

COUNTY CORRESPONDENCE.

NEWSY LETTERS FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.

Items of Interest From all Parts of Sumter and Adjoining Counties.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.
Mail your letters so that they will reach this office not later than Monday when intended for Wednesday's paper and not later than Thursday for Saturday's issue. This, of course, applies only to regular correspondence. In case of items of unusual news value, send in immediately by mail, telephone or telegraph. Such news stories are acceptable up to the hour of going to press. Wednesday's paper is printed Tuesday afternoon and Saturday's paper Friday afternoon.

SMITHVILLE.

Smithville, Aug. 16.—Cotton is opening rapidly. Fodder pulling will soon be over. Rain has begun to come again to the disappointment of the fodder puller and cotton picker.

A Northern writer undertook some time ago to enlighten the Southern farmers relative to corn gathering. He says the correct way to cure your fodder and corn is to cut the whole stalk and shock them in the field. Now, what kind of corn would we have out of which to make bread? Just such old soured, rotten stuff as our farmers buy from the merchants. The merchants order it from the North and West, where the wonderful method of cutting and shocking is followed by the farmers. What is the result? Plenty of dead stock caused from eating such rotten stuff and worst of all it causes pellagra, that most awful disease, for which there is no cure at present. It is said that Southern grown corn never causes pellagra. That is where the fodder is pulled and the ear allowed to dry thoroughly before gathering. Said writer goes on to say that our method is about as far behind the times as a man would be to plant his corn by hand, chopping holes with the hoe and dropping corn by hand and covering with hoe. This is only one more case where the Northern man thinks he knows it all. Of course Southern folks are not expected to know anything. They are regarded as fit subjects for the scorn and ridicule of the North. If some of these wonderful and seemingly most eloquent Northern writers would come down South, we might find they were as ignorant as the cityman who went into the country to become a farmer. He planted beans and of course they came up the usual way with the beans on top. One morning his neighbor went over and found him pulling up his beans and resetting them the roots on top. The cityman told his neighbor they had come up with the wrong end on top. About that time some one stepped up and told him the hired man could not milk the cow, she kicked so badly. Cityman said he could manage her by kindness; so after caressing her for a while he tied her leg to one of his and proceeded with the milking; in a moment the cow went tearing across the yard dragging Mr. Cityman after her. In making her escape she overturned a bee hive, the occupants of which gave him rather a warm reception. Mr. Cityman pulled up his stakes and returned to the city a sadder but wiser man. I think the Northerner would find he didn't know what he was talking about. His life down here would be even worse than the Cityman.

MAX.

Max, Aug. 19.—Rev. E. A. Driggers delivered an address on prohibition last Sunday morning at Nazareth church.

Leut. Gov. McLeod made an excellent address on education after the exercises of Children's Day last Saturday at Shiloh.

Several from about here went to Shiloh last Saturday.

The little son of Mr. Harvey Coker, of Motts, who has had typhoid fever for several weeks, continues very ill. Also, Mr. Coker has typhoid fever, and has been sent to an infirmary for treatment.

Mrs. B. M. Truluck returned from St. Charles last week, accompanied by her niece, Miss Margaret Breilly.

Miss Ila Truluck, of Shiloh, and Miss Brooks, of Greenwood, visited at Messrs. B. C. and W. D. Truluck's this week.

Mrs. Jennette Humphrey is visiting relatives about here.

Miss Marion Hicks is spending some time with her sister, Mrs. Italeene Mott.

Misses Eva Moore and Lois Thompson spent a few days at their uncle's, Mr. E. J. Tomlinson's, of Lynchburg.

Mr. D. J. Frierson, of Deland, Fla., is visiting his home and friends at Shiloh.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Truluck invited several young folks to take supper last night, after which games were interspersed with ice cream, till a late hour. All enjoyed the time.

JORDAN IS A HARD ROAD TO TRAVEL.

Some Ups and Downs of a Mail Carrier.

Mr. Editor:

Very few people indeed ever consider for a moment even a few of the many difficulties under which a rural mail carrier has to labor. They seem to forget that his daily life is endangered and that troubles, (oftentimes uncalled for) trials, difficulties and unpleasant happenings are his to encounter every day. They rather think ease, comfort, peace and plenty to spare money, are his to command, and with this view in their minds his position is often envied, and little deeds of kindness, or words of consolation and encouragement are forgotten.

It is the duty of a carrier to serve the department and the patrons of his route to the best of his ability. Never wavering in the discharge of his whole duty, both to his government and patrons, always speaking pleasantly to everybody, obliging and accommodating as far as practicable.

If a carrier assumes a pleasant demeanor toward everybody, then lots of people will expect him to stamp their letters on a credit, forgetting the fact that Uncle Sam does not do business that way, and if he seems a little cool then he is considered selfish.

A mail route is generally over the very roughest parts of the country, and the trains are almost invariably behind time, and the carrier is limited in time granted to return and it takes hustling around under the most favorable opportunities to make it. These opportunities seldom if ever come along the carrier's way, for regardless of how the land lies or what direction the road may go, nearly everybody has imbedded in their minds golden ideas—that all rows must lead directly into the road, and the Jim Crow African receives orders not to leave grass between the field and the wheel rut, consequently the carrier finds little mountains of dirt six or eight inches high about two feet apart in both ruts, or else the plowman stand's still and let's the poor dumb brute pull him and his plow around, cutting a ditch across the road. This puts a quietus to the mail carrier's progress—causing the breaking of buggies, of harness, pitching whips, mail pouches, &c., out of place, causing the mail man to think or use some word, or words, which he has a faint recollection of having used in the days gone by, settling down his scanty, early breakfast only too soon, causing hunger and thirst to set up a howl, ere he can reach home, causing him to think of a portion of a verse of poetry he used to hear:

"Holy Moses and the Angels,
Cast thy pitying glances down,
And the family doctor came
Put a soft mush pollice on."

Oh! well, that's alright, he has a job from Uncle Sam. He gets his big money. He has nothing to do but ride. Forgetting that they have the pleasure of appeasing their hunger and quenching their thirst around the family fireside or under the cooling shades, both of which the mail carrier is debarred from while plodding through heat and dust, rain and sleet.

Mr. Editor, we have a good many different classes of people in this world and I suppose it takes all kinds of people to make a world. We have one class that seems to be ignorant of their duty toward their fellowman, who seem to have lost all sense of right or wrong, for they delight in running and whipping stock by you, riding cows wrong end foremost with a bundle on their back, or trotting horses or popping fire crackers, and in fact all other devilment which they think might cause you to have trouble with your horse, forgetting that the mail carrier is only human, and may not always be able to control his temper, or that there might be some trouble about clogging Uncle Sam's business if reported.

We have others who seem to think that the proper place to erect their mail box is ten or more feet from the road in a cultivated field and when kindly notified by the carrier to place his box by the road side, with a grunt and a one-eyed side-long look at you walks off, saying by his actions that the department is paying big money to have his mail brought to his box.

We have others who erect their boxes on the top of some high embankment, taking it for granted that the mail carrier is or ought to be, a good climber and that it will not be much trouble for him to scratch out holes in the clay walls of the bank and ascend ladder fashion to the box? Tell him to move it—why no, I want my box where I can see it from any point on my farm. Why the mail man is paid to bring the mail, he has nothing to do but to ride.

We have others who would at any cost keep their box locked with a lock almost as large as your fist, when the box is actually not more than twenty feet from their door steps and of-

ten they will stand on the steps and watch you pull and wring and twist for several minutes before you succeed in unlocking it and then just as you place their mail in the box, will tell you just to leave it open "we will lock it." Oh, how provoking, when they could have saved you all of this trouble? No wonder that nearly all the mail carriers are either thin haired or bald headed.

We have another class who think that a mail carrier has nothing but patience, time and money, for they always forget to write their letters until the carrier reaches their box, then they ask him to wait until they can write an important letter. Oh, well, that is alright, the carrier has plenty of time and is always expected to have a buggy load of patience—never to hunger, thirst or weary, but simply to exist on the pure air, heat and rain with no expense and banking privileges always at their command. You say, "how is this." Why they are working for Uncle Sam.

Again there are others who will assail you, "Captain," I wrote a letter to my grandfather's great aunt three weeks ago in Quebeck, Florida, or some such name and you have not brought me an answer, forgetting that others must first handle this mail, but in their estimation either the carrier or postmaster only is responsible.

Well Mr. Editor, the carriers and country postmasters have about exhausted their vocabulary of excuses and the future looks dark and dismal. Come to our relief. X

Remberts, S. C., Aug. 18.

GEN SUMTER'S BIRTHDAY.

Picnic Celebration at the Memorial Academy—Organization of the Sumter County Agricultural Society.

Editor the Watchman and Southern:

Although the weather conditions were unfavorable (a very ominous cloud making an appearance just at the hour for the meeting) yet a very large crowd assembled on the grounds of the Sumter Memorial Academy on Saturday, Aug 14th, and promptly at 11 o'clock the exercises were opened with music by the Misses Dargan. At the conclusion of the instrumental music, "America" was sung by the whole body standing and joining in the singing. Then the Principal of the school announced the programme for the day, closing with the statement that County Superintendent of Education Cain would introduce State Superintendent Swearingen, which was done in a felicitous manner, and Mr. Swearingen arose amid clapping of hands and made a most excellent address. During this address the clouds grew so threatening that the audience was asked to leave the grove and go into the assembly room of the Academy. As this was accomplished without disorder and this most impressive, practical and instructive speech was concluded amid the roaring of the rain and wind and claps of thunder, and yet hundreds heard it all and appreciated it too.

Mr. Swearingen paid several compliments to the work of the State School Improvement Association and said he took peculiar satisfaction in doing this at the home, and in the school room, where the President, Miss Theodosia Dargan, lives and works. He expressed the hope that the legislature at its next session would make a special appropriation for the advancement of this work as he knew no agency so well fitted to accomplish the good results in work for school improvement as this body of noble, patriotic and laborious South Carolina women. Mr. Swearingen made hosts of friends by his pleasing and inspiring address and by his social, unassuming and gentle manners.

Prof. J. N. Frierson, of the University of South Carolina, was next introduced by Col. Dargan as one who was reflecting honor upon Stateburg, a community that was historically marked by many of the State's greatest names. Mr. Frierson acquitted himself handsomely, showing cultured oratory and thought and leaving all who heard him glad that Sumter county is furnishing to the State University so fine a specimen of its manhood. Prof. Carson of the University attended the meeting also, and it was very much desired that he should be called upon for an ex tempore talk; but for lack of time this pleasure was postponed for the next 14th when he will have notice enough of our desires, to come listed as one of the speakers of the day.

Mr. Dabbs came next in order and made an earnest and impressive plea for the union of farmers over which he presides and for which he labors zealously and ably.

Then came dinner and it goes without saying that spreads were found in all (or almost all) of the rooms of the Academy. Old Acton did not groan, but laughed aloud at the load of goods she was carrying and dispensing on Sumter's birthday. After dinner the central purpose of the meeting was executed in capital form. The Sumter Agricultural Society was organized, that has come to

stay and to do splendid work as a matter of course.

Gen. W. E. James, President of the old Darlington Agricultural Society, made a speech to prepare the assembled farmers for wise action in the election of officers, making of the constitution and future conduct of the meeting and did his work well, aiding in the organization very effectively. Mr. Thomas P. Sanders, of the Hagood neighborhood, was elected President and Mr. Edwin E. Rembert, of the Providence section, Secretary. The election of other officers and the making of the constitution, etc., was postponed to another meeting, to be called by the President-elect upon his return home. Then followed a most charming feature in the programme, when State Superintendent of Education Swearingen arose to present to the society a beautiful gavel made by the great-grandson of Gen. Sumter (Mr. Wallace Sumter) from the wood of a cedar that grew at the grave of the famous old hero. The very happy speech of Mr. Swearingen, which we quote here in full was delivered in a most agreeable style of oratory and listened to with perfect attention:

Gentlemen: It is a privilege to present this gavel to the President of your society. The cedar of which it is made symbolizes, I hope, the permanence of your organization. Its finish and workmanship should stimulate you to utilize the rich possibilities of agriculture in Sumter county. The honor it confers upon your President indicates your appreciation of his influence and his merits. He is henceforth to preside over your deliberations and the authority vested in him will doubtless be used to improve and strengthen the agricultural sinews of your county South Carolina is just entering upon an era of unprecedented development. Her water power is being harnessed, her cotton spun into yarn and woven into cloth, and her fields now yield more than ever before.

The Sumter Agricultural Society should be an agency of improvement. It touches the life of this community at its most vital point, but its usefulness will be measured by its work alone. Carved as the gavel has been from a tree growing near the grave of General Thomas Sumter, it links the present with the past. From 1776 to 1783 he fought for the political independence of his State. His lineal descendant has carved this wood and presents it to this society as a token of interest in the agricultural development of Sumter county. In 1909, you are engaged in a fiercer struggle for the industrial independence of the South. The issue is worthy of the highest patriotism, the most unselfish service, the profoundest thought and the unflagging perseverance of every intelligent citizen. May the deliberations of the Sumter Agricultural Society prove most helpful in securing the best material growth and the truest social gains which this community and this county can enjoy.

This speech of Mr. Swearingen, here published, will be entered in full upon the record book of the society, together with the brief but tasty reply of the Secretary.

Then the last speaker (Dr. Orten) of the occasion and the first to address the Sumter Agricultural Society, was introduced and talked most learnedly of wilt of plants—cotton particularly, but watermelons, cabbages, peas, etc. The United States Agricultural Department sent Dr. Orten to address this meeting and he was introduced by Prof. Ira Williams as one of the Department's greatest men and no one doubted his ability to sustain his reputation before all all who heard Dr. Orten know intelligent audience of farmers. We'll all who heard Dr. Orten know hereafter, how to select bright resisting plants for seed.

Thus closed the third celebration of the 14th of August as the birthday of Gen. Sumter—a success in all respects—in numbers, in impressive and informing speeches, in a delicious and abundant dinner and in the social engagement of all attendants, young and old, and most clearly was it demonstrated that no one need stand back for weather when the picnic is on the grounds of the Sumter Memorial Academy.

The Misses Dargan, who were appointed to furnish the music for the occasion did their part charmingly and after the close of the exercises numbers of pieces were executed, by request, by the Misses Dargan and Nelson, and enjoyed very much by the crowd collected out of the rain in the Academy.

Dysentery is a dangerous disease but can be cured. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy has been successfully used in nine epidemics of dysentery. It has never been known to fail. It is equally valuable for children and adults, and when reduced with water and sweetened, it is pleasant to take. Sold by W. W. Sibert.

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WE are cleaning up stock prior to going to market. If you need anything in Muslin Underwear now is your time to buy. This is the opportunity to save money.

.50 Muslin Skirts .39	1.00 Gowns .87
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1.00 " " .87	1.50 " 1.27
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.25 L'd's Drawers .19	.20 Corset C'v'rs .15
.50 " " .39	.25 " " .19
.75 " " .59	.35 " " .24
1.00 " " .83	.50 " " .39

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NOTICE!

If you have farm property in Sumter or Clarendon County which you wish to sell this season, you should list it now, in order that it may be inspected and properly advertised for the fall business. I have a number of prospective buyers for well improved property, and if your prices are right, we should be able to do some business.

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