

PERSONALITIES of the NORTHWEST



MARTIN BENNETT

Perhaps no man in Northwest North Carolina is a greater lover of wild life and the great outdoors than Martin Bennett, well-known Mount Airy business man and sportsman, who has devoted much time and effort to the passage and enforcement of laws to protect the game birds, fish and animals. A great lover of trout and bass fishing, Bennett is always one of the first to hie himself away to the swift-running mountain streams when the open season begins. However, he avows that he has no love for fishing in large ponds or the sea. Perhaps it was because of his own love of fishing and hunting that he first became interested in conversation of wild life. At any rate, soon after settling in Mount Airy, he became game warden for Surry county, and for more than 10 years prior to 1934 he served as "rabbit sheriff," a title bestowed in recognition of his efforts to protect rabbits and other game. Bennett is a native of Rockingham county, where he was born July 14, 1888, but he moved with his parents to Winston-Salem while a boy. He received his education in the Winston-Salem city schools, and his first business venture was with an older brother in operating a shoe store in High Point. He gave up that in 1909 to go West, where he traveled the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma for a shoe company. While in Texas he joined the Texas Rangers Reserves, serving with them during the Villa campaign of 1916, later joining the United States Marines in 1917 and serving at Paris Island during the World War. He went to Mount Airy in 1920 and married Miss Mary Fulton, and has been successfully engaged in the real estate and oil business. He is a member of the Episcopal Church. He has also taken much interest in the affairs of the Democratic party, having twice been a candidate for the state legislature.