

## ODDS & ENDS, #24

More odds and ends:

—Back in 1932 Reuben Anderson of Rock Hill constructed a strange contraption from parts of old cars and various junk yard materials. With a lot of imagination and elbow grease Anderson came up with a realistic locomotive that traveled on truck tires.

It took six months to put together what looked like an old fashioned steam-burning engine that was actually moved by a Buick engine and other parts that Anderson estimated came from 15 to 20 old cars. The locomotive's boiler was 42 inches tall and 8 feet long.

The fake locomotive pulled a boxcar called the Forty and Eight, the name coming from style of boxcars that moved World War I troops around France.

For about 10 years the locomotive and boxcar appeared in numerous American Legion parades over the Carolinas and several times at national Legionaire conventions. For many of those years the locomotive was a part of Rock Hill's Christmas parade.

The locomotive also was used to advertise movies for the Criterion Theater Corporation of Charlotte.

When it was junked it went to Sol Aberman's junkyard on Saluda Road in Rock Hill. For years, folks would stop by just to look at the old engine and reminisce about what fun it was to see the unconventional engine lumbering down Rock Hill's Main Street.

—Rachel Ross was the widow of a legendary Revolutionary War soldier, Maj. Frank Ross, who was killed in action. The Major's death left his widow with three small sons— James, Alexander and William.

Rachel Ross died in 1790. She left a will and after disposing of the land, horses, cattle and household furniture she willed her personal possessions. She bequeathed a gold broach and ring to her son James, to Alexander a diamond ring and William silver shoe buckles and 2 gold rings.

Occasional wills in this area contain bequests of silver buckles, spoon or perhaps silver goblets and other tableware but such an abundance of rings as Rachel Ross left her sons is rare indeed.

Rarer yet is the item she left her niece (namesake?) Rachel Murphy. Miss Murphy was bequeathed a lutestring skirt. Lutestring was a kind of glossy silk fabric. The skirt would have been full and reach to the ankles. Rachel Ross must have really stood out in her silk skirt amongst the homespuns of linen and linsey-wooleys worn by most women in the 1780s upcountry.

—Back in the early 1830s there was a major stagecoach route from Camden, S. C. to Charlotte, N. C. One of the stage stops was at Hagins Inn in the Belair community of Indian Land in upper Lancaster County. Whenever a coach came within a mile of the inn the driver would begin blowing his horn to announce the arrival. That was the signal for fresh horses to be saddled and ready for the switch.

David Hagins' inn prospered but not everything was roses. Hagins was a devout member of Six Mile Presbyterian church, never missing a service if he

could help it. While at church one day, some of the inn's guests began dancing on the broad piazza. The dance was observed and Hagins was reported to the church officers.

Hagins insisted, rightly, that he had done nothing wrong. He was in church when he should have been and could not be held accountable for the actions of passing strangers. Tempers flared. Angrily, Hagins refused to answer the church summons and quit Six Mile church.

On the 20th of November 1835, David Hagins and Eliza, his wife, deeded, as a gift, 6 and 1/2 acres off their Catawba Indian lease to the Rev. Adam Ivy and a group of Methodists. They named the church Mount Arrarat. Today, the church is known as Belair United Methodist Church and is located in Indian Land on Shelly Mullis Road, not far from its intersection with Highway 521.