passover. As the religion of Rome is, and has ever been, a mixture of Judaism, Paganism and Christianity, so in the introduction of the Jewish Pagan rite into the Christian church it has tried to justify its unscriptural practice upon the ground of expediency. "With her usual policy, the church endeavored to give a Christian significance to such of the rites," when they entered other communities, "as could not be rooted out," Chamber's Encyclopedia, Vol. 3., Page 242. I will now beyond peradventure, by classic rate, establish its NON-CHRISTIAN ORIGIN.

"There is no trace of the celebration of Easter as a Christian festival in the New Testament or in the writings of the apostolic fathers. The sanctity of special times or places was an idea quite alien from the early Christian mind, too profoundly absorbed in events themselves to think of their external accidents. The whole of time is a festival unto Christians because of the excellency of the good things which have been given," writes Chrysostom, commenting on the passage I Cor. V. 7, which has been erroneously supposed to refer to an Apostolic observance of Easter. Origin also in the same spirit (Contr. Celsum VIII. 22) urges that the Christian who dwells on

the truths of Christ as our Passover and the gift of the Holy Ghost, is every day keeping an Easter and Pentecostal feast. The ecclesiastical historian Socrates (Hist. Eccl. V. 22) states with perfect truth that neither Christ nor his Apostles enjoined the keeping of this or any other festival. "The Apostles," he writes, "had no thought of appointing festival days, but of promoting a life of blamelessness and piety;" and he attributes the introduction of the festival of Easter into the church to the perpetuation of an old usage, "just as many other customs have been established." This is doubtless the true statement of the case." Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 7, Page 614.

Although the introduction of the Easter customs can be traced to at least the beginning of the second century, under the protest of many devout leaders of the church, it continued to be a source of great perplexity to those who adopted it for three or four centuries. The Jewish wing of the church contended for and practiced the rule on the Jewish Passover which fell on the 14th day of the moon, at evening, and the Easter festival would immediately follow, entirely irrespective of the day of the week. The Gentile element of the church, entirely unfettered by Jewish tradition, identified the first day of the week with the Resurrection festival, and the preceding Friday would be kept as a commemoration of the Crucifixion, irrespective of the day of the month. This see-saw confession kept the churches in division and uproar over the time, the nature and motive of the feast until the diversity of usage was gradually brought to an end by a verdict of the church of Rome. Then followed the difficult question of computing the time which lasted until well into the eighth century when a calendar was arranged to compute the time from, not a natural moon but from an ecclesiastical imaginary moon. Hence the time of Easter now varies, not with reference to a particular day of the year, neither of the real moon, so that it falls by the ecclesiastical code of reckoning, anywhere from the 22nd of March to the 25th of April.

It will be seen that the introduction of this unchristian ceremony into the Christian church has ever been a source of great perplexity and often of sore trial and abuse of the rights of Christian citizenship. One wing of a contention over the rite would gain ascendancy and exclude from the fellowship of the church all who differed from them in view and practice of what had become by prestige the most essential mark and service of the church. When by Papal mandate these quarrels were settled so that organic peace reigned in the churches over the former differences, it was then thought best to extend its observance over the entire time allotted for the Jewish Passover, often ending the festivities in scenes of debauchery not less shameful than the Feast of Belshazzar.

It has been clearly shown by the best authorities on record that it is neither an introduction of Apostolic precept or example, nor approved by the most worthy church fathers in the immediate apostolic succession. The question then very pertinently arises, why do Protestant Christians engage in the practice? To comply with a rage of popular sentiment? Will it be admitted thatones creedal center has so far left the standards and requirements of original Biblical teachings, that they would rather be governed by the mandates of Rome and the giddy sentiments of unsanctified human society than to stand for and uphold those simple gospel truths in the name of Christianity which find their laws in the revelation of Jesus Christ and the cry of depraved human souls?

It is not too late for Christianity to correct its errors. This among other silly and hurtful introductions will need to be eliminated ere the ushering in of the Millennial dawn. If it shall be said that it is observed as a memorial of the Resurrection of Jesus, one will find least of all that spirit in the rage for ostensible excellence everywhere manifested. Our Lord himself gave the first day of every week as a memorial day of his Resurrection. It was so celebrated by the early Christians, following the Apostolic example. To the devout child of God, every Christian Sabbath is a Holy Easter day and his heart answers back to the triumphs of the Christ on the memorial first day of the week when He brought the conquest of eternal life from the open grave whence he had departed. More than this is at variance with the truth that should shine in its pristine purity every Sunday morning. Less than this is to share inspired revelation of its fact and benefit to man.

C. W. BLANCHARD. SUMMER WILL GO WEST! We reproduce in these columns, a letter from the Columbia Record's Sumter correspondent, relating to the sentiment in Sumter county on the matter of voting out the dispensary in August. The correspondent has the situation sized up well. There has always been a prejudice against the dispensary, on the principle of the government depriving citizens to engage in a business which it is itself engaging in for profit. Then there is a prejudice based upon the theory that the towns are privileged to do that which the country is forbidden, another prejudice comes from

those sections having towns which have no dispensaries, they oppose for commercial reasons still another prejudice arises because of the manner of dividing the profits. The actual prohibition sentiment figures but a small percentage. Nevertheless, these various prejudices backed up by the activity of the ministers, and the women, places those who would argue and reason from a practical view, at such a disadvantage, that the result is almost a foregone conclusion. Sumter county is as sure to vote out the legal sale of whiskey in August, as Clarendon did last November, the country is on a prohibition wave, there is absolutely nothing to stay it, and, although it does not appeal to us as a practical abatement of the liquor nuisance, as long as liquor can be shipped in for "personal use," yet we realize the futility of opposition, and inasmuch as this county is trying the experiment, we think if the legal sale was not so handy as to be sold in an adjoining county, the effect would be more gratifying, at least it would be a fairer test as to whether prohibition will do what its advocates claim for it.

If prohibition will curtail the consumption of liquor to an appreciable extent, then those of us who have not believed it would, but who are advocates of temperance will surrender, but how are we going to know when within a few miles of us then is sold legally the very thing we have made contraband. Therefore we would appeal to the people of Sumter and Williamsburg counties to turn out in August, and by their ballots declare against the legal sale of intoxicants. We believe it will be done, for when the advocates for the retention of the dispensary have to contend with the influences against it, few will have the temerity to make the fight. They may have practical reasoning on their side, but it will avail nothing against the theories of the preachers and the appeals of the women.

HOW CAN THE LAW BE ENFORCED. State Auditor West's report to Governor Ansel on the "beer situation" in Charleston would indicate that the board of control in that city should be held responsible for the big profits, the blind tigers are making, but the main thing seems to us, would be to place the responsibility for the existence of the blind tigers. Why is it that the blind tigers are not put out of business, if such things exist? Attorney General Lyon has a mill in Columbia which grinds out injunctions whenever he places the order, and if he cannot force by such a drastic method the observance of a law, it seems to us the remedy would be to change the law.

It is argued that the city of Charleston should not be allowed to defy a law of the State, and a law that is good enough for Spartanburg is good enough for Charleston. Theoretically this is true, but practically it is not, because conditions are altogether different, the people are not alike. But they have blind tigers in Spartanburg, in Greenville and in Anderson, occasionally arrests are made, but the illicit sale of liquor goes right on, possibly not so much as in a seaport city, but it goes on. Who is responsible for the existence of blind tigers in Charleston? The police some say, granted, but how are the people outside of the city going to make the police enforce the law? Put on a metropolitan system. That was tried, the result is known of all men, that conditions were worse than now. The injuries will not convict, and the injunctions only have the effect of changing the name on the sign.

Adopt State-wide prohibition and the blind tigers will still be there, the city would only be deprived of the dispensary revenue, and be forced to increase its quarterly license which the blind tigers would gladly pay when its competitor, the dispensary, has been removed.

THE STATE WON. The United States Supreme Court has rendered its decision favorable to South Carolina, in the great dispensary case. The court unanimously reversed the decision of Judge Pritchard, and sustained the position of Attorney General Lyon. This decision means the taking from the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts about \$800,000 of the State's money to be used in the payment of such liquor claims the Commission appointed by the State shall approve, and the balance to go into the State treasury. After all of the just claims have paid there will probably be found to the public school fund about a quarter of a million dollars.

It is a great victory, too much credit cannot be given to the Attorney General, and his associates, Messrs. Abney and Stevenson. Attorney General Lyon has worked hard and long, with everything to discourage him in this case. A number of the newspapers in the State were disposed to deride and censure this faithful officer because he would not lay down when Judge Pritchard handed down his decree; many members of the bar ridiculed the Attorney General, but what have they to say now? The State of South Carolina is to be congratulated for having at the head of the legal department a man of General Lyon's mental calibre and high character. He merits all that South Carolina can give him.

The anti liquor law of Alabama has been held valid by the supreme court of that State, which means that Alabama's State wide law has the sanction of the highest court in that State. The law went into effect January 1st. We know of no man in South Carolina more desiring to succeed Senator B. R. Tillman in the United States Senate, than J. Fraser Lyon. He has brought more glory on this State by his successful fight for the State's rights, than all of the politicians put together. Lyon has done something more than draw his little salary.

Those newspapers that have been abusing the Attorney General must now admit he is a lawyer, and not that he has whipped the whiskey lawyers, Judge Pritchard, and the Court of Appeals, his attention will be directed towards the grafters. We will predict Attorney General Lyon will make the grafters pay into the State treasury more money than it cost the State to defend its rights in the Supreme Court of the United States.

J. Fraser Lyon, Esq., of Abbeville, has convinced a multitude of newspapers, lawyers, politicians, grafters, etc., etc., that he is a lawyer who knows law, and one who does not let a little thing like a federal circuit, or a court of appeals make him lose faith in his ability, when the interests of the people of South Carolina are involved. Lyon is no quitter, and those who have been pilfering from the State just as well make up their minds to begin to fight or run.

Senator Smith is preparing to make a hard fight against the 20 per cent. tariff duty on potash and kainit salts. If the proposed duty on this fertilizer in gredient becomes a law, it means the taking from the pockets of the farmers \$200,000 annually. The necessary information will be furnished the Senator, and the people of the South can feel assured there will be a fight to the finish to prevent this iniquity from being forced upon a class of people who are burdened already more than any other one class.

Catarth Cannot be Cured with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease, and in order to cure you must take internal remedies. Hall's Kidney Pills are the best medicine for this disease. They act directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarth Pills are not a quick medicine. It will be necessary to use the best physician in this country for years, and is a regular prescription. Since using this remedy, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing Catarth. Send for testimonials to W. W. HALL, Proprietor, 100 N. 3rd St., Philadelphia, Pa. Sold by druggists, price 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Sardinia Knights' Banquet. Salem, Black River, April 3.—The Knights of Pythias lodge of Sardinia gave a banquet Wednesday night at their hall that was very enjoyable. The tables were loaded with all good things to eat and it required three tables to accommodate the company. The guests and their guests were disappointed that the distinguished speakers who had been invited failed to show up. Some had business calls, one had married a wife and of course could not come. Possibly the most interesting feature of the evening was the address by Chairman R. E. McFadden introduced Dr. I. M. Woods, who spoke on "Pythianism." Dr. Woods gave some account of the origin and history of the order, and showed some of the good it had done in the world, and the North and South after the most stupendous war of all history. The time was too short for the many collateral thoughts that flashed through the mind of the distinguished speaker. His reminiscences of the past, and the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the State since 1876; with the warnings that get-rich-quick methods are supping the moral strength of the nation and deserved the earnest attention which his hearers accorded.

The next speaker was E. W. Dabbs, who spoke on "Education, Co-operation and Woman." He said, in part: "Sardinia is a live example of what education and co-operation will accomplish. The projected bank, mercantile and manufacturing company, with their fine school building and good roads, illustrate this spirit." He congratulated the legislature that at last the "noble women who, through poverty and suffering, had toiled and wrought and strived and saved" until monuments to the Confederate dead were scattered all over South Carolina; that now there is to be erected a monument to their memory.

Should the men of Carolina respond to the call of the hour, and the occasion demands, the fairest monument the world has ever seen will rise on our beautiful capital square, telling to our children and our children's children, the story of women's devotion and man's gratitude. Messrs. H. L. Scarborough of Sumter, Z. W. McBride of Salem, and Mr. Rush of Greensboro, N. C., were each called on for a speech, but gracefully declined, owing to lack of preparation and the lateness of the hour.

And it was the first day of April when jolly nights, fair ladies and guests too full for utterance began to disperse to their homes. But no April fool pranks were played. The members of the lodge of the Black River town have big things in store for their community. A bank, brick and tile plant, live stock company, general merchandise company, cotton seed oil mill, are all things of the near future. The big steam gin, saw and planing mills, and several stores are now doing a fine business. The Presbyterian manse for that veteran soldier of the cross, Sgt. James McJannet, was built two years ago. The \$1,500 graded school building and lodge hall were built last year. In a year or two a Presbyterian church will be organized. It does one good to visit among a people who are so full of the love of comradeship like these, and prove by example what education and co-operation will accomplish.—E. W. D. in The State.

Rich cured in 30 minutes by Woolford's Sore Throat Remedy. Sold by W. E. Brown & Co. Druggists.

M'COMMER IS ACQUITTED. Both the Circus Employees Originally Convicted of Killing Gaillard at Manning Are Now Free Men. Case Ended. Sumter, April 3 (Special).—The second trial of Jack McCommer, colored indicted for shooting Mr. J. E. Gaillard at Manning about two years ago, resulted in McCommer's acquittal yesterday afternoon. Mr. Gaillard was shot at the depot at Manning, just as the Cole Brothers' circus train was pulling out from the station. Some one on the circus train did the shooting. Mr. Gaillard was brought to Sumter and died here at the hospital the next day. A white man named Morris Spivens, the train master of the circus train and Jack McCommer were arrested at Bishopville and subsequently convicted at the circuit court in Sumter, but were recommended to the mercy of the court and were sentenced to life imprisonment in the State penitentiary. The verdict of the jury did not give satisfaction and an appeal was taken and a new trial asked for. Last week Spivens was granted a new trial and was promptly acquitted and set free. McCommer was serving his sentence when the supreme court granted him a new trial, which ended yesterday in his being found not guilty after spending about five years in prison. McCommer was also an employe of Cole Brothers' circus. Who shot Mr. Gaillard will probably never be known but some one connected with the circus is thought to have done the cold blooded and needless killing of an innocent citizen. Cole Brothers' circus was to have given an exhibition in Sumter a few days after the killing, but it was deemed best by the city and county authorities and the manager of the circus not to show here, owing to the bitter feeling at the time.

Notice to Creditors. DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES District of South Carolina. In the matter of W. R. Coskrey, Bankrupt. Clarendon County. Petition for Confirmation of Composition. To the Creditors of the above named Bankrupt: Take notice that on the 27th day of March, 1909, the above named bankrupt filed his petition in said Court praying the confirmation of the composition heretofore offered and accepted, and that a hearing was thereupon ordered and had upon said petition on the 9th day of April, 1909, before said Court, at Charleston, in said District, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, at which time and place all known creditors and other persons in interest may appear and show cause, if any they have, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted. [SEAL] RICHARD W. HUTSON, Clerk.

Notice of Discharge. I will apply to the Judge of Probate for Clarendon county, on the 30th day of April, 1909, for Letters of Discharge as Administrator of the Estate of Willis McDowell, deceased. S. V. TAYLOR, Administrator. Greelville, S. C., March 30th, 1909.

OF INTEREST TO FREE MASONS AND THEIR FRIENDS: The firm of Chas. M. Stieff and their Southern Manager have donated a magnificent world renowned Siefert Piano to the Masonic Bazaar to be held in the Charlotte Auditorium April 13-14-15-16, 1909, Charlotte, N. C. The money derived from this Bazaar will be used in the erection of a Masonic Temple, a building that will be a pride to every Mason in the Carolinas. Don't you want this Artistic Piano for your lodge, your home or your friend's home? Visit Charlotte during the Bazaar. Reduced rates on all Railroads. Address C. H. WILMOTH, Ch. Music Committee Masonic Bazaar. Chas. M. Stieff, Manufacturer of the Artistic Siefert Shaw and Stieff Selfplayer Pianos. Southern Warehouse 5 W. Trade St., Charlotte, - - N. C. C. H. WILMOTH, Manager. Mention this Paper.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, Clarendon County, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS. D. H. Traxler, Plaintiff against Wesley Mims, Furman Mims, Jasper Mims, Rebecca Mims, Henry Mims, Wilson Mims and Preston Mims, Defendants. Summons for Relief. (Complaint not Served.) TO THE DEFENDANT Wesley Mims, Furman Mims, Jasper Mims, Rebecca Mims, Henry Mims, Wilson Mims and Preston Mims: You are hereby Summoned and required to answer the Complaint in this action, which is filed in office of the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for the said County, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said complaint on the subscriber at his office in Timmonsville, S. C., within twenty days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the complaint within the time aforesaid, the plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Z. T. KESHAW, Plaintiff's Attorney. To the infant Defendants Jasper Mims, Rebecca Mims, Henry Mims, and Preston Mims: Take Notice: That unless you procure the appointment of a Guardian ad litem to represent you in this action within twenty days after the service of the Summons in this action and this notice upon you, exclusive of the day of service, the plaintiff will apply to the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for Clarendon County for an Order appointing some suitable and competent person as Guardian ad litem to appear and defend the said action for and on your behalf. Z. T. KESHAW, Plaintiff's Attorney. To the defendants above named: Take Notice: That the Summons Notice to appoint guardian ad litem and complaint was filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for Clarendon County on the 30th day of March, 1909.

Z. T. KESHAW, Plaintiff's Attorney. YOUR HOUSE. Then if fire comes you will be saved many a worry and MANY A DOLLAR. In this age of the world when the protection of a good Fire Insurance Policy costs so little, and the risk of fire is so great, it is simply poor business to go uninsured. The F. N. Wilson Insurance Agency, E. C. HORTON, Manager. Notice of Discharge. I will apply to the Judge of Probate for Clarendon County on the 10th day of April, 1909, for letters of discharge as Administrator of the Estate of Ransome Hampton, deceased. S. LEE HAMPTON, Pinewood, S. C., March 16, 1909.

Notice. The qualified electors of Friendship School District No. 3, are hereby notified that an election will be held at Brown's store on April 9th, 1909, for the purpose of voting or levying a special four (4) mills tax, annually for school purposes in said district. Folds open from 10 o'clock a. m., to 4 o'clock p. m. By order of Trustees of said District. C. W. BROWN, R. C. RICHARDSON, Jr., Trustees. W. R. DAVIS.

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Spring Millinery. A Magnificent Showing of French Creations at great price concessions at Hirschmann's, Manning, S. C. We show the largest collection of Trimmed Hats, including extremes as well as the conservative ideas of the foremost French artists. The Display consists of the exact reproductions of the Persian wear, and in some instances modified to suit the American women. The material includes, Chip Melaie, Java, Hemp, Bird's Nest Straw, Rough Jap and China Braid, Lace Tuscan and Leghorn.

D. Hirschmann.

PLAY BALL, BOYS! SEE OUR GRAND EXPOSITION OF THE Famous A. J. Reach Co.'s Baseball Goods. We are agents for these popular Goods and handle them exclusively. Buying in large quantities we get all the discounts and other advantages, which enables us to sell at Rock Bottom Prices \$1.50 BASEBALLS for \$1.25--\$1.25 BASEBALLS for \$1.00. Catcher's Mitts, from 25c. to \$5.00; Fielder's Gloves from 25c. to \$4.50; Masks, from \$1.00 to \$2.50; Balls, from 5c. to \$1.25; Bats, from 10c. to \$1.00. Bat Bags; Reel and Toe Pliers; Score Books, Guides, &c., &c.

Manning Grocery Co. On Levi Block—"The Busy Street."

A SPLENDID OFFER NOW IS THE TIME TO GET GOOD READING CHEAP. LISTEN! We will send to all who subscribe between now and June 1st, THE MANNING TIMES and THE TWICE-A-WEEK NEWS AND COURIER, THE FARM AND HOME One Year For \$2.25, Cash in advance, and as an additional premium we will make to each one taking advantage of this combination, a present of a Nickel-plated, 8-inch Steel, adjustable patent-tension Shears. Proposition Holds Good to June 1st.

LIFE INSURANCE. The undersigned takes pleasure in notifying his friends in Clarendon and Sumter Counties that he has been appointed Agent of THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY of New York and solicits their kind patronage. THE MUTUAL IS Safe, Conservative, Liberal and Prompt. Correspondence invited. ISAAC M. LORVEA, P. O. Box 112. Manning, S. C. Would be glad to have his friends call on him at his office, Jenkinson Building, 2nd Floor.

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Notice. The qualified electors of Friendship School District No. 3, are hereby notified that an election will be held at Brown's store on April 9th, 1909, for the purpose of voting or levying a special four (4) mills tax, annually for school purposes in said district. Folds open from 10 o'clock a. m., to 4 o'clock p. m. By order of Trustees of said District. C. W. BROWN, R. C. RICHARDSON, Jr., Trustees. W. R. DAVIS.

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