

## Notable Conspiracy Case Ends With Acquittal Jones and Scott

### TODAY

VIVID YOUTH, DULL AGE.  
MAKING THE MISSISSIPPI  
SAFE.  
DEPEW WISE MAN.  
COULD COOLIDGE SAY NO?  
By ARTHUR BRISBANE

In youth impressions are vivid, and last into old age. Therefore, the manuscript of "Alice in Wonderland" sells for \$75,259, a record price, more than would have been paid for the manuscript of Dante's "Inferno," or of Voltaire's "Zadig," each word worth a thousand "Alice in Wonderland" manuscripts.

Years dull imagination. Millions that remember "Robinson Crusoe," "Swiss Family Robinson," "Gulliver's Travels" vividly have a faint impression of more important books read later.

Washington reporters say, probably inaccurately, that President Coolidge is "shocked" at the suggestion of \$750,000,000 to make the Mississippi River safe.

A country that could give Ten Thousand Millions To Europe, add half a billion a year to railroad receipts, and plan, wisely, to cut \$200,000,000 a year from corporation taxes, need not shudder at the thought of spending part of a billion to make the Mississippi safe.

Chauncey M. Depew, dead in his ninety-fourth year, older than the Republican party, which he served long and faithfully, said: "I have lived long because I could laugh at anything."

Of Napoleon, it was said that in his youth "no one ever saw him laugh." He didn't live ninety-three years, but he did live more in one day than amiable Mr. Depew in all his ninety-four years.

Chauncey Depew attended 8,000 banquets and never let boredom drive him into eating too much. That's wisdom.

He campaigned for Lincoln, got \$1.75 for his first legal services, lived under twenty-four Presidents, from Andrew Jackson to Calvin Coolidge, and knew thirteen of them personally. How many can name the twenty-four from Jackson on?

Mr. Darrow of the House Naval Affairs Committee, told President Coolidge his friends "still hoped he would be a candidate." The President replied: "I am afraid they will have to be disappointed."

Die-hard Coolidge enthusiasts will find SOME comfort in that word "afraid." A man cannot help being persuaded if arguments are good.

Suppose the President were convinced, as he may be, that his re-nomination and re-election, a second time, would boom business, increase employment, stabilize prosperity, and free his party from oil stain danger, could he continue to say no?

Aviation is a reality, says General Atterbury, and railroads should know it. He is said to plan for the Pennsylvania a part railroad, part-flying machine service from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The traveler would spend daylight in the flying machine, night hours on the train, cross the continent in forty-eight hours, avoiding mountain flying. This rumor is not guaranteed.

New York merchants report business excellent in women's apparel. They buy more of it and less of it, more garments less material in them. Paper underwear for ladies makes its appearance in several stores.

Silk of wood, underwear of paper—not pleasant news for cotton growers.

Old British builders of wooden ships who said ships made of steel would sink in heavy storms would be interested in the Leviathan's latest trip.

She reached New York with her forecastle deck smashed, deck structures badly twisted by a wave said to be 150 feet high, that dropped 1,000,000 pounds of water on her deck at once.

Men build ships that the ocean cannot sink. Water waves are heavier than air waves. Airships will soon be built that no air wave will worry.

In Seattle a tiny Pomeranian barked too much. Its owner wanted the vocal chords removed, reducing the bark to a gesture, but humane societies said "No."

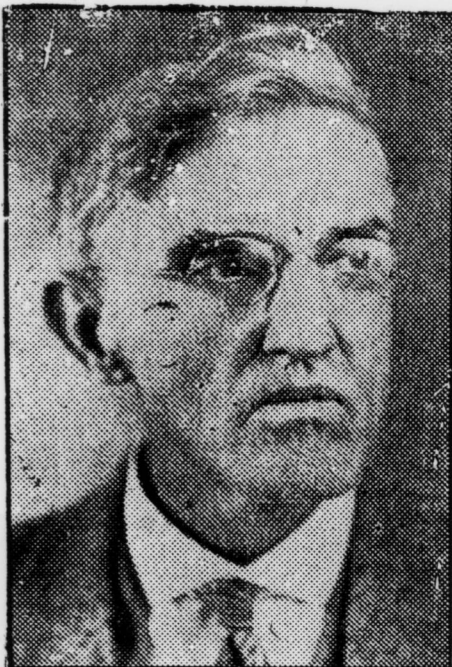
Dog Trainer Sanderlin removed the bark in two weeks by training "Obedience" is the secret, says he. "I taught Darkie (the Pomeranian) the meaning of the words 'Shut up.'"

That trainer might make a fortune in politics.

### CLEAN UP DAYS

Clean up days, May 2, 3, 4, under the auspices of the civic dept. of the woman's club. Everyone is requested to leave the trash from their premises in front of their home and it will be removed by the town.

### CANDIDATE



O. J. PETERSON

Candidate for Commissioner of Labor and Printing

Graduate of Wake Forest College; Teacher for 21 Years; Editor for 15 Years.

Veteran editor of The Chatham Record, Pittsboro, who is contesting with Commissioner Grist and M. L. Shipman for the Democratic nomination for Commissioner of Labor and Printing. Mr. Peterson formerly operated the Sampson Democrat for a number of years and prior to that ran the Lumberton Argus. He taught school for 21 years and has been an editor for fifteen.

### Bennett Bank Case Started Tuesday

Will Rainey, Charged With a Share in Robbery of Bennett Bank, Faces Jury in Chatham Court.

Hardly had the automobile conspiracy case been given to the jury before preparations were being made for the trial of Will Rainey, of Reidsville, on the charge of participating in the robbery of the Bank of Bennett.

The evidence against him is direct and consists of his identification as one of the men at Bennett when the bank was robbed. Cashier Purvis and two or three other witnesses positively identify him as the man who was in the car while the robbery was going on. Rainey is depending upon an alibi, presumably at this writing, for his defense. He is represented by that masterly lawyer, P. H. Glidewell of Reidsville, and Ray and Upchurch, of Pittsboro. The solicitor is assisted in the prosecution by W. P. Horton.

Grady Pugh, who was under conviction for robbery at Reidsville, and in jail at Graham awaiting trial on the charge of robbing the bank at Elon and also the Bennett bank, played the reel a few days ago and glided out of the Alamance jail and hid to parts unknown. His woman chum, Nettie Jackson, is still held as an accomplice in the Elon robbery.

The Rainey case will probably continue until after this paper is printed.

### Frank Graham To Speak Here Friday

The features of the coming commencement exercises of the Pittsboro school are worth while. Prof. Frank Graham, of the University, will be the speaker tomorrow (Friday). Our people should turn out and give him a large audience.

Friday evening the senior class will give the annual play, which should draw a large crowd. Sunday Rev. J. H. Barnhardt, of Winston-Salem, will preach at the school auditorium.

Examinations are now in progress and the end of a prosperous and successful season is rapidly approaching. Principal Waters and his excellent corps of teachers have done good work, and we feel that the standard of scholarship and general achievement is being steadily raised.

### ELIZA BYNUM WINS HIGH SCORE

In the preliminary music contest held under the direction of Mrs. Henry Bynum, Eliza Bynum, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Bynum made the highest score. Honorable mention is given Camilla Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vander Johnson for next highest score. Both of these girls are members of the fifth grade.

For winning in the local contest, Eliza Bynum was presented by Mrs. Victor Johnson with a book on music appreciation from the music department of the woman's club. Eliza will compete in the State Music Memory contest to be held in Raleigh on April 28th.

Seven of the Thieves, All Hailing Except One From Beyond Chatham Limits, Submitted to Charges and Receive Terms in Prison.

Case Lasted Nearly Ten Days, Ending at Noon, Tuesday

Jones' Character Saved Him of Penalty for Acts Technically Illegal — Gratifying to His Friends.

The notable conspiracy case ended Tuesday noon with the acquittal of Claude Jones and Frank Scott. Powers and Payne were already free for lack of evidence, against them. Sentences of terms in prison were given by Judge Lyon later in the day. The acquittal of Jones and Scott was very gratifying to their friends.

After ten days of steady work, barring Sunday, the notable case against the Presnells and others for conspiracy to steal and sell automobiles, reached its termination Tuesday evening with the sentencing of the array of self confessed criminals.

Sixteen men stood under indictment when the case came up for trial Monday of last week. First, R. M. Gatlin, who had been most recently arrested was given until the May term to prepare for trial. Gatlin came as a witness, but found himself indicted along with the others Monday. He is a brother-in-law of the Presnells. Bill Payne was already weighted down with 18 years of previous sentences to the penitentiary and the case against him was nol prossed. "Red" Harcrow is facing trial for the same crime in the Federal courts and was left to the tender mercy of the Federal tribunals.

early pleaded guilty and served as witnesses for the state. Barber is a youth of only eighteen. He was brought here from the Durham chaingang, where he was sent after conviction for stealing a car. A compromise was being affected in that case in order that Barber may escape the roads for that offense and the papers had been prepared but not signed when Judge Bond suddenly died while holding the Durham court. He is the only one of those who actually was engaged in the stealing of cars who hails from Chatham county, contrary to the impression that has gone forth that it is a bunch of Chatham rogues.

David Walton White, a notary of Johnston City, Tenn., after trying to secure abatement on the ground of non-residence, pleaded nolo contendere, and simply waited during the trial for the final awarding of penalties. His offense was the intentional fraudulent preparation of false titles or a very careless regard for his official duties. The evidence of the confessed thieves indicated that he was not only aware of the nature of the transaction but received good pay for his share of the work. J. Clifton Palmer rather early changed his plea from not guilty to guilty. After the full story of the series of crimes as presented by Greer, Culler, Harcrow, and Barber, the Presnells threw up their hands. The bunch of defendants making a fight for freedom had thus been cut down to four, though Culler and Harcrow have their turn in the Federal courts, and Gatlin here at the May term.

Saturday it was decided that a case could not be made against Paul Payne and a non-suit was entered. J. B. Powers was acquitted by Judge Lyon on the ground that evidence was insufficient to convict him of any crime. That brought down the number of the sixteen still fighting here to two, both Chatham county citizens, Claude Jones and Frank Scott of Bennett.

The battle has waged chiefly about Jones. From the inception of the charge against Mr. Jones, much concern and interest have been felt by his many friends in the county. His reputation has been not only unshaken by any hint of crime previously, but his character has been notably marked by its openness and nobility. Hundreds of the best citizens of the county had, and have, faith in the integrity of Claude Jones. No man in the county could have proven a better character. An array of the best men in the western half of the county gladly went upon the stand in his behalf.

Jones is the manager of the Bennett Motor Company, which has the agency for Ford cars. Like all the other Ford agents he was put to it to keep going until the new car should come upon the market and, accordingly, bought second-hand cars for his trade. And there came the rub. He bought too many cars from the Presnells and had them employed part of the time, it seems, as salesmen for him, though he was aware, or should have been aware, that one of the Presnells had served a term in the penitentiary. His defense to that implication and to the charge that he had given an affidavit that the ex-convict was a man of good character was that he had talked with the man and thought

(Please turn to page eight)

### Lawrence Indicted For Terry Murder

Trial of Accused Set for May 14 Here — Confident That He Will Be Acquitted.

W. H. Lawrence, who was indicted Wednesday of last week for the murder of Mrs. Annie Terry, who was drowned at Aven's Ferry across the Cape Fear river was brought from Durham jail the next day and arraigned before Judge Lyon. He entered the plea of not guilty.

A contention arose Wednesday after the indictment was in as to whether counsel for the accused man should have permission to examine the state's witnesses to learn what evidence the defendant had to meet. Judge Lyon stated that the Solicitor might give permission, the court might order the examination, or the defense could subpoena the witnesses for themselves and thus discover the evidence they had. Solicitor Williams was very earnest in his refusal to give permission, stating that it was against the interest of the people. His Honor reminded him that the defendant had a considerable interest at stake as well as the people. But the Solicitor was so earnest in his opposition that Judge Lyon let the defendant take the third course and subpoena the witnesses. This was done the next day and thus the defense came into possession of the chief bits of evidence in the possession of the state. The revelation has not seemed to daunt the counsel for the defense, who declare positively that they have a complete alibi for their client and that the evidence against him is altogether circumstantial.

After the arraignment the prisoner was carried back to the Durham jail, where he is permitted to have certain privileges by paying the additional expenses, we understand, which is all right, since a man held for trial is not under punishment but is being kept safe till his case is brought before the jury.

While everybody desires that the guilty person be discovered and punished, of course his friends and even others hope that the former highly esteemed citizen of Chatham county and dependable contractor of Durham can prove his innocence. However, the burden is upon the state to prove him guilty. But the right kind of alibi would probably leave no question of guilt in the minds of the people.

Still the prosecution claims to have strong evidence against the man.

Mr. Lawrence has a strong array of counsel, composed of J. H. Pou of Raleigh, Fuller, Reade, and Fuller of Durham, Long and Bell of Pittsboro. It will probably prove a battle royal.

### Fine Entertainment By The Senior Class

The graduating class of the Pittsboro high school, composed of 14 girls and 13 boys, gave their entertainment last Friday evening to a large and interested audience. It is the largest class in the history of the school and the house was packed for the occasion.

The stage was made very beautiful by the artistic arrangement of massed dogwood overhead and clusters of the same against the walls, thus composing a complete bower of flowers. The curtains, arranged in the form of a semi-circle, was fringed with bridal wreath, above which was the legend in white jonquils, "1928."

Against such a background the 27 seniors made a picture that will not soon be forgotten by their relatives and friends.

The excellent singing caught the attention of the audience at the outset and the remainder of the program was followed with keen interest and strict attention.

Principal Waters paid a splendid tribute to the class for their fine spirit as students and high character as youths. The program which was published last week was rendered with much credit to the participants. The history of the class was prepared and read by Lester Farrell, while Eugene Stroud rendered a prophecy of the future achievements and fortunes of the various members of the group. It is interesting to note that Dan Farrell was presented as a future editor of the Chatham Record, and the chap really has it in him to make a good one if he will apply his heart and mind to preparation for the task.

The exercises were prepared and presented under the auspices of Mrs. George H. Brooks, which itself gave assurance of its high quality.

### Bennett News

There will be a Sunday school association at Fall Creek Baptist church next Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29.

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Myrick of Carthage were visitors in the home of his father, W. R. Myrick of route 2 Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Efland Shields of route 2 have moved to Highfalls. Mr. Kearney Kidd of Farm Life spent the week-end with home folk, on route 2.

Mr. and Mrs. George Purvis of McConnell route, 1, were visitors in the home of his brother Sunday.

### When Liars Had Ears Cropped

McNeill Thinks the Croppers Would Have Been Busy Last Week.

Ben Dixon McNeill, who was a visitor here last week and observed somewhat of the trial in progress, wrote the following for his paper, the News and Observer:

Pittsboro, Saturday. Assuming that there is virtue and wisdom in Judge Shaw's judicial conclusion that the Adam's apple of a conscious liar will climb everisally up and down his throat the minute he begins to lie from the witness stand, and assuming that time could be turned back a century and a half, this would have been a hard week on the official ear-cropper of Chatham county, and by now he would have collected several baskets of ears.

They have been having a court over here with Judge Lyon ruminating through the trial of a dozen or such matter of thieves. This is not the verdict of the jury, and it is never safe to leave out one's "alleged" until the jury's opinion has been written down in the book. It wouldn't be safe to call them thieves but for the fact that almost every day some of them have arisen in their places and confessed their sins. They have confessed other people's sins, and somewhat confusingly.

Proper entries have been made in the books by the current successor to William Hooper, who used to be clerk of the court here and official score-keeper at the court and official score-keeper at the ear-croppings which followed every session. Judge Lyon has taken no formal cognizance as yet of the fact that there are some whose ears ought to come off, but I am somewhat persuaded that the truth has not been told wholeheartedly. Truth is stranger than fiction, one hears, and I have read much fiction that is stranger than these sodden tales of thievery.

These older records of William Hooper are very much more diverting than the entries made by his current successor at the direction of the judge. Where Richard Caswell told William Hooper to make an entry that some ancestor of present-day Chatham should have his ears cut off for lying on the witness stand Judge Lyon judiciously bides his time. Some time today he will be directing the current successor of Mr. Hooper to record the fact that this one or that of the confessed thieves be death with after the usual manner.

No longer does the usual manner have to do with cropping off the ears of the prisoners. I do not ad-

(Please turn to page eight)

### Worth Elkins Killed

Goldston Boy Victim of Accident—Truck Turns Over—Arthur Gaines, the Driver, Is Hurt.

A most lamentable accident occurred near Goldston one day last week in which Worth Elkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Elkins, was killed and Arthur Gaines, son of B. W. Gaines, was injured, but not dangerously. The latter was driving the truck and is said to have been going along at a good pace when he had to turn aside for a car to pass. The truck turned over with the results indicated above.

Arthur Gaines was taken to a Sanford hospital, where he was reported as recovering from his injuries. Worth, a bright boy of 15, was buried Thursday afternoon at Goldston.

### PROGRAM

Memorial services to be held at Rock Springs Baptist church, one and one-half miles north of Pittsboro, the first Sunday in May. Every body is invited.

1. Devotional reading and prayer by the pastor, W. F. Cates of East Durham.

2. Report of the Cemetery committee.

3. An address by Rev. G. W. Underwood of the Christian church giving an outline of the foundation of the memorial services as no wheel in our State and Nation.

4. Song by the choir.

5. An address by Hon. Walter D. Siler, giving a history of the Old Sandy Creek association and the part that the Old Rock Springs church has taken in this great organization.

6. Song by the choir.

7. Adjourn for dinner.

8. Song by the choir.

9. Address by Rev. J. F. McDuffie of Chapel Hill, and of the Mt. Zion association.

Miss Mary Kidd and brother Lacy, motored to Farm Life last Monday. They were accompanied by their brother Kearney who is in school. Quite a large crowd from Beulah Baptist church went to visit their pastor, Rev. A. G. Lassiter of Star, who has been sick for quite a while. We hope he will soon be well again.

Miss Madie Kidd was a visitor last Sunday afternoon in the home of Miss Mava Purvis.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Purvis of route 2, were visitors in Highfalls Sunday.

### Would-Be Grafters Seek Big Money For Flood Relief

Owners of Cheap Lands in Flood Belt Hope to Unload on Government at Big Profit. President on Guard.

How the Several Candidates Seem to Stand

Looks Like Smith on First Ballot—Lowden in the Running—Capital Friendly to Hoover.

By WILLIAM P. HELM, Jr., Washington Correspondent of The Record WASHINGTON, April 24.—Another sinister and powerful lobby threw its shadow across Capitol Hill last week. Apparently well organized and abundantly financed, with at least five sleek agents working the field at the same time, this lobby exerted its efforts to the maximum as the House neared the vote on flood control.

It was out to force through congress the highest-moneyed flood control measure that could be passed. Back of its activity was the prospect of good profits through the sale of land to the government. The lands it had for sale lay along the Mississippi and would come within the scope of federal purchase under the kind of legislation it advocated.

Some of these lands had been ceded years ago by the government to lumber and other companies. Some of them, according to report, had been hastily placed under recent option by firms or persons scenting the quick profits through early sale to Uncle Sam. Still others had been denied of their lumber and were to be sold, stripped and bare, at fat prices that would yield good gains.

"I know of at least five companies that have their men here working vigorously for the early passage of flood control," a Representative told this correspondent two days before the House was to reach a vote on the measure. "The land they owned originally cost them almost nothing. It was covered with lumber. They cut the lumber and now plan to sell the cut-over land back to the government at from \$10 to \$75 an acre. Much of it cost less than \$5 an acre. The profits they have already made on the timber doubtless have been considerable and now the companies are planning to get from three to ten times the original cost of their holdings in addition."

There were other influences, too, at work for a huge federal program. Some of these were honest and sincere in their belief that the government should perform the great task of checking future floods in a big and effective way, worthy of the nation. These men were not blind to the possible graft that might be obtained by the lobbying interests, but thought that the government could be depended on to drive a proper bargain with this gentry when purchase time should come.

Long before the vote was taken, it became apparent that the majority sentiment in the House was that the government should perform the task and pay the bill in full from the federal treasury. President Coolidge, alarmed at the prospect of enacting a measure which he deemed "extortionate" in its ultimate cost to the nation, called party leaders to the White House and apprised them so vigorously of his fears that they went back to revise the measure and, if possible, whip it into some semblance of what the President wanted.

### Great Haul Made On Blockaders

Deputies Seize Big Still, Much Sugar and Meal, and a Big Car in Williams Township—One Negro Captured.

Deputies Womble, Farrington and other officers made a most successful raid in the remotest corner of Williams township Monday afternoon and came into Pittsboro with the goods and one man.

Since Sunday noon the men had watched the still. Two men were seen working at it, but it was hoped that more concerned would come upon the scene. Monday, when it was about ready for operation and when no others had come, the officers made the raid. They got one of the two negroes but the other escaped.

They seized a good Hudson car and loaded it up with 600 pounds of sugar and 2 1-2 sacks of meal and other paraphernalia. The big copper still was brought in upon a truck.

2,500 gallons of beer were destroyed. It is supposed to be an outfit operated by Durham capital with the two negroes as only employed hands. Sheriff Blair stated that it was the biggest capture of supplies he had made, possibly during his whole career as sheriff.

### CARD OF THANKS

I desire to thank my friends and neighbors for the kindness shown my brother, B. F. Tyson, and the assistance rendered us during his illness and after his death. We will appreciate it.

L. A. TYSON.