

The Big Stone Gap Post.

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No. 1

Water

When It Wont Rain, What Shall We Do? Mayor Writes Letter on Subject.

Editor Post:

This town has a splendid water system, expect that during extreme drouth the supply falls short. Twice during the past summer it barely stood in the upper stories of Poplar Hill residences and failed for three weeks on Imboden Hill. If the furnace had been in operation and taking water, no doubt a large part of town would have been without water. In former years, when the furnace was in operation and was supplied from the town's water system trouble was much more frequent than has been the case since.

But if a drouth is prolonged and severe the supply falls short even if the furnace is idle. We had such a drouth in the spring and summer of 1914. Such expedients as were quickly available were resorted to but apparently with little success. There was considerable discussion at the time but that seemed to subside when the rains came and the supply became adequate.

If the town is going to take steps to remedy the situation and secure a supply of good water during extreme drouths it should formulate plans and execute them before the drouth comes, as there is no time for such action when the scarcity is upon us. About all that can be done then is to grumble and blame the town authorities.

Now let us see what the town authorities have within their reach with which to remedy the situation.

First: They have a good pump with all accessories on Butcher's Fork where the mains cross it, all connected up ready for use. There is always plenty of water there and the pump is of sufficient capacity to supply the town. But the trouble about that arrangement is that the Board of Health will not permit that water to be pumped into the mains on the ground that it is impure. So much then for Butcher's Fork.

Second: There are several big limestone springs accessible, any of which would be ample, but here again the Board of Health interferes because of impurity and serious consideration must be given to any proposition that involves the contamination of the mains and supply pipes.

Third: Roaring Branch, in the Gap, would afford considerable water during the time that our mains are full but when a severe drouth comes it goes almost out of business, and that is the only time we are interested.

Fourth: The South Fork of Powell River would be preferable to the North Fork but neither is worth serious consideration because of contamination.

Fifth: In looking further I failed to find any water of any consequence except at the very place where we draw our supply from. There is always some water there, no matter how long the drouth, but not enough for our wants. To this has been added at one time by pumps what was afforded by two springs each of which would fill, or rather was thought would fill, a two inch pipe, but while such streams look important, they prove disappointing when used to supply a town of this size.

So, there seems to be only two ways, one to sink a deep well in the hope of striking a sufficient supply of water which can be pumped, or to store water in time of plenty and release it in time of scarcity. It was with the idea of storing that the reservoir back of Imboden Hill was constructed (twelve years ago) at a cost of approximately \$9,000.00. It has in it now about as much water as it has ever had, perhaps about a week's supply if not wasted. The benefit from it is that when from any cause the supply fails temporarily, such as leaves or ice stopping the strainers at the intake or breaks

in the mains, the water comes back down from it. We use it frequently, perhaps fifty days each year, and don't know it, and hence do not properly appreciate it.

If it could be made to hold its full capacity it might be enough to last the town five or six weeks, perhaps longer, if not wasted; and while some people still have faith that it can be made to hold, I confess to serious doubts about it. In my opinion it will continue to be used for an emergency supply just as it is now.

Another storage scheme that has received considerable attention involves a series of concrete dams across our supply stream some distance above the intake. An engineer's report on this project put the cost at \$30,000 to \$40,000. Purchase of the land would be necessary and suitable sites for the purpose are almost inaccessible owing to the roughness of the country there. While the scheme appears feasible the cost is apparently prohibitive at this time.

The cost of an eight inch well 500 to 700 feet deep is not believed to be beyond our reach but there is some risk to run about the volume of water it may develop. Having this risk in mind I wrote the Director of the U. S. Geological Survey and also Dr. Watson, State Geologist. After apparently careful consideration their replies agree that the underlying strata in Powell Valley to the north east are such as to warrant the expenditure of a sum sufficient to drill down to a depth of several hundred feet if necessary. Mr. J. M. Hodge, who has bored upward of thirty core wells, several of them in this county, states that while there is no absolute certainty of a strong well until it is tried out the underlying conditions are sufficiently favorable to the north east of East Stone Gap to justify the expense of trying it out.

Abundant water is found almost everywhere in the coal fields to the north of us where the strata are more porous, but to the south of Stone Mountain but one deep well has been sunk so far as I know and this one is at the tannery here. This one is a six inch well 275 feet deep and has been pumped hard without noticeable effect for 24 hours during which time Mr. Zepp, superintendent of the Tannery plant, estimates that one hundred thousand gallons were taken from it. This water contains considerable iron and sulphur but no doubt would be welcomed by consumers with empty fixtures until better water could be had.

This tannery well is at the foot of Stone Mountain and our water line runs along the foot of the same mountain, and evidently over the same kind of strata, from above the furnace on to the V. & S. W. Depot where it bears away toward town. Therefore for a distance of over a mile along the line there should be reasonable hope of striking it as good as the Tannery did.

But the geologists seem to favor the locality beyond Butcher's Ridge and the pipe line is as accessible there as anywhere. Expert opinion, while not infallible, is worth serious consideration. The question is should we do anything and if so what? Anything we do will cost some money, and while a deep well looks best to me under all the circumstances it must not be forgotten that there is some risk to run. It requires some fortitude to smile down a dry hole in the ground where \$500 or \$600 has been spent. Some can do it and some can not. But after all if anybody has a better scheme, the cost of which is not beyond the reach of the town, let him bring it to the consideration of the Council which now has the deep well project under consideration. Do not wait until something is done which may fall short of expectation and then say you knew better all the time and the Council ought to have known better, but come right out and tell us your ideas about it and they shall have careful consideration.

W. S. ROSE,
Mayor.

The Government Armor Plant.

The following letter written by General Rufus A. Ayers to Senator Thomas S. Martin places Wise County upon the fighting line for the armor plant:

Big Stone Gap, Va.
Dec. 30, 1916.

Hon. Thomas S. Martin,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

On behalf of Wise County, Virginia, I desire through you to present the advantages we possess for the location of the Government Armor Plant to the board having the matter in charge.

The location of the plant should not be influenced in any way whatever by partisan designs, nor the interests of any particular locality. The interest of the Government alone should be considered uninfluenced by town boosters or community builders.

There are three important points to be considered: First, it should be located where it will be safe from destruction by hostile forces securing a lodgement upon our coasts and aero planes from blockading fleets or squadrons.

Second, it should be located at a point affording adequate transportation facilities for receiving raw materials and distributing the manufactured products to the different points required by the Government.

Third, it should be located where the largest quantity of the best raw material can be assembled at the lowest cost reasonably accessible to the points of consumption.

There are only two large fields of the highest grade coking coal in the United States: One is the Connellsville field in Pennsylvania, and the other is the Wise County, Virginia, field. There are other coals in different localities equal to these two, but the area is small and the supply would not justify the erection of a permanent plant expected to grow and develop in size and importance. Whilst the deposits in the Connellsville, Pennsylvania, fields are large, the enormous production required for the large steel plants of that section is rapidly depleting this supply.

The Wise County, Virginia, field embracing coals of Black Mountain in Lee County, Virginia, and Harlan and Letcher Counties, Kentucky, is by far the largest field of high class coking coal in the United States and will last for centuries.

In addition to the coal there is practically an inexhaustible field of low phosphorus and sulphur, red fossil iron ore lying adjacent in the counties of Lee and Scott, Virginia, and Hancock, Tennessee. All of this raw material can be assembled at low cost, the Big Stone Gap furnace having a rate of 25 cents per ton for both coal and coke from the fields.

There is probably no point that can excel Wise County in transportation facilities, as it is served by four trunk line railways, viz: Norfolk & Western Louisville & Nashville, Southern and the Clinchfield and Ohio, penetrating with their connections every section of the country, giving easy access to every seaport on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

Wise County with its abundant railway facilities will enable a plant located here to assemble such raw materials as may be required, in addition to those we possess: Such as lake and interior ores at as low a freight rate as it can be done elsewhere, and we claim the ability to supply here more raw material by far than can be supplied elsewhere at anything like the same cost to produce.

Located, as we are, west of numerous mountain ranges standing as bulwarks to our beautiful valleys we are impregnable to attack from any enemy landing upon our coasts.

We have held no mass meetings. We have sent no soliciting delegations. We assume

that the agencies of the Government want to locate the plant where the product can be manufactured and transported to destination at the lowest cost. We invite a careful examination and verification of the facts stated. If we can demonstrate that we have the location where the armor plate can be manufactured and transported by the Government at the lowest cost then we want it, but if there is a suitable point where it can be done cheaper we do not, as we believe this principal should determine the location.

Please refer this letter to the proper officials having the matter in charge and greatly oblige.

Yours truly,
R. A. AYERS.

CRILL—CARNES.

The lovely home of Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Carnes on Procter Street in the Gap was the scene of a beautiful wedding, when their eldest daughter, Miss Mary Louise Carnes, became the bride of Mr. Joseph Raymond Crill, of Idaho, Monday at high noon. Rev. John Carnes, of near Knoxville, an uncle of the bride, officiated, using the impressive ring ceremony, and was assisted by Rev. J. M. Smith and Rev. W. N. Wagner, of the Gap.

In the parlor an improvised altar was formed in an alcove made of cedar trees and holly in the center of which was the chandelier softly shaded with pink in the front of which was an arch of smilax studded with pink crepe roses.

Just before the ceremony Mrs. L. C. Taylor sang very sweetly "Because," accompanied on the piano by Miss Kate Brown; then to the beautiful strains from Lohengrin's Bridal Chorus, played by Miss Brown, the bridal party entered. First, little James Miller Smith, dressed in white, carrying the ring in a white calla lily, followed by the little flower girls, Margaret Baker and Josephine McCorkle, beautifully dressed in ruffled white organdie, wearing little pink satin bodices, pink hair ribbons and pink stockings and carrying long handled white French baskets, the handles of which were twined with smilax pink roses and tied with pink tulle filled with pink rose petals. Miss Margaret Carnes, the maid of honor, and a sister of the bride, entered next, wearing a beautiful dress of pink crepe de chine and wearing a large black picture hat and carrying an arm bouquet of pink carnations tied with pink tulle. The bride, dressed in a handsome traveling suit of green broad cloth, with green velvet trimmings, wearing a very becoming green satin and velvet hat with accessories to match and carrying a shower bouquet, comprised of sweet peas and lilies of the valley, entered on the arm of her father, Mr. W. H. Carnes, and was met at the altar by the groom, Mr. Joseph R. Crill, and his best man, Mr. Will Gose, of Bristol.

After the ceremony a delightful reception followed. The bridal party entered the dining room, which was beautifully decorated with streamers of pink crepe paper from the chandelier to the four corners of the table. The large bride's cake on a beautiful crocheted center piece over pink was used as the center piece for the table on each side of which was a large cut glass vase filled with pink and white carnations. On the ends of the table were silver candelabras holding white tapers. A delicious salad course and coffee were served to all the guests, followed by an ice course. The pink and white ices being in the shape of wedding bells and little pink and white heart shaped cakes on the top of which were little cupid.

After the reception Mr. and Mrs. Crill left on the three o'clock train for Rogersville, where they spent a day before going to Chattanooga, where Mr. Crill has a position and where they will make their future home.

The large display of wedding gifts, consisting of cut glass, silver, china and linens, attested the popularity of this happy young couple. The bride being very accomplished, she having graduated from the public school here and from Farmville State Normal School and has an abundance of friends who, with the Post, wish them a long, happy and bright life.

The out of town guests present were: Mrs. J. H. Hagy, of Bristol; Mrs. Lawrence Hyatt and son, Jack Hyatt, Miss Emma Duncan and brother, Paul Duncan, of Jonesville; Miss Margaret Carnes and Robert Carnes, of Pennington Gap; Mrs. A. K. McClure, of Rogersville; Miss Bess Wigton, of Huntsville, Ala.; Mrs. F. Litton and daughter, Miss Kathleen Litton, of Lee County, and Mrs. Henry Goodloe, of Roanoke.

Those in town present were: Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Baker, Mrs. Ellen Baker, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Rowe, Rev. and Mrs. W. N. Wagner, Mrs. H. A. W. Skeen, Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Smith, Rev. and Mrs. M. P. Carico, Mrs. J. H. Mathews, Mrs. L. C. Taylor, Mrs. Sally A. Bailey, Mrs. E. E. Goodloe, Mrs. W. T. Goodloe, Dr. and Mrs. G. O. Honeycutt, Mrs. M. R. McCorkle, Mrs. J. A. Gilmer, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Witt and Mrs. Geo. Brown.

Misses Georgia and Minnie Bostwick, Grace and Corrie Long, Kate and Matt Brown, Laura Marrs, Edna Catron, Thelma, Mary and Eleanor Baker, Kathleen Knight, Sarah Cochran, Jess and Clara McCorkle, Janet Bailey, Margaret and Mary Bunn, Mary Skeen, Nettie and Louise Horsely, Messrs. O. C. Bell, Dave Baker, Will Lassiter, J. Adams, Walter Nickels, Hugh and Martin Carnes, Baylor Blanchard.

Impromptu Dance.

A very enjoyable impromptu dance was given at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor Saturday night from nine to twelve o'clock.

Music was furnished for the occasion by an Edison Diamond Disc. During the evening Mrs. Taylor served refreshing grape punch and fruit cake.

Those invited to this informal affair were: Misses Fletcher Bailey, of Richmond, Bess Wigton, of Huntsville, Ala., Kathleen Litton, of Dot, Lee County, Beverly Taylor, of White Gate, Florence McCormick and Janet Bailey, Messrs. Phillips, McFadden, Cole, Tom Cochran, J. W. Rush and Jack Hyatt, of Jonesville.

Party for Tom Cochran.

Miss Sarah Cochran entertained a number of boys and girls last Friday night in honor of her brother, Tom Cochran, who has just returned from Brownsville, Texas, where he was a sergeant in Company H.

Three tables of Hearts and two tables of Rook was the mode of entertaining during the evening. At the Heart tables Miss Thelma Baker won a beautiful sewing bag and Peter Wolfe a flash light. While at the Rook table Miss Louella Johnson, of Tacoma, won a string of beads and Simon Banks a silver checking pencil.

At the close of the games Miss Cochran served at the tables delicious ice cream and fruit cake in the shape of Santa Clause.

Those present were: Misses Fannie and Louella Johnson, of Tacoma, Mary Skeen, Thelma and Mary Baker, Nellie Horsley, Grace Long, Kathleen Knight, Lillian Wolfe, Helen Young and Laura Marrs. Messrs. Walter Nickels, Simon Banks, Martin Carnes, Peter Wolfe, Carlisle Skeen, Lester Jessee, Rueben Banks, Campbell and Tom Cochran.

Shot and Killed.

Freeling, Va., Dec. 26.—News just received here from Shelby Gap, a nearby town across the Kentucky border, is in effect that Denny Vanover, aged 50, or thereabout, was shot and instantly killed by Ira Potter, also a resident of the same town. The report carries only meager details of the affair, but a grudge had existed between the two men for some time.

The deceased was well known in this vicinity. He leaves a wife and several children.

Miss Mullins Entertains.

Miss Glessie Mullins entertained very delightfully a number of her young friends at her home near the Southern depot last Saturday night from 8 until 11:30 o'clock. A number of games were played, after which refreshments, consisting of oranges and 3 kinds of candy, were served.

Among those present were: Misses Ruth Moore, Naomi Goff, Mary Witt, Mae Williams, Ethel Cole, Mamie Belton and Glessie Mullins. The boys were: William Cole, Howard Jessee, Frank Allman, Doyal Baker, Bryan Willis, Glenn Belton, K. Lane and Harry Wallace.

Young Policeman Killed.

Freeling, Va., Dec. 27.—The body of George Mooney, son of James O. Mooney, of Clintwood, who was killed at Raleigh, N.C., was brought to the home of his father for burial on Christmas. Young Mooney was on the police at Raleigh, where he was shot by a negro. Mooney was well known here, and the affair has caused quite a stir.

DICKENSON COUNTY NEWS.

Freeling, Va., Dec. 28.—The rough weather during the past two weeks is having a bad effect on live stock, as generally speaking there is not sufficient protection. Cattle, especially, are allowed to "stand out". There is a scarcity of feed in this immediate section.

Alexander Mullins, the special justice of the peace appointed at the recent term of Judge Burns' Court, is looking closely after the offenders of law in the Cumberlandians. He goes at it on principal that to spare the rod is to spoil the child.

The mails have been very seriously congested during the holiday season, and the carriers over the star routes are complaining of being overloaded.

Recommended By A Friend

And Since Taking Advice the "National Tonic" Has Helped and Her Improvement Been Wonderful.

Upon the recommendation of a friend Mrs. B. O. Lee, of 131 Jefferson Street, Danville, Va., bought two bottles of Tonic, the "National Tonic", and her relief through the use of it is as follows, which is a copy of a statement made by her.

"I suffered from nervous headaches, general run-down condition, my symptoms were a constant sick or nervous headache, couldn't sleep well at night, I suffered intensely. I had been suffering for quite a long time and had tried a number of other remedies without result. Since taking two bottles of the new medicine my improvement has been wonderful. I no longer suffer from those terrible headaches, my nerves are in better shape and I now sleep well at night. In fact I feel a great deal better in every way. I honestly believe it is a fine medicine. It has helped me beyond words and I believe it will help others suffering as I was. The medicine has proven such a boon in my case that I shall continue its use."

Surely after reading this if you are suffering as this lady did you will give it a trial. It can be secured at the Mutual Drug Company.—adv.

We will buy good second hand furniture or exchange. Write us if you want Pianos, Organs or Victrolas. We will exchange new pianos for old pianos and organs. Would like to trade a piano for a good horse and buggy. Write Blankenship, Box 97, Appalachia.

When you make up your mind that you can't do a thing, take a fresh start and do it.