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THE INDEPENDENT

VOL. XV. NO. 755. Entered as Second Class Matter at the Post-office at Elizabeth City, N. C. June 9, 1908. ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., FRIDAY, SEPT. 15, 1922. Published Every Tuesday and Friday by W. O. Saunders at Elizabeth City, N. C. PRICE

SELLS BIRTHRIGHT FOR A REMNANT OF CALICO

Elizabeth City Boy Robs First & Citizens National Bank of Nearly \$25,000 By Quick Work and Is Missing

John D. Sykes, Jr., for three years a trusted employe of the First & Citizens National Bank of this city and half owner of the finest poultry business in Pasquotank County, sacrificed his future and made a complete mess of his life by stealing around \$25,000 from the bank in which he was employed and becoming a fugitive from justice.

The fact of young Sykes' defection and disappearance was made known only this week. He left town on Sunday, Sept. 3. A careful audit of the department of the bank this week with only a few minor items to trace discloses a shortage in the amount of \$25,000, which is the amount of his bond.

Sykes, like all other employes of the bank, was under a \$25,000 bond the Fidelity Trust & Deposit Co., Baltimore. The Bonding Co. has in motion machinery which has notified agencies and the police of the cities on the trail of the fugitive.

The young defaulter is the son of John D. Sykes, Sr., manager of the bank and of the Western Union Telegraph Co. of this city. His father and mother are two of the most respected, hard-working and highly respected citizens of the community. He had made many sacrifices for his father and after he had begun to do good in the bank they helped him to establish a poultry business in their little farm near the outskirts of the city and the Sykes' poultry farm had already become one of the show places of the county.

But the boy got another thing into his head and went to help before his family, employes and friends knew which way he was heading. A check with a police card record, which the boy had been keeping company, is also missing from his pocket.

How Did He Get It

The man in the street, unfamiliar with the operations of a banking house is at a loss to understand how a young employe at a window at the rear end of the bank, locked up the cash boxes in the morning and the paying teller, and with a key in the cash boxes in the bank could get his hands on so much as \$25,000. The fact is, an amount of \$25,000 to \$25,000 is a mere drop in the bucket in the total daily transactions of a bank with resources of three and a quarter millions like the First & Citizens National. The transaction of this bank on a single day often involve a turnover of as much as a million dollars. On an average day \$100,000 deposits are paid in thru the receiving teller's window while \$15,000 to \$25,000 is going out thru the teller's window marked "paying teller."

Among other things the bank handles 250 to 350 notes and drafts a part of town connections for city deposits, in a month. Young Sykes had charge of these city collections. There is a check on Sykes' payment every fifteen days. On August 15th, before his defection, the department of the bank had no audit. Sykes knew there would be another audit until the end of the week in September at the latest. It was vacation time, the bank was out of help and everybody helping in some of everybody else's work. Sykes took advantage of an unusual opportunity to watch the habits for possible out of town collections. It was a simple matter for him to get a draft for collection, collect for the draft, turn up the records and get the money in his pocket. It would be possible a week or ten days before any irregularities would be discovered and he was planning for a quick get-away.

Another way he had of getting money was in issuing cashier's checks. A customer would pay to him \$1,000 in exchange for a cashier's check. No one attending to the cashier's check would make the entry and his theft would not be discovered until the check went thru the bank's vaults and came back for collection from some out of town customer.

Sunday, Sept. 3, was a holiday on Monday, Sept. 4. For two days the bank was closed. Sykes planned everything so that he could close up and have those two days to get away while the bank was dead. And that's what he did.

Had It All Figured Out

The smart young man had every-

Youth Who Made a Mess of His Life



THIS is John D. Sykes, Jr., who swapped a good home and a promising future for less than \$25,000 in stolen money.

Elizabeth City police working on the case say they have definite clues that Sykes and the woman spent a night in Baltimore, went to Johnston, Pa., and were working their way west with Salt Lake City, Utah as their permanent destination.

The Lyons girl has failed to write her mother since a few days before the disappearance of Sykes. But her mother says it was formerly not unusual for her to write home no oftener than once every three months.

BOLL WEEVIL IS NOW ON TWO SIDES OF US

Found in Chowan and Evidence of Its Work Found in Currituck

One may expect the cotton boll weevil to put in appearance in Pasquotank any day now. The weevil has crossed Albemarle Sound and has been found in several farms in Chowan County within the past week.

Signs of the boll weevil have also been found on the farm of Sheriff R. E. Flora of Currituck, near Shawboro, and 12 miles from Elizabeth City. The discovery was made by Judge John H. Kerr, who was Sheriff Flora's guest last Sunday. Judge Kerr has observed the boll weevil closely through the State and professes to know its work when he sees it. Judge Kerr says he found a cotton boll that had been penetrated by a weevil on Sheriff Flora's farm. A careful search of many parts of the field failed to disclose a single weevil, but the suspicious large the peculiar tell-tale marks of the boll weevil's ravages.

CHARLES BANKS HELD IN SENSATIONAL CASE

Virginia-Pilot Man Under \$500 Bond in Perquimans

Charles Banks, an agent for the Norfolk Virginia-Pilot, formerly a resident of this city, is under a \$500 bond for his appearance at the October term of the Superior Court in Perquimans County in a case in which a twelve-year-old girl is named. The arrest created a sensation in Perquimans where Mr. Banks is quite as well known as in Elizabeth City, and the strange thing about the case is that no one in Perquimans seems to know what it is about.

The girl in the case is the twelve-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Goodwin and wife, of Hertford. Mr. Banks was arrested by Sheriff Whit Wright Saturday night, August 26, after he had taken the girl for a short ride in his automobile. Sheriff Wright trailed the Banks' driver from Hertford to a point on the road a few miles from the town where it turned round and started back to Hertford, before making the arrest. The child insists that Mr. Banks did nothing wrong and the parents protested against his arrest. Promised a defendant of Hertford went on the defendant's bond. Street talk in Hertford says nothing will come of the case, but Sheriff Wright insisted upon his man being held and there is a story about some one peeping thru a window and seeing something before the automobile ride took place.

Mr. Banks is about 70 years old and those who know him best are inclined to scout the idea of anything wrong.

—Mrs. I. B. Miller, of Caroline, is in a serious condition probably fatally injured at the Rutherford hospital, suffering from the effects of two bullet wounds, and Prohibition Officer Evan Houser, Deputies John Wesson and Pearly Hoyle, and Carl Short, the last named the driver of the officer's car are held under \$500 bond, as a result of an attempted search of an automobile near Casar, N. C. Along at this time Sykes was

SUPREME COURT DISSOLVES INJUNCTION

The Supreme Court has affirmed the opinion of Judge Bond denying an injunction against the building of the highway from "Blackhead signpost to Bundy's gate." The action brought by Dr. W. A. Peters and others, against the Pasquotank Highway Commission, asking a permanent restraining order stands dissolved in an opinion of Chief Justice Clark, which reached the Clerk of the Court here Wednesday.

This opinion cites former Supreme Court opinions to the effect that the Supreme Court is not capable, and has not the power to control the exercise of power constitutionally vested in county officials selected by the people. Further, that the decision of these matters rest entirely with the local officials, and the courts are not empowered to supervise the action of an administrative board because of a difference of opinion that may occur.

The Foreman-Bundy Road thru Mt. Hermon Township will now be built!

The next issue of THE INDEPENDENT will be published on Tuesday, Sept. 20, and hereafter there will be an issue every Tuesday and every Friday. The Friday issue will be printed Thursday afternoon as heretofore, because many rural readers could not get a Friday paper printed on a Friday in time for their Sunday reading.

Advertisers will please take notice that advertising copy for the Tuesday edition should be in this office as early as possible after the Friday edition is published and never later than Monday afternoon.

Merchants having Friday and Saturday sale announcements to make should use the Tuesday edition of THE INDEPENDENT by all means.

Readers of THE INDEPENDENT generally are highly pleased with the twice-a-week idea, which fact has been attested by the mail order subscriptions for the paper during the past two weeks. The cash subscription receipts for the paper for the week ending Saturday, Sept. 9 reached a total near \$200.00.

Subscribers in the city who do not have post-office boxes will receive the paper by carrier, paying \$2.50 a year or 25 cents a month for carrier service. Edward Old will have charge of the city carrier service and will see that the paper is delivered to you promptly. If you are not already a subscriber, give your subscription to Edward Old or send it direct to this office.

NO LONG WAITS BETWEEN DATES

Independent Readers Will Now Get Their Paper Twice a Week Instead of Once

Reduced railroad rates will be offered by the Norfolk Southern to persons attending the Elizabeth City Fair, according to Buxton White, Secretary, who is in receipt of a letter from the general passenger agent of the road. Mr. White says he is making an effort to have the steambond lines of Elizabeth City do likewise.

Fireworks for the Fair have arrived, consisting of 30 cases. Fireworks will be a feature three nights of the fair, each night having for the program 51 displays and eight set pieces, the entire display lasting over an hour. Set pieces spelling words will flare in the heavens, one of which is "Hello Kids," an entertaining thing for the youngsters. On the last night of the Fair will be held the Marshall's Ball which promises to be a big event.

Mr. White has just returned from a tour of several counties in the interests of the exhibits for this Fall. He announces that the agricultural exhibits will be looked after in Camden County by H. C. Forrester and P. W. Stevens; in Currituck by J. E. Chandler; in Perquimans by L. W. Anderson; in Chowan by N. K. Rowell; in Washington by J. R. Johnson; and the fisheries exhibits from Dare County by Assistant State Fisheries Commissioner Theo. S. Meekins.

Premium lists for the Fair have been issued and Mr. White requests all interested parties who have not received one to advise him immediately so that the book may be sent.

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Good eyesight is inexpensive. See Dr. J. D. Hathaway, Optometrist, Elizabeth City, N. C.

Young Defaulter's Lady Friend



THIS is Peggy Lyons, the young grass widow with whom J. D. Sykes, Jr. kept company. She has left town too.

SEAPLANE CALLED TO SAVE WOMAN

For the third time recently an airplane was called Tuesday to save the life of a patient at Hatteras, Mrs. Utah Jenette, 30-year-old wife of a member of the crew of the Light-house Tender Columbine, was taken suddenly ill Tuesday afternoon and her life was despaired of. A wire was sent to the Naval base at Norfolk and in six hours a seaplane bearing a doctor had brought the woman to a Norfolk hospital, Frank Jenette, keeper of Hatteras Light-house and brother-in-law of Mrs. Jenette, accompanied her to Norfolk.

Altho her life was despaired of Tuesday Mrs. Jenette is reported as improved Wednesday. Her husband aboard the Tender Columbine was summoned by radio to her bedside.

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COHOON SELLS WHITE TRACT

Transferred It Once But Got It Back and Sells It Once Again

One of the largest real estate transactions recorded in this county in recent weeks is the transfer of thirty-one and a half acres of land on West Main St., extended. The deal is from Walter L. Cohoon and wife to T. S. White of Hertford and J. M. Weeks of Elizabeth City, in consideration of \$13,000, \$500 of which was paid in hand.

This land was once known as the Jethro T. White tract and is bisected by the State Highway from Carl Commander's corner to West Main St.

Some months ago when there was a heated controversy as to whether the State Highway from Hertford should enter Elizabeth City via Ehringhaus St. or West Main St., Mr. Cohoon was accused of favoring the Main St. route because he owned the property which he has just sold.

Mr. Cohoon, who is General Counsel to the State Highway Commission, protested his guiltlessness of selfish motives and disclaimed ownership of the land. Sure enough, there appeared on record as of Feb. 6, 1922, a deed from W. L. Cohoon conveying his interest in the land to D. C. Twiford, a local real estate man.

The land remained in D. C. Twiford's hands until a few days prior to the recent sale, when D. C. Twiford transferred the land back to W. L. Cohoon. The records in the light of recent local history are interesting.

The lands transferred from Cohoon to Twiford, from Twiford back to Cohoon and from Cohoon to Messrs. White and Weeks are described in the deeds as follows:

"Bounded on the north by the right of way of the Norfolk Southern Railroad Company and the lands of the West End Land and Development Company, on the East by the said West End Land and Development Company; the land belonging to Pasquotank County; the lands of Joshua Davis and others; on the west by the lands of J. M. Brite and the south fork of Knobbs Creek; and containing 31 1/2 acres more or less, and which tract of land is known as the Jethro T. White lands formerly owned by the said Norfolk Southern Railroad Company, and conveyed to the said Walter L. Cohoon by the said Norfolk Southern Railroad Company by deed of record in the Register of Deeds of Pasquotank County in Book 45, page 184, and reference to which deed and a map accompanying, is hereby made for the purpose of a more definite description. Being the same land purchased by the said T. S. White and J. M. Weeks from said W. L. Cohoon by and of even date heretofore, and this deed of trust being given to secure the balance of purchase money and being one and the same continuous transaction."

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Don't neglect your eyes. See Dr. J. D. Hathaway. He knows. See adv.

TO HAVE FERRY ROAD IN SHAPE FOR FAIR WEEK

After That, Motor Barges Will Handle Traffic Between Elizabeth City and Camden

Spite of all the worry about the handling of traffic between Elizabeth City and Camden while the hard surfacing of the Camden Ferry Road is under way is going to be nicely taken care of, according to G. E. McNutt, construction engineer in charge of this aggravating road project.

As to taking care of the crowd that will come from Camden, Currituck and other points North to Elizabeth City Fair, Sept. 10, 11, 12, and 13, Mr. McNutt says he will have the road itself in condition to take care of the Fair crowds and will close the road until the Fair is over. The work of cross piling the road, nearly completed and the building of a fifteen inch dirt fill on the roadway will begin in earnest next week. Mr. McNutt expects to have the dirt fill completed in ten days or two weeks, which will make an excellent dirt road that will take care of traffic until after the Fair. The dirt fill will be made with clay, sand and gravel from the banks of the Diam Swamp Canal, the first barge load of which is expected to unload Monday of next week. One barge load of sand gravel from Chesapeake is already in port.

When the road is closed after the Fair, the hard surfacing will be in operation in ten days. It is estimated that this barge service will cost \$3,500 to \$4,000.

The idea of using the Shipy Ferry Road or Laub Ferry Road in place of the barge is regarded as absolutely unfeasible by State Highway Engineers who figure that it would cost \$7,000 to put either of these roads in condition to carry any considerable traffic for even short period of time.

In meantime Mr. McNutt is feeling pretty sore about a lot of criticism and newspaper talk by people who think they know more about it than do the engineers themselves know. Mr. McNutt is so convinced that a lot of the talk is propaganda. He says that much has been said about the Camden Ferry Road is to be discontinued. He proved the claim that there is bottom to the road this week when piles driven in the weakest spot, Grovers Cut Bridge hardly budge under the blows of a 2,500 pound hammer at 30 feet. At 20 feet piles moved only six inches under the blow of this hammer.

In meantime, until Mr. McNutt gets his dirt fill made, travelers will attempt to negotiate the Camden Ferry Road are having a hard time of it on the corduroy, which is part of the price the public has to pay for any improvement. (McNutt is regarded as one of the most capable construction engineers in the State Highway Commission, and his assurance that conditions are not going to be as bad as some anticipated should be received with credence and enthusiasm.)

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FARMERS MAY SHOOT DUCKS ON THE FARM

Duck shooting in Eastern North Carolina is not going to be confined to the Sounds and marshes in future, but farmers can shoot wild ducks and geese from their fields, is the opinion of Nathan Burgess of Camden, who is a veteran hunter and the crackshot of his neighborhood. Mr. Burgess says that ducks are fond of the soy bean that is now extensively grown all over Eastern North Carolina and will come to the fields for it just as soon as they get on to it. He found wild ducks in his own field last winter feeding on the beans left in the soil.

At least one-fourth of the soy beans grown on any farm are never harvested; either the beans burst in the pod and scatter over the field, or the harvester fails to pick the vines clean. These beans left on the ground swell from the moisture of the earth and rains, sprout and make delicious morsels for all animal life. It is not generally known however that wild ducks and wild geese are eager for these sprouted beans; but Nathan Burgess says they are and says the ducks will come to the fields as soon as they know what good eating is at hand for them. He advises farmers not to frighten away the

Of the 5,500 children of school age in Hertford County, 3,500 are negroes.

first birds that come, but give them a chance to familiarize themselves with the lay of the land and communicate with other birds.