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Prominent Smithfield Banker Commits Suicide

Was Cashier of First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company of Smithfield—Shoots Bullet Clear Through Head—Dependency Over Ill Health Is Assigned As Reason For Rash Act.

News flashed over the county last night that Carl F. Gordon, cashier of the First-Citizens Bank & Trust Co., of Smithfield, had committed suicide by shooting a 38-caliber pistol ball clear through his head, the ball entering near the temple and going out on the other side of the head. The tragedy occurred at the home of the deceased about 6:30 o'clock Wednesday evening. He is said to have called one of his children and instructed him (or her) to go up town and get a lamp wick, and that it was while this child was gone that the act was committed. It is said that he was in his bed room at the time and that no one else was in the house. As soon as news of the shooting was learned he was rushed to the Johnston County Hospital where he died shortly before ten o'clock Wednesday night without ever regaining consciousness.

For several months Mr. Gordon had been in declining health and had taken treatment from several specialists, but he seemed to keep on the downward road, and it was this fact which is thought to have brought the decision to destroy himself and end it all.

Mr. Gordon had been associated with the Smithfield Bank for a long time and was highly respected and greatly beloved by a large circle of friends and business associates all over Johnston county. He was reared in Smithfield and had made the town a useful citizen.

It was said that Mr. Gordon was not feeling well enough to work Wednesday morning, and that he told his wife that he would not go back to work at the bank. Again it is said that he had made arrangements to go with his brother to Duke Hospital at Durham today for a more thorough examination.

The deceased is survived by his wife and two children, Frank and Nellie Gordon, and of those better known here, a sister, Mrs. B. W. Suggs of this city, three brothers, Ross, Ernest, and Roy Gordon.

Methodist Sunday School Has Picnic

Although the winds blew and the rains descended on last Friday afternoon, it did not prove any too damp for the Methodist Sunday School to venture out in the open for an annual picnic at Holt Lake. The picnickers went by car and by truck. The time at the lake was consumed in boating, swimming, fishing and social conversation until the hour for supper when they all gathered around a long table under the trees in the park where a feast of good things was spread. Rev. L. T. Singleton, pastor of the Methodist church, returned thanks, after which friend chicken, cakes, pies, meats and fruits together with sliced water melon and lemonade was greatly enjoyed by all.

ETHEL VS. LIZZIE WAS GOOD BALL GAME

The second game of a seven-game series was played Saturday and was won by the Ethel team with a final score of 5-4. It was an exciting game because of being tied from the 5th to 9th innings, the score being 4 to 4, until Ethel finally broke through with a winning run in the 9th.

Parrish for Ethel was relieved after 5 innings, after pitching a good game. Eason ably succeeded him and brought home the bacon.

Enthusiastic supporters of the Lizzie team claimed that the game was lost to them because Price should have had a basket instead of a glove in right field. Also, they deplored the fact that Hawkins chose to sleep through the game instead of elsewhere.

Worrells and Norket gave an excellent exhibition of pitching and catching for Lizzie, but due to poor support lost the game.

Better luck next time, boys.

5,000 Mill Workers Back At Their Jobs

Employes' Return Ends Two Weeks Strike—600 Others Still Debate Wages—One Mill Gives Raise.

High Point, Aug. 1.—As 5,000 seamless hosiery mill employes returned to work this morning, ending a two-weeks strike, 600 full fashioned workers were laying the groundwork for further negotiations with the mill owners, and piece workers in the Stehli Silk mill, who quit for a while this afternoon for more pay, got it and went back to work.

The Stehli office said that the piece workers were given a 10 per cent raise on the basis of new orders received in New York and that they had already been informed that they were to get the raise. This plant, one of the largest makers of flat silks in the world, is now running night and day and it was stated that business appears to be on the upgrade.

Not a ripple of disorder marked the actual going back to work this morning of the seamless knitters. They picked up their jobs as if they had laid them down yesterday afternoon.

The Diamond, Full Fashioned plant has been in operation since last Thursday and its employes are understood to be entirely satisfied. The Adam-Mills full fashioned employes, of whom there are around 600, are still out but are negotiating with the employers and may be back at work shortly.

There was general indorsement today here of the timely work of Gov. O. Max Gardner, Capus M. Waynick and others who assisted in bringing the strike to a close last Saturday night.

Gives Curing Hint For Tobacco Growers

Wetting the floor of the tobacco barn and placing wet sacks over the fire joints will provide a moist condition in the barn during the yellowing period which may increase the value of the tobacco considerably during this dry period.

"Because there is little sap in the tobacco now going into the barns, the leaf is drying before it yellows and is therefore curing out with a greenish color," says E. Y. Floyd, tobacco extension specialist at State College. "One way to overcome this is to keep the floor wet with water during the yellowing period. This will make a moist condition suitable to better yellowing. It is also a good idea to get some old sacks, wet them thoroughly and place over the fire joints to generate steam in the barn. This will also help in bettering coloring. If our growers now housing tobacco will follow this plan it will mean thousands of dollars to them in improved quality of leaf."

Mr. Floyd believes it is important to produce the highest quality of leaf possible this year. The crop was reduced 25 percent at planting time and the ravages of blue mold, flea bugs and cold weather cut the supply of plants to where the acreage is at least 40 percent under 1931. The uneven stands in most fields and the recent rapid curing will more than likely reduce the crop by 50 percent in North Carolina.

Reports to the department of agricultural economics at State College, indicate even heavier reduction in South Carolina and Georgia and it is believed that Virginia has reduced as much as North Carolina. Therefore were not business conditions as they are, tobacco growers should receive a fair price for their weed this fall. Ordinarily growers should receive at least 20 to 27 cents for the tobacco that will be in sight this season however, such a price is not expected at present.

N. T. Ryals Died Last Sunday Morning

Mr. N. T. Ryals, former County Surveyor, and Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court under J. Ira Lee, died at his home in Micro Sunday morning at the age of 72 years. Burial services were held at Hannah's Creek Primitive Baptist church Monday, conducted by Elder Mr. Collier of Micro.

Kiwanians Put On A Fine Program

One of the best programs ever put on at the local Kiwanis Club here was enjoyed last Thursday evening at the Community Building.

One very enjoyable feature of the evening was the rendering of several selections during the lunch hour by the Norket String Band from the Lizzie Mill, under the direction of J. E. Norket as leader. Another very enjoyable part of the musical program was the singing of Miss Mary Vaughn, of Nashville, N. C., accompanied by Miss Sue Singleton at the piano.

Dr. Z. B. Spence, of Goldsboro, accompanied by two ladies, put on a program which brought forth great applause. Dr. Spence featured the program with acrobatic stunts, impersonations, readings, vocal and instrumental selections which were greatly enjoyed by all.

Dr. A. G. Woodard, of Goldsboro, was also a visitor at this meeting and added much to the program by making a few very appropriate remarks.

The club expressed its hearty appreciation to Rev. W. J. Crain for the part he played in arranging for the excellent program of the evening.

Selma Mill Officials Give Big Fish Fry

More than 600 employes and guests enjoyed a most delightful fish fry at the Selma Cotton Mills last Thursday afternoon at 6 o'clock, given by the officials of the company. Three hundred pounds of fish had been crisply fried, several bushels of bread had been baked and four large tubs of lemonade were prepared by the committee on arrangements.

Just prior to the supper a game of baseball was enjoyed between local teams. Another feature of the occasion was the singing by the Lizzie Mill quartet, under the direction of Prof. J. E. Norket. Rev. L. T. Singleton, pastor of the local Methodist church, pronounced the invocation, after which the immense crowd enjoyed a real feast of fried fish. Mr. Geo. F. Britz, Supt. of the mills, was master of ceremonies, and he and his good wife made it a point to see that no one went away without having an opportunity to eat and drink to their appetite's full satisfaction.

After supper the quartet again sang other selections which were greatly enjoyed by all.

News and Observer Man Has First Wreck

Smithfield, Aug. 3.—Mr. Pearce, traveling representative of the Raleigh News and Observer, reached Smithfield Wednesday night about 9 o'clock, and reported that he had just been in his first automobile wreck. He said that it had occurred on the highway between Smithfield and Selma, when his Chevrolet car was struck by one driven by Waverly Jones, of Pine Level, as they rounded a curve. Pearce was coming toward Smithfield and Jones was going towards Selma. Mr. Pearce was taking a Mrs. Driver, who also travels for the News and Observer, to her home in Dunn.

Nobody was seriously hurt, but one wheel of Mr. Pearce's car was torn down and it was otherwise damaged. The extent of the damage to Mr. Jones' car is not known, but it was said that both cars were in bad condition after the collision.

Mr. Hayes In Charge Sinclair Filling Station

Mr. D. M. Hayes, of Selma, has recently taken over the Sinclair Filling Station on highway 22, which heretofore has been in charge of Mr. John T. Hughes. Mr. Hayes carries a complete line of Sinclair products, including their H. C. Super Gas and Sinclair's 100 per cent Pennsylvania Oil.

The station has been newly painted and renovated and now presents a very attractive appearance.

Billy Aycock, son of Judge and Mrs. W. P. Aycock is assisting Mr. Hayes in the operation of the plant.

Mrs. Fannie Westbrook died at her home in upper Sampson county Sunday night and was buried in the family cemetery in Meadow township, Johnston county, Monday.

W. Jesse Stanley Resigns As Jailer

Smithfield, N. C., Aug. 3.—W. Jesse Stanley, of Four Oaks, who has served as county jailer under Sheriff R. H. Richardson even since the Democrats took over the county affairs in December, 1930, handed in his resignation to the board of county commissioners last Monday, and was accepted. It is to take effect on September 1, 1932.

It is rumored that former jailer R. E. Holt will be in charge of the jail for awhile at least. Mr. Holt is at present assistant jailer, and is reported to be doing most of the work.

Jailer Stanley's resignation was not much of a surprise to the people of Smithfield, as Madam Rumor had been saying for quite awhile that there was to be a change.

For several months there had been considerable criticism of the management of the jail, owing to the fact that prisoners had frequently escaped, one of whom was a first cousin of the jailer. He was later recaptured and given a long term in the State prison. This man, known as Red Stanley, was alleged to have been the leader of a band of robbers that had been operating in Johnston county and adjoining counties for several months.

The grand jury made an investigation of the jail, and its management about a month ago; and it was then reported that this body of investigators was seriously considering the taking of some action to bring about a change in the management of the jail.

Then the board of county commissioners was reported to be on the verge of asking for Stanley's resignation. Some people have suspected that the Sheriff may have had a hand in the matter, though he was at that time seriously ill in a sanatorium at Asheville.

Dr. Rose To Give Typhoid Vaccination

Smithfield, Aug. 2.—Pending election of a health officer for Johnston county, the Board of Health has arranged with Dr. A. H. Rose of Smithfield, to begin the typhoid vaccinations in the county. Dr. Rose announces that he will be at Archer Lodge School next Thursday, Aug. 4, at 1:30 o'clock, and at the Corinth-Holders School on the same day at 4 o'clock; at Meadow School at 2 o'clock, Friday, August 5th, and at Bentonville postoffice at 5:30 p. m., Friday, August 5th.

Cotton Co-Ops To Make Cash Payment

Checks totalling \$166,000 soon to be mailed in settlement of 1931 Seasonal Pool Cotton.

Raleigh, August 2.—Announcement that \$166,000 will be mailed its members by the North Carolina Cotton Growers Cooperative Association in settlement of 1931 seasonal pool cotton brightened the week's farm news.

This payment is supplemental to the liberal advance which was paid members when they delivered their 1931 cotton.

Checks will be mailed out as soon as they can be written, U. B. Blalock, general manager, said after a regular meeting of the board of directors.

The \$166,000, which will go to farmer-members in all sections of the State cotton belt, does not include settlement on optional pool or seed loan cotton, Mr. Blalock explained. He said settlement on 1931 optional pool cotton sold during the season will be made as soon as distribution of the seasonal pool checks has been completed.

The seed loan cotton, on which eight cents per pound was allowed through the cooperative on their seed loans, is controlled by the government.

Mr. Blalock announced that the association was able to secure premiums above the basic price as follows on better grades and staples:

Forty-five points on middling 31-32; 63 points on middling one-inch; 109 points on middling 1-16, and 423 points, or \$21.15 per bale, on middling 1-14.

Mr. D. J. Wood continues desperately ill at his home in Meadow township, his many friends will regret to learn.

Better Business Seen As Prices Go Higher

Increased Sales, Rising Prices and More Jobs For More Men Would Indicate That the Tide For Better Times Is Gradually Turning.

(By Associated Press)

Favorable business developments over the nation Monday included: Chicago—The egg market shot up to a new high for the year, the October delivery closing at 17 3-4, up 3-8.

Pittsburgh—Total output of soft coal gained 4.9 per cent over the previous week and anthracite output showed an increase of 18.3 per cent over the July 16 week, promising additional employment in these important coal fields.

Roanoke, Va.—About 400 workers will be added at the Viscose corporation plant August 9, stepping production up to 20 per cent of capacity.

New York—Cotton prices maintained an even level with several contracts slightly above previous closings.

Chicago—The hog market showed signs of further strength as buying continued freely.

New York—Both stock and bond markets gained with main issues moving ahead early. Profit-taking reduced advances, but some issues netted gains.

Los Angeles—A nationwide survey from 150 major markets by credit and financial management, official publication of the National Association of Credit Men, revealed a heartening turn up in July sales and collections conditions. Jackson, Mich., noted sales definitely improved with collections bettered from fair to good.

Drought Damage Bad In Eastern Section

Crops Nearly Destroyed In Area of State Near Kinston—Farmers Losing Cotton Crop Thriving.

Kinston, July 28.—Drought damage to crops in this part of North Carolina runs into millions of dollars.

Corn is literally dead in many fields north, south and east of here, while the condition of the crop between this city and Goldsboro, 27 miles to the west, is far from satisfactory.

Cotton is thriving under the high temperatures and dryness, but much promising tobacco has wilted and perished in the fields.

Vegetable crops are in a pitiful state.

The condition is the more discouraging to farmers, who this year made a valiant effort to cope with the depression by planting increased food and feed crops, because they are unaccustomed to such. Eastern Carolina has a normal rainfall of 50 to 60 inches a year, equitably distributed. The Kinston section has an annual precipitation of 55 inches, with copious rains in summer as well as spring in the average year.

The rainfall since June in a territory of 500 square miles around this city has been only about two inches. Farmers say ground-soaking rains within the next few days would save a part of the crops, but fully half of the tobacco left in the fields—much of that crop has been harvested and cured—and a larger part of the corn is too badly burned to recover. Stalks are parched near the roots. The roots extracted the last moisture from the dry earth long ago.

Clouds of thin dust hang over fields.

The draught damage extends to the coast. It is heavy in parts of Craven county. Even Caret with its many water courses, three sounds bordering it on two sides, has not escaped. Many of Pitt's tobacco barns are empty. Much of the tobacco crop between Ayden and the Craven county line is not worth harvesting. There has been damage in lower Beaufort, shot through with almost countless rivers and creeks.

And even Hyde, more water than land, where normally the air is laden with moisture, is suffering.

Fifteen neighbors in the Brushy Fork community of Person County built a fish pond for the community last week.

Proceedings of County Recorder's Court

Tuesday, August 2nd.

State vs. John Henry McLamb, colored laborer, aged 25, and Fairfield Armstrong, colored laborer, aged 25, for larceny of chickens, value less than \$20. Both guilty. McLamb given 9 months on roads. Armstrong given 6 months on the roads.

State vs. Bonnie Belle Hayes, 15, and Lettie Hayes, both white, for indecent exposure of the person. Bonnie B. Hayes, under 16, was bound to Juvenile Court, and her case ordered transferred to said court. Lettie Hayes guilty. Defendant to be confined in county jail and assigned to custody of Mrs. D. J. Thurston, welfare officer.

State vs. Loomis Smith, white farmer, aged 20, for violation of prohibition law. Guilty of possession and transportation of whiskey. Defendant sentenced to 60 days on roads, to be suspended upon payment of \$5.00 fine and cost.

State vs. J. McNeil, colored laborer, age 21, for larceny of merchandise, value less than \$20. Guilty. Defendant sentenced to 6 months on roads.

State vs. Norman Brooks, colored laborer, aged 20, for forcible trespass. Guilty, and sentenced to 90 days on roads.

State vs. P. R. Massengill, white farmer, for operating motor vehicle while intoxicated. Guilty, and sentenced to 90 days on roads, sentence to be suspended upon payment of \$100.00 fine and cost, and defendant forbidden by law to operate a motor vehicle again in North Carolina during next 90 days. Appeal \$300.00 bond.

State vs. Hassie McNeil, colored laborer, aged 29, for larceny, being publicly drunk and disorderly, profane and indecent language on public highway and V. P. L. Not guilty of larceny. Guilty on all the other counts. Defendant sentenced to 60 days on roads, sentence to be suspended upon payment of \$10 fine and cost.

State vs. Willard Barefoot, white farmer, age 19, for assault with deadly weapon. Guilty. Defendant is sentenced to 12 months on roads, sentence to remain suspended during next 5 years upon payment of cost and upon condition that he does not violate any criminal law during that time.

State vs. Waylon Sneed, white farmer, trespassing. Not guilty.

State vs. Waylon Sneed, assault with deadly weapon. Guilty.

Wednesday, August 3.

State vs. Mack Bryant, colored laborer, age 26, assault with deadly weapon and carrying concealed weapon. Guilty on both counts. Defendant given sentence of 6 months on roads as to each count. One sentence to begin at expiration of the other.

State vs. R. F. Woodard, white farmer, aged 49, abandonment and non-support of wife. Not guilty.

State vs. Zeb Lassiter, white farmer, aged 54, and Mary C. Langdon, white, aged 48, for fornication and adultery. Both guilty. Each defendant sentenced to 12 months in jail and Lassiter assigned to work on roads. Langdon assigned to work as sheriff sees fit. Each defendant taxed with one-half cost.

State vs. Willie Williams and James Armstrong, colored laborer, aged 18. Williams not guilty. Armstrong charged with assault with deadly weapon and found guilty. Defendant sentenced to 2 months on roads.

State vs. Lynn Weeks, white laborer, aged 17, forcible trespass. Guilty. Defendant given 4 months on roads, sentence to be suspended upon payment of cost and upon condition that defendant does not violate the prohibition law again during next two years.

State vs. Parker West, white farmer, aged 17, assault with deadly weapon. Guilty of simple assault. Continue prayer for judgment upon payment of cost.

State vs. Clarence Underwood, white farmer, aged 25, for assault with deadly weapon. Not guilty.

A group of farmers in southern Wake county report they have already threshed out 8,000 bushels of small grain, mostly wheat.