

BANK AT BENNETT LOOTED BY TRIO

Forced Cashier Purvis to Open Safe; Drove Officers Into Vault Under Threats

A telephone message shortly after noon Saturday to the effect that a trio of bandits had robbed the People's Bank and Trust Company at Bennett, in the south-western corner of the county, put Sheriff Blair and his deputies on the alert. But what to do was the question, for the men had gone off in a fast car and like the geese in the old play of "William Tremble toe" might have flown east, west, north or south. The wires were used to notify officers in all directions and the men placed themselves at strategic points along as many of the highways as they could cover, while, presumably officers from every town in the section were on the alert; but night came without any capture, save the arrest of two men at Asheboro who easily proved themselves innocent of the crime.

The story of the robbery as given by a dispatch from Bennett to state papers follows:

"BENNETT, Jan. 7.—Two employees and a customer of the Peoples Bank and Trust company, of Bennett, were locked in the vault of the bank here today while the funds of the institution were carried off by three robbers. Between \$3,500 and \$4,000 were secured by the robbers and the bank was practically depleted of ready cash. While the men remained locked in the vault and before the alarm could be given the robbers got safely away. Two men were arrested at Asheboro later in the afternoon, but were declared by officials of the bank not to be the men who committed the robbery.

The robbers chose the noon, or dinner hour, for the hold-up, and entered the bank when only one person, Keller Andrews, assistant cashier, was in it. Two men went in, while a third remained in a car, parked nearby. One of the men who entered the bank is believed to be a Negro. Some of those who saw him, however, think that he was a white man disguised as a Negro. The Negro, or supposed negro, asked for change for a ten dollar bill. While Andrews was counting out the change the white man moved around to the entrance of the enclosure and drew his gun. The Negro also covered Andrews with his pistol and the two of them shoved him into the vault and locked the door. Before they could get the money and get out J. A. Purvis, the cashier, came in. He was ordered to open the vault. He had some difficulty in doing so and was threatened with death if he failed. He finally got it open, Eugene Brady, a customer, coming in in the meantime. Brady also was lined up with Purvis and was marched into the vault and all three men were locked up while the bandits leisurely finished ransacking the institution and as leisurely entered their car and drove away.

While the robbery was going on inside the institution the third man of the party talked unconcernedly with any who chose to stop and pass the time of day. He told those who inquired that he was from Florida, was merely passing through and had stopped to rest for a few minutes.

The next man to enter the bank was Will Brady. He couldn't find anybody at first and soon sensed that something was wrong. Then he heard the frantic cries of the imprisoned men, confined in a death chamber unless relief should come quickly. He ran out and spread the alarm and the village and visitors flocked to the place. Arthur Andrews, of Bonlee, listened closely and got the combination from Purvis and unlocked the door and the men were liberated after being imprisoned for about 35 or forty minutes.

"Sheriff Blair, of Chatham county, was called to the scene and spread a net all over the surrounding section and wired news of the robbery and description of the men to more distant cities. The net failed to catch the men, however. Two men, traveling in a Chrysler sedan, the same kind of car as occupied at Asheboro and they are still being held. They give their names as Maness and Wilson. Purvis and Andrews both went to Asheboro to identify the men. They are positive that they are not the men who robbed the bank. They are being held because they had whiskey in the car when arrested. There have been reports that the men had been seen at other places and these are being investigated but up to midnight to-night none of them had proven reliable."

SUSPECTS ARRESTED

Three men are said to have been arrested at Charlotte on suspicion of being the robbers who looted the Bennett bank Saturday. Sheriff Blair and Deputy Desern left Tuesday for Charlotte to investigate and probably bring the men back for identification.

THREE TURKEYS — ONE SHOT

Mr. Casper Harris killed three wild turkeys the other day at one shot. His rich cousin from New York had been down here a week hunting, at the cost of \$120, and didn't get a single turkey. The day after he left, Casper got the three at one shot. Hunting is a gamble.

MR. K. W. THOMPSON IN SERIOUS CONDITION

Mr. K. W. Thompson had to undergo a serious operation at Watts hospital ten days ago. He had his appendix taken out last August, and trouble developed at the place where it was cut off, resulting in a serious condition to the neighboring bowels.

His brother Mr. J. C. Thompson, who left the cedar mill here in his brother's hands several weeks ago and was working at a mill in South Carolina, came in just after his brother had been taken to the hospital. He went on up to Durham and stayed with his brother steadily for a week. Down here last Friday morning, he reported the condition of the sick man as improved, and it is hoped that he will continue to improve till fully recovered.

Mr. J. C. will be here now. His wife at present is visiting home folk in Davidson county.

Interesting Visitors

Pastor Barclay Has Visit From Brother and Business Man

Something like several years ago, one Sunday at the home of the editor's cousin, J. R. Peterson, near Clinton, we found with our old friend David Millard, of Baltimore, a Mr. Barclay, a cartoonist on the Baltimore papers, and recall his amusing our two flappers, then children, with off-hand drawings. Later, we found Rev. Jonas Barclay at Pittsboro as pastor of the Presbyterian church, and though he had told us of a brother of his who is a veteran newspaperman, we had not associated the visitor in Sampson with the same. But Sunday it came to our ears that a friend was at the home of Mr. Barclay and a visit discovered the same two gentlemen, and revealed the fact that we had seen the preacher's brother, David, since he had himself seen him, at least before this visit.

David, Millard and McKee Barclay are two interesting men, the one of backwoods Sampson descent and the other from a Kentucky farm. Nevertheless, they are big men in Baltimore, where Millard is one of the leading druggists of the city and owner of a splendid farm in Maryland, specializing in Guernsey cattle, and where McKee Barclay has long been associated with the city papers. Mr. Barclay has also served as Washington correspondent of the daily press, accompanied Wilson on his pre-convention tour of the West in 1912, was an intimate of Wilson during the latter's administration, and otherwise concerned in public affairs, but for the greater part of the time a producer of political cartoons for the two Baltimore dailies.

It had been 13 years since the brothers Barclay had seen each other, and they had much to talk of, while David Millard and the writer could have talked many hours of associations in Sampson and at Wake Forest, where he was a student a bit before our day, and where his brother, Junius, one of the biggest Baptist preachers in the south, before his death, was a classmate of ye editor, and we believe we could write a string of interesting reminiscences recalled by contact again with the off-shoot of the Vanns, of Sampson county, and by the way, a cousin of the Vanns of Mt. Vernon Springs; but we refrain.

The two gentlemen were making a double trip of it this time, coming here to visit the Barclays, and thence down into Sampson to visit the Peterson family and other relatives of Mr. Millard, and to hunt a few days.

MAN SAID "THANK YOU" AWARDED \$5,000 PRIZE

The importance of courtesy is emphasized by the following story of the winning of a \$5,000 prize in a business contest. It is well worth repeating: The head of one of the largest retail stores on the continent offered \$5,000 to any one who would suggest the best method for improving his business system. British students of economics visited the store and were accorded every opportunity to study its methods. They investigated and wrote reports. Experts in store management and efficiency engineers, armed with charts and diagrams, were among those who sought the prize. They sent in voluminous reports. As a young man—a customer—was leaving the store, he saw a notice of the \$5,000 contest. Apparently he had not been treated just right by a sales person. He bought a postal and wrote: "Tell your clerks to say 'Thank You.'" He won the prize. Those two words "Thank You," and their importance in business, according to the Railway Review, have prompted the organization of the "American Thank You League," the object of which is to promote the idea of courtesy. "One wonders how long the new-born league will last," comments the publication; "but if it only survives long enough to put a little more kindness and greater degree of the 'thank-you' idea into life generally, it will have done something."—Arkansas Democrat Retailer.

Sam Raper of Davidson county is the pig club champion of North Carolina for the year 1927.

Hog raising and dairying are becoming established as two new farm industries in North Carolina. Well fed hogs from North Carolina command a premium on certain eastern markets.

Siler City Plant Does Big Business

And H. C. Parks, Former Coleridge Bank Cashier, Largely Responsible For It

(Asheboro Courier)

A business concern which has had a phenomenal growth is the Chatham Sash and Door Company, of Siler City. At a meeting of stockholders of the company held last week it developed that the company had done a \$100,000 business during 1927. Indications that the business will be materially increased in 1928. An additional 2,500 square feet of floor space has been provided for activities during the new year. The secretary and treasurer of the company is H. C. Parks, who resigned as cashier of the Bank of Coleridge in October 1925 to take the position. It is said that it is largely due to Parks' management that the company has had such a wonderful growth during the past months. It was only after Mr. Parks took in charge that the company began to be a real factor in the business life of Chatham county and the capital stock began to increase in value.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the company, held Friday afternoon, the following officers were elected: President, J. Sam Dorsett, of Siler City; vice-president and secretary, C. L. Brower, of Siler City and Thomasville; treasurer and general manager, H. C. Parks, of Siler City; board of directors, J. Sam Dorsett, C. L. Brower, H. C. Parks, D. H. Hart and R. A. Williams. C. G. Foushee, of Liberty, and R. H. Johnson, of Siler City, are also stockholders.

KIMBALTON NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence McManess of Bear Creek spent Sunday at Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Ferguson's.

Mrs. Ernest Harris has returned to Raleigh after spending a week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Dorsett.

Jessie Justice and family visited Mr. and Mrs. George Jones Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Harris of Raleigh, and W. B. Dorsett motored to Charlotte last week.

Mrs. Bud Perry churned four gallons of whole milk and made three and one quarter pounds of butter.

The wheat and other small grain crops have been hurt by the severe cold weather of last week.

Elmer Perry turned a fox loose last Friday afternoon and almost all the hunters of this neighborhood and their dogs took part in the race. Some of the hunters were out nearly all night.

Bud Perry was out bird hunting Wednesday and ran into a crow's nest. He killed six at once. He tied his dogs and waited quietly a while and got several more. He did this a few times and got quite a lot of crows all told.

COURT NEXT WEEK

Court for trial of criminal cases will begin Monday. Judge Nunn, of New Bern will preside. There is a rather full docket. Pittsboro hopes to see many of the county's good citizens in town during court week. There is a fine time to renew your subscription to the Record. Please come prepared and tell your neighbor to subscribe if he isn't getting the county paper.

Washington Letter

Jackson Day Celebration The Event of The Week in Capital City

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—Five thousand dollars' worth of plain and fancy victuals; a rollicking orchestra that sprayed the welkin with snappy strains; a full thousand stiff white shirt-fronts, and brilliant splashes of color in many an evening gown; a radio hook-up spanning the nation's mountains, valleys and lonely prairies; unlimited oratory and no booze at all—and there, readers, you see the Democratic party's big Jackson Day celebration in Washington on Thursday night of this week.

They all promised to come except the Man of the Hour—Al Smith. He said he wouldn't and he stood on his word despite a world of telling, coaxing and begging. And he was down to the most talked-of man at the meeting, for, as the party clans gathered and the big chiefs held pow-wow it looked more and more as if Al Smith would lead Democracy's hosts to victory or defeat in the red-hot political campaign of 1928 now beginning to sizzle and sputter under the urge of party passions.

The old warhorses of the Democratic party say they scent victory this year from the field afar and are champing at the bit, eager for the fray. Some of the stout-hearted are whooping it up for Governor Al and the sidewalkers of New York, but some of the old time leaders are heavy at heart. "It's a walk-over with Al Smith," proclaim his boosters; "Can we win with a Roman Catholic and a wet?" ask the doubters. So the mellow notes of the evening's music seems for all their gay barvado, to dip at times to strains of sadness.

For Smith it seems more likely to be now than at any time since the star of this former New York newsie began to rise. These Democrats who like him love him; those who fear disaster under his leadership have groped vainly thus far for a name upon which they could center their combined strength in opposition to his candidacy. The one group fears defeat next Nov.; the other says that Smith will sweep all before him.

There is other Democratic business on hand in Washington this week, too, in the meeting Thursday morning of the National Committee. Last month the Republicans met here and after much labor picked Kansas City as their meeting place June 12 for the nominating convention. This week's Democratic committee meeting was for the same purpose. Miami and San Francisco are fighting a friendly battle for the honor with Cleveland, Detroit and other cities also in the lists. It was expected that June 26 would be named as the date.

Washington's big Union Station, where all convention delegates leave for home when their work is done, is the leaving place this week not only for the Democratic hosts but for President Coolidge who was to flit southward in a special train on January 13, the day after the big dinner of his political foes. The President's destination was the enticing city of Havana, now gay with the flush of a mid-winter's season in the tropics. The Pan-American Conference called the President away from the capital and its arctic chill for six days. The change in climate will be sudden and violent and the White House physicians are on their toes.

MAY PROTECT MEATS FROM SKIPPER FLIES

RALEIGH, Jan. 9.—Much meat cured on the farm is subject to the attacks of the ham skipper which is a small fly resembling a winged ant. Maggots from eggs laid by this fly may cause considerable damage and it is a wise plan to wrap the meat or screen the smokehouse so that the fly cannot enter. Screen with 30-mesh wire.

to guard their distinguished patient against illness.

Congress got back on the job again last week and plunged almost immediately into a violent discussion of the marines and the battles in Nicaragua. As usual, the critics of the administration—whatever the party in power—were the loudest. They indulged in much oratory, but the President refrained from garulity. He did, however, beat congress to it on the proposed investigation of the submarine horror off the New England coast by ordering an investigation of his own to fix responsibility and blame, if any.

Little scraps of important news featured the week. Canny Uncle Andy, as the irreverent newspaper men refer to Secretary Mellon, told the world that another half billion dollars had been lopped off the national debt. Mr. Hearst's \$16,000 investment in Mexican documents attacking the integrity of American Senators was a sorry purchase, exports declared in vigorously asserting that the documents were clumsy forgeries.

Senator Brookhart sought, by amending the federal reserve act, to unloose the jaws of, maybe, a money trust that is putting the brakes on business by charging interest rates that the Senator thinks are much too high. Secretary Kellogg has been sweating for eight months over the making of a treaty with France to outlaw war and now wants the whole world to come up with France and sign on the dotted line.

The federal tax bureau stopped figuring long enough to tell the world that 228 Americans had incomes of more than \$1,000,000 apiece in 1926. Paulina Longworth, whose father is Speaker of the House and whose grandfather, sometimes called T. R., was President of the United States, got dressed up in her first little party dress—a sweet little vision of pink—and went to her first party.

President Coolidge and his gracious lady shook more than 3,000 very cold hands the day after New Year's. They stood and pumped arms for more than three hours, and looked pretty tired when it was over. Flood control committees of congress got down to brass stacks on plans for shackling the Mississippi. The grand jury looking into the jury-fixing business in the Fall-Sinclair trial stepped over the District Attorney's protest to say that the whole thing smelled to heaven and that certain persons ought to be punished.

Senator duPont of Wilmington put way linking the coasts into the form way linking the saocanother shrd of a bill before congress. And canny Reed Smoot, who heads the Senate finance committee, sat on the tax bill and held the fort against all assaults to pass the bill before income tax day, March 15, next.

LOCAL NEWS

BRICKHAVEN, Jan. 9.—Mr. Thomas of Cameron was a week-end visitor here.

Misses Leone and Louise Luther, of New Hill, have been visiting some friends here. Miss Leone is a former teacher of the Brickhaven school and is always eagerly welcomed in the community.

Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Harrington announce the arrival of little Miss Rachel, Phyllis at Scott hospital, Sanford on January 1.

Mr. W. A. Griffin accompanied by Mr. R. E. Marks, of Sanford, will leave the first of the week on a hunting expedition at Currituck.

The S. S. officers were unanimously re-elected at the regular annual election yesterday. Mr. N. T. Overby as superintendent, and Mr. A. P. Harrington as assistant. Mr. C. H. Marks will be the secretary and treasurer for another year and will have as his assistant Mr. Jack Harrington.

Mr. Clinton Seawell spent the week end in Raleigh.

Mrs. J. B. Lawton, and Miss Louise Harrington, after spending the holidays here with her parents has returned to her home at Manassa, Va. She was accompanied by her brother, Mr. Hayes Harrington, who will visit Washington before resuming his studies at the Moncure high school.

Messrs. Ben. and Sam. Utley, of Mt. Gilead, spent the week-end here with their mother, Mrs. J. W. Utley. Mrs. J. H. Lawrence and little daughter are expected home from Mary Elizabeth hospital the latter part of the week.

Mr. C. H. Marks and family are soon to occupy the old Marks homestead which is now the property of the Cherokee Brick Co.

The regular meeting of the Brickhaven Community club will be held at the school building Thursday evening at 7 o'clock.

A number of the folks in the community enjoyed what is in this section at least—a rare sport—that of skating on ice. A few days later one of the party was heard to remark in the language of Two Black Crows, "We got skatin' mixed up with suicide."

Leaf spot diseases of tobacco may be controlled by treating the seed with the formaldehyde solution.

MRS. LOIS McIVER DIES SUDDENLY

Elect Lady, of Gulf, Passes Away Suddenly; Burial Monday Afternoon

Every seat in the Presbyterian church at Gulf was occupied Monday afternoon when the whole population of the village and scores of representative men and women from Chatham county and other parts of the state had assembled to pay their last respects to what is mortal of Mrs. Lois Anderson McIver, who had fallen asleep Saturday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Mrs. McIver had been in her usual health that day, had, in fact, been down town only a few hours before her death, which occurred without warning.

The funeral services were held in the Presbyterian church at 3 p. m., Monday, being conducted jointly by her pastor, Rev. C. L. Wickler and Rev. D. Clay Lilly, of Reynolds. Several beautiful and comforting passages of Scripture were read and hymns appropriate to the solemn occasion were beautifully rendered by the choir. At the request of the family, no word of tribute was spoken to the noble character of the deceased, but none was needed, since all present knew her as a lady, whose life had been a benediction to all about her.

Mrs. McIver was a daughter of Prof. Anderson of Davidson College and accordingly grew up in an atmosphere of culture and religion. As a young lady, she was a teacher and one of real merit, as the writer who was a student in the school at Clinton in which she and her brother, Neill, were teachers, can, and does, here bear witness.

Soon after the close of her work in Clinton, about 40 years ago, she married Mr. John M. McIver, a prominent citizen and successful merchant, of Gulf, where she has lived and reared a family of several children and mothered her husband's older children, a task well accomplished, as the character and achievements of the two broods forcibly testify. Her husband did several years ago and now she has gone to join him in the Beulah Land.

Her own children are J. M., of Gulf; Dr. Monroe McIver, of Boston, a lecturer in the Harvard Medical School, and Miss Margate McIver, of High Point. The older McIver children are E. J., of Durham; Miss Estelle, of Avery county, and Mrs. E. S. Gillespie, of Greensboro.

Her brother, Dr. Neill A. Anderson, who was present at the funeral, is one of the most scholarly Presbyterian ministers of the country and is at present pastor of the Independent Presbyterian church, of Savannah and has within the past year published a book of sermons that has been praised by the very highest authorities. Her sister, Miss Mary, was lady principal of Flora McDonald College during its earlier years, and possibly until her death.

County Agent Plans Many Demonstrations

Pastures, Soy Beans, Lespedeza, and Tobacco Flea Receiving Attention

During this winter and spring, it is hoped to begin ten pasture demonstrations, five alfalfa demonstrations, five sweet clover demonstrations and three soy bean demonstrations. The Mascot Lime Co. will furnish lime for these demonstrations at bulk prices, which means that the farmers will be able to obtain this lime in 100 lb paper bags, laid down at Siler City for \$3.15 per ton and at Pittsboro for \$3.60 per ton. The county agent has visited a number of farmers this week who have expressed their intentions of co-operating with the agent in these demonstrations, but all of these demonstrations have not been placed as yet and the agent will be glad to hear from any farmers who are interested in the growing of alfalfa, sweet clover or soy beans. The soy bean demonstrations will be conducted with the idea of turning under the soy beans this fall, and following in corn next spring. Inoculating will be furnished free.

Farmers in Chatham county are showing much interest in lespedeza, or Japan clover and a number have given the agent orders for seed. Something like five hundred acres are signed up for the growth of this legume to date, and the agent hopes to have one thousand acres signed up before it is too late to seed this crop. Lespedeza can be seeded any time from now on to the middle of April, but the earlier the seeding, the better. It can be drilled at the rate of 12 lbs. per acre, or broadcasted at the rate of 17 to 20 lbs. per acre. A co-operative order of these seed is being made up, and orders are being taken now.

The soy bean market shows promise of being higher this year than last, and those farmers who buy seed now, will be able to get them cheaper than they will later in the year. A co-operative order of soy beans is also being made up. Where the seed are to be broadcasted or drilled, the Mammoth yellow variety is

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Dr. Frank Crane Says

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The Columbia Basin

President Coolidge, in an address the other day, alluded to the effort of the Government to create new territory.

This is the true method of conquest. A lot better than going to war and subjecting another State is to turn water on to a desert and make a new State.

Mr. Coolidge said, "A waterway system for the Mississippi Valley and its tributaries with an arm reaching to the Gulf and another to the Atlantic is only a question of time. The Colorado River is pressing, the Columbia Basin is not far distant." To many of my readers this phrase the Columbia Basin, is a sort of also ran. I confess until recently it was to me.

But I am writing this in Spokane, Washington, just a few miles from this basin and right here it is subject of supreme interest. As far as that is concerned, it is of considerable interest to the whole country and not merely a local affair.

The Panama Canal fired the imagination of the world. Huge reclamation projects at various times have interested us and applied for aid to the general Government.

But this Columbia Basin project will be about the biggest thing we have ever undertaken and are ever liable to undertake.

It means a bringing into cultivation or a transforming from desert to thrifty farm lands about two million acres.

This can be done by merely utilizing dead waters which now run to waste. Fortunately these waters are

at a higher level than the irrigated land, so all that is necessary is the motive power of gravitation.

It would mean, however, building some dams, making tunnels and constructing huge concrete lined canals and the project is so immense that nobody could take it up but the general government.

We hear a lot about the Colorado River and the Boulder Dam, but really this thing is bigger.

This country once was settled during what they call a wet cycle and 25,000 farmers lived in it.

But then came the drouth and they all had to leave, for they could not raise crops on 7-inch rainfalls during the year. Now the land is sand and sage brush.

The soil is wonderfully fertile, as it is probably the bottom of an old lake, and all it needs is water. With water they can raise two crops of potatoes a year and the finest potatoes in the world. They would have a climate even superior to Yakima for the raising of apples, and corn, and other midwest products could be grown in abundance.

The men who are pushing this thing are public-spirited citizens, for they will probably all be dead before the scheme could be brought to completion, as it will take probably 15 years.

The project has the full endorsement of President Coolidge, Secretary Work, Secretary Hoover and General Goethals.

Redeeming worthless land and making it productive is about the best business a Government can engage in.

