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12 PAGES TO-DAY

SMITHFIELD, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 30, 1928

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Benson Lad Seeks Unusual Adventure

Young Eldridge Places Anonymous Letter On Porch Of W. D. Boone; Demands Money.

An adventurous escapade that came near to being serious is the experience of Steele Eldridge, a twelve-year-old boy of Benson, who was before Clerk of Court H. V. Rose, judge of the Juvenile court, here Wednesday afternoon charged with blackmailing.

Monday night an anonymous letter was placed upon the porch of Mr. W. D. Boone, a prominent business man of Benson, threatening his life and the safety of his wife and daughter, unless the demands of the letter were met by a certain time. The letter which was written in rather a childish handwriting but nevertheless well written, read as follows:

"If you do not have \$50.00 in a white envelope lodged in the first fork of the magnolia tree in Howard Parrish's yard before Tuesday night at 7:30 o'clock, you will be killed and your wife and daughter tortured to death. You are being watched. So Beware. Your life and the life of your wife and daughter will be in danger if you do not do as I say. You are being watched so don't show this to anyone if you value your life and that of your wife."

Naturally, Mr. Boone was somewhat upset, and his wife and daughter were very much frightened over the letter and a very uneasy night was spent by the entire family.

As soon as practicable, however, Mr. Boone communicated with Mr. L. L. Levinson, a lawyer of Benson, and laid the letter before him and the circumstances of its receipt. It was decided that Mr. Levinson get in touch with county officers in an effort to find out who the author of the letter was.

Accordingly, Tuesday evening, before the time appointed for the money to be deposited in the tree designated, Deputies T. E. Talton and C. C. Hathaway had secreted themselves near the scene to watch developments. Shortly before 7:30, Mr. Boone placed an empty white envelope in the magnolia tree, as the anonymous letter directed. The officers did not have long to wait after this, before they saw a youth go to the tree, reach up and get the envelope, and then place it in his blouse. The officers made a dash for the boy and after a short run took him in hand. He made no effort to deny the thing he had done not seeming to realize the gravity of the situation. He told the officers that he had written the letter in school on Monday afternoon and that he had no real purpose in doing it except to scare Mr. Boone and his family.

The boy was placed under a thousand dollar bond for his appearance in juvenile court Wednesday, and he then went home with his parents. The boy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Eldridge of Benson, who are near neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Boone. There was no vindictive spirit whatever manifested on the part of Mr. Boone after he found out who the author of the anonymous letter was, and he appeared not to want to embarrass the boy or his family in the least.

However, the boy came with his father to Smithfield Wednesday for a hearing before the clerk of the court which took place at two o'clock in the afternoon. No one was present at the hearing except

Tantalizer

There are exactly enough letters in the line below to spell the name of a person in Smithfield or Johnston county, and if the right one decipherers his name and will present it to the Herald office, we will present him with a free ticket to the Victory Theatre. Tickets must be called for before the following issue.

Elijah Norton deciphered his name last issue.

Today's Tantalizer: jalomstrncisee

Officers Round Up Still And Get Men

Beauty Queen



MISS RUTH BROOKS, Smithfield's Queen at the Eastern Carolina Exposition.

Juryman Defends Faison Punishment

Tells In Letter Why Only One Year In The Penitentiary Was Given.

Richmond, Va., March 29.—Defense of the verdict of the jury that found John Wesley Faison guilty of voluntary manslaughter in connection with the death of Mrs. Elsie Holt Snipes, formerly of Princeton N. C., was made today by T. J. Dannister, one of the jurors, in a letter to a local newspaper. The letter was in answer to the severe criticism which has been directed at the jury for giving Faison only one year in the penitentiary.

"I am taking the liberty of answering some of the unjust criticisms expressed at the outcome of the Faison trial," he wrote.

"Some of the writers are qualified to express opinion and some are not.

"Being one of the jurors, I challenge any man in the state to show how we erred in the performance of our duty to give justice according to the laws of our state.

"Assuming that Faison was guilty, no evidence was produced to show any thought of premeditation on his part.

"The maximum penalty, according to our judgment, was five years, and in order to avoid a dead lock we compromised on one year.

"My own personal opinion is this would be better, considering the fact that the case might be pushed away on the docket and probably would never come up for the third trial.

"Most of the men on this jury sacrificed a great deal in prolonging the deliberations, and I feel confident, taking all in all, we came to a just verdict."

VISITOR SINGS AT METHODIST CHURCH SELMA, March 29.—Mrs. Maxwell Jenkins, of St. Charles, S. C., who spent last week end with Miss Stella Ethridge, delighted the congregation at Edgerton Memorial church last Sunday morning with a solo—"When I Read That Sweet Story of Old." Mrs. Jenkins has studied in New York and was enroute last week from a visit to Miss Dicie Howell in New York.

HAIL TUESDAY MORNING The cold wave of this week seems to have been attended by disturbances in various parts of the country. In Georgia and even in two counties of North Carolina, a windstorm did considerable damage. One person near Kinston was struck by lightning. The storm, which came early Tuesday morning in this county, was attended by thunder and lightning and in at least one section by hail. It is reported that on Four Oaks, route 1, near Mr. J. W. Lassiter's place, hail practically covered the ground.

Any woman can keep a man guessing, particularly when she begins making hand signals from the car ahead.

Makes Success With Chickens

D. W. Peterson Raises Barred Rocks And Rhode Island Reds; 4800 Capacity Incubator.

Mr. D. W. Peterson, of the firm of Peedin and Peterson, is well known in Johnston county as a grocer but his fame as a poultry raiser bids fair to rival that of a dispenser of merchandise. A visit to Mr. Peterson's home where he conducts his poultry operations will bear out this statement.

Mr. Peterson rather drifted into the chicken business starting three years ago with about a 200-capacity incubator just for his own use. There was a demand for young chicks and gradually he has increased the size of his incubator until now he can set 4,800 eggs at one time. A house built especially for the purpose houses the incubator. Mr. Peterson sets the eggs so that he has a hatch coming off each week, generally about Tuesday, and during the spring season he takes off between 800 and a 1000 young chicks at a time. Orders placed ahead nearly always dispose of the lot at once though he has an electric brooder to take care of any that might be left on his hands.

One of the prettiest sights imaginable is to see his flock of young fliers now eight weeks old. Over three hundred may be seen scratching for grain thrown into their pen, or nipping the young shoots of green oats planted for their benefit in another run.

Mr. Peterson specializes in Rhode Island Reds and Barred Rocks, keeping the flocks in separate runs. He now has about a hundred Barred Rocks and a hundred fifty Rhode Island Reds. Modern poultry houses and equipment, the well kept yards, and the thrifty looking flocks are evidences that Mr. Peterson puts time and thought to this enterprise which began rather as a diversion but which has developed into a profitable business.

FORMAL OPENING OF NURSES' HOME

Friday afternoon from three until five o'clock, the nurses of the Johnston County Hospital were at home to citizens of Smithfield and Johnston county at their new home next door to the hospital.

Spring flowers added to the attractiveness of the rooms which were thrown open for the benefit of the guests. Receiving in the reception room were Miss Kittie Blue, superintendent of the hospital, and the graduate nurses all of whom were in their white uniforms. Early in the afternoon, the three graduate nurses of this institution were presented with their hospital pins, this ceremony having been delayed until now because a design had not been selected for the pins. Those presented with these emblems were Misses Effie May Jones, Miss Alice Belle Penny and Miss Thomas. Dr. Thel Hooks made the presentation speech.

During the afternoon, punch was served by Mrs. W. J. B. Orr, and ice cream and cake were served by the student nurses who wore their blue and white uniforms.

The occasion was altogether delightful, and about seventy-five guests called during the evening to offer felicitations to the nurses upon their new and attractive quarters.

IMPRESSED WITH PROGRESS SMITHFIELD HAS MADE

Mr. John C. Abels, of High Point, vice-president of the Colonial Life Insurance company, was in the city Wednesday on business. He appeared very much impressed with Smithfield's growth and progress. He says that Smithfield has made much more progress in the last few years than many of the larger towns in this state.

Presbyterian Services.

Smithfield Sunday morning at eleven o'clock, sermon by pastor. Progress Sunday school and preaching service, 2:30 p. m. Smithfield Sunday night, 7:30, special musical program. Smithfield quartet will sing. Sermon by pastor. Public cordially invited.

SENIATOR GEORGE TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL DINNER

Senator Walter F. George has been secured as the speaker for the annual dinner of the Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce at Goldsboro on Tuesday, April 10. He is said to be one of the most elegant and interesting speakers in the United States today. The annual dinner was changed from Thursday to Tuesday in order that Senator George might be present.

Child Run Over Near Four Oaks

Little Four Year Old Son Of Mrs. Register Dies Following Automobile Accident Wednesday Afternoon.

A tragic accident happened about a mile east of Four Oaks Wednesday afternoon, when an automobile driven by B. H. Creech, a son of Bristol Creech, colored, ran over the little 4-year-old son of Mrs. Libby Grady Register and fatally injured him.

The accident took place in front of the child's home on highway number 22 about four o'clock in the afternoon. The child was helping his grandfather to push a wagon along the roadside and ran across the road in front of the Ford coupe which the negro was driving. Creech ran up on an embankment in an effort to avoid hitting the boy, but to no avail. The little fellow as picked up and Dr. Stanley was summoned. Dr. Stanley advised bringing the child to the Johnston County Hospital, where it was found that the skull was fractured. He died about three hours after the accident happened.

The negro stopped as soon as the child was hit, and rendered the assistance that he could. He stayed at the child's home for quite a while waiting to learn of his condition.

Coroner Kirkman went to the scene of the accident yesterday to make investigation, but eye-witnesses, which included the child's grandfather, state that the accident was unavoidable, and no steps were taken to have any further hearing in the matter.

DWELLING IN WILDERS TOWNSHIP BURNED

News reached here Tuesday of the burning of Mr. M. M. Johnson's house near Salem church in Wilders township last Sunday night. The fire was discovered about midnight by Mr. Josh Johnson, son of Mr. M. M. Johnson, who was returning home from Smithfield. He saw the fire when a mile away. The family was asleep and had to be aroused by Mr. Johnson. The house, which was a large two-story building, was a total loss but possibly half of the furniture was saved. The smokehouse and a large quantity of meat was also destroyed. The loss is estimated at between \$5,000 and \$6,000, and there was no insurance.

Mr. Johnson is making plans to rebuild at once.

Dunn Blanks Locals.

Dunn whitewashed the local high school nine here Tuesday afternoon by a score of 10 to 0. Rimmer, on the mound for the winners, allowed but three hits. Avera pitched good ball for the locals allowing seven hits. Errors on Smithfield's part accounted for most of the runs. The game was called at the end of the seventh frame.

Box score follows: Dunn ..... 211 231 0-10 Smithfield ..... 000 000 0-0

ADVERTISEMENT PLAY AT MEADOW SCHOOL

The Meadow Home Demonstration club, assisted by others of the community will present a play—"The Little Red School house"—at the school building on Friday evening, April 6, at 7:30 o'clock. Admission 25 cents.

Dr. Noble Improving.

Selma, March 29.—Dr. R. J. Noble, who has been ill for several days, is much improved and expects to be out soon. Dr. Noble does not take time to be ill and his many friends are glad that the attack was of short duration.

Several Cases Tried In Recorder's Court

Many Criminal Cases Disposed Of Tuesday And Wednesday Of This Week.

Recorder's court was in session here Tuesday and Wednesday of this week and the following cases were tried and disposed of:

Jim Gamble, Jack Langston, James Williams, and David Williams, all colored, were charged with gambling. All were convicted and sentenced to the county roads for 30 days each. The road sentence was suspended upon the payment of one-fourth the cost each.

Lloyd Pope, age 25, a white farmer, was found guilty of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated and of transporting whiskey. A 12-month road sentence was suspended upon condition that the defendant does not violate the prohibition law again in the next two years, that he pay a \$50 fine and cost, and that he does not operate a motor vehicle again in the next 90 days. The defendant is not to violate the prohibition law in any manner or form whatever.

Joe Avery, a colored laborer, age 28, was in court charged with carrying a concealed weapon and assault with deadly weapon. He was not convicted on the first count, but for assault with deadly weapon he was given six months on the roads. The sentence was suspended upon the payment of a \$100 fine and the cost. Avery was also found guilty of violating the prohibition law—possession of whiskey for the purpose of sale and transporting. In this case prayer for judgment was continued upon the payment of the cost. The car is to be confiscated and sold according to statute.

Tom Cox, a colored farmer, age 21, was charged with violation of the prohibition law. Not guilty.

The state took a nol pro with leave in the case against George Raynor, charged with violating the prohibition law.

Pete Everett and Allen Cox were found guilty of possession of beer. Everett's 30-day road sentence was suspended upon the payment of a \$25 fine and half the cost. Cox was sentenced to the roads for 60 days and taxed with half the cost. This sentence was suspended upon the payment of \$50 fine and half the cost.

Clyde Baker, a white farmer, charged with violation of the prohibition law, entered a plea of nolo contendere. Prayer for judgment was continued upon the payment of the cost.

Marshall Williams, a colored farmer in court for violating the prohibition law, also entered a plea of nolo contendere. Prayer for judgment was continued upon the payment of the cost.

Robert Boykin and Vestus Clay, both white farmers, were charged with larceny. The court found that Boykin was under sixteen years of age and his case was remanded to juvenile court. Clay was found not guilty.

John Neil, a colored farmer, was convicted of disposing of crops before paying advances.

Garland Parker, 18, a white farmer, was found guilty of possession of whiskey. He was sentenced to work the county roads for a term of 90 days. Capias is not to issue upon condition that he does not violate the prohibition law in any form or manner whatever for the next two years and pay the cost.

Carl Johnson, 18, a white farmer, was convicted of possession. He was sentenced to the roads for 90 days and taxed with the cost. Capias not to issue upon condition that the defendant does not violate the prohibition law in any form or manner whatever for the next two years and pay the cost.

Dan Young, a white farmer, was charged with disturbing worship and being publicly drunk. He was not convicted of disturbing worship but was found guilty of being publicly drunk. He was sentenced to the roads for 30 days and required to pay the cost. The road sentence was suspended upon the payment of \$50 and cost. He gave notice of appeal.

Will Hodges, charged with being publicly drunk and disturbing public worship, was found guilty on both counts. Continue prayer for judgment upon the payment of the cost. He was given two weeks in which to pay.

Victims of Father



Edgar Chisholm, aged six, and George Chisholm, Jr., aged nine, who were found in the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal. Their father has confessed to slaying them because there were too many mouths to feed. Mr. Chisholm's original statement, in his first confession, that both boys were drowned contradicted a Coroner's report that no water was found in the lungs of the two bodies.

New Yorker Starts Bulb Farm Near By

C. J. Hallauer Has Already Planted 8000 Gladioli Bulbs And Is Still Planting.

The delightful all-year-round climate of North Carolina and of Johnston county in particular is being discovered by those who have braved the winds of winter in climates farther north, and from time to time some of these cast their lot here.

Such a family has recently come to Johnston county and is located between Smithfield and Selma at the intersection of highways number 22 and number 10. Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Hallauer, of Nunda, New York, with their two young daughters moved there about March 1st, and Mr. Hallauer is starting a bulb farm. The longer growing season in this section of the country attracted him here and he already has about 8,000 gladioli bulbs in the ground. He is experienced in the bulb business, and expects to plant fully fifteen or twenty thousand before he lets up. It is his intention to put in dahlias bulbs later, and also chrysanthemums and other hardy plants. He expects to market both bulbs and cut flowers, shipping to florists principally.

Mr. and Mrs. Hallauer state that in a short time they expect to have their blooming acres attracting travelers on both highways that pass their place. They are now at work making improvements and it is not hard to visualize the farm when they have accomplished what they have set their hands to do.

Mrs. Hallauer is a sister of Mr. A. E. Hofmeister, editor of the "Johnstonian" at Selma.

OXFORD SINGING CLASS GIVES EXCELLENT PROGRAM

The Singing Class from the Oxford Orphanage gave a very pleasing concert in the school auditorium here Wednesday evening. Besides songs, recitations, and choruses a delightful operetta, "Cinderella in Flowerland," was given. The costumes were very attractive and the children interpreted their parts unusually well.

During the evening a collection was taken for the benefit of the orphanage.

There are fourteen members of the singing class. They are as follows: Mary Belle Caroon, Martha Garner, Ada McGowan, Jeanette Baggett, Lucile Finch, Nina Ellis, Irene Veasey, Una Allen, Ruby Spry, Elizabeth Baggett, Clyde Carter, Charles Max Childrey, J. Y. Barnes and Edwin Young. Their teacher, Mrs. Reid Pleasants, was with them. After spending the night here they left for Four Oaks where they gave a concert last night.

A large crowd attended the concert here Wednesday evening.

Visitor Addresses Local Kiwanians

Dr. Chas. H. Laughinghouse, Secretary State Board of Health, Scores Senator Reed's Raleigh Address.

Dr. Charles H. Laughinghouse, secretary of State Board of Health, made an eloquent address before the local Kiwanis club at its regular weekly luncheon yesterday. Scoring Senator Jim Reed, whom he characterized as a "unique, pre-judged and destructive senator," Dr. Laughinghouse said that his speech in Raleigh "was an unsatisfactory and as full of incompetency as a nineteen fifteen automobile with a busted radiator, dirty spark plugs and terrific backfire."

The speaker declared that Senator Reed had no business misrepresenting facts and making out to the people that the United States government was throwing away money to see that all babies were born in the good old Republican style. "It is a ... shame for a man like Senator Reed to turn loose such propaganda as he turned loose night before last unless he knows what he is talking about," he declared. The money sent to North Carolina last year under provision of the Shepherd-Towner bill amounted to \$27,000 all of which was used in training of midwives to help prospective mothers and in sending out literature regarding maternity cases. Last year, 87,965 pieces of literature were sent to prospective mothers, and each pamphlet was sent on request. Senator Reed cannot be excused in the opinion of Dr. Laughinghouse for trying to interfere with such a humanitarian effort.

Dr. Laughinghouse congratulated Johnston county on its fine hospital, and said that it compared favorably with the best in the state in its equipment and in its cures. "Outside capital will not invest in any community where the health of the community is not well guarded, and you owe it to your community to back up the efforts of your county board of health and your health officer," he said. The speaker closed his address with an eloquent appeal to his audience to be evangelists and preach the gospel of good health, and also to practice it by going to a good physician for periodic physical examinations and seeing that their children have proper vaccinations to prevent disease.

SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK EPISCOPAL CHURCH

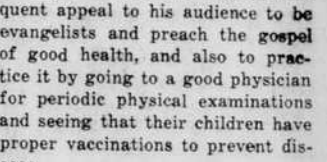
During Holy Week, beginning Monday evening, April 2, services will be held each evening except on Saturday at St. Paul's Episcopal church. These services which will be held at 7:30 o'clock will be conducted by Archdeacon Morrisson Bethea, of Raleigh. The subjects at each service will bear upon the last days of Christ before his crucifixion and resurrection. An Easter service will be held on Sunday at 11 a. m., and again in the evening at 7:30. The public is cordially invited to all these services.

AGED WOMAN RECEIVES INJURIES IN FALL

Friends in the county of Mrs. Bethany Godwin, of near Kenly, will regret to learn that she fell Wednesday afternoon and broke her hip. She was brought to the Johnston County Hospital and is reported to be resting comfortably. Mrs. Godwin is about eighty years of age.

Aunt Roxie Opines

By Mc—



"De purtiest name a feller ever sees in a newspaper is 'Liz'."