

The Laurinburg Exchange

VOLUME XXXII - NUMBER 7

LAURINBURG, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1914.

\$1.50 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE

MOTHER'S PATHETIC STORY OF MURDER OF HER CHILD

Miss Fleta Pendleton, of Durham, Makes Sickening Confessions About Her Personal Disgrace and the Murder of Her Baby—She and C. C. Clements, of Chesnee, S. C., in Jail.

In our last issue there appeared the following news item:

"Richly dressed in hand embroidered cashmere and silk, the body of a blue-eyed baby girl about six weeks old was found in the race of a mill pond near Spartanburg, S. C., Saturday. It is thought that the baby was thrown from a Southern passenger train."

Since then the mother of the child, Miss Fleta Pendleton, of Durham, and the father of the child, C. C. Clements, of Chesnee, S. C., have been arrested and the mother frankly confessed her disgrace and the guilt of Clements, who murdered the child. The Spartanburg Journal, of February 3d, contained the following:

Yesterday afternoon, in the county jail, Miss Fleta Pendleton made a complete confession to A. E. Hill, solicitor, in the presence of R. J. Gantt, magistrate, and it was taken in shorthand by J. W. Mansfield, an attorney of Spartanburg.

She was first apprised by the solicitor that she did not have to make a confession, or any statement that she made must be made freely and voluntarily on her part without any compulsion, dread or fear. She then said:

"If you care to know all about this affair, I will tell you, but I have already told it one time before."

In reply, Solicitor Hill said: "Then go ahead and make your statement in your own way."

In answer to questions put by the solicitor, she substantially made the following confession:

Miss Pendleton claimed to have given birth to the child in Charlotte at the Presbyterian hospital there on December 6, 1913. She went to Greenville and stopped at the home of a lady. Upon question, she then said it was Mrs. Hodges, the same woman who had identified the child a few hours before.

MUST KILL CHILD.

Continuing she said:

"Clyde Clement came over to Greenville on Thursday, January 29, and spent the night with me, and we talked about marrying. Clyde said that he would tell me in the morning what he would do. We discussed the child. Clyde said that I would have to make away with the child, and I told him I did not want to, because I loved her. He then said he would not marry me with the child, but that if I would get rid of her he would then marry me."

"I sat up until 3 o'clock the next morning, begging and pleading with Clyde not to make me get rid of the child. I was crying and pleading with him nearly all night. The next day he said that he would come to Spartanburg. We left Greenville on 40 and arrived here about 8 o'clock and caught a public hack, driven by a colored man, who drove a black or dark gray horse. The hack had curtains on it. We drove down East Main street until we got near the bridge. Then we got out of the hack and walked on down toward the bridge. I was carrying the baby. Before we got to the bridge Clyde took the baby from me, and we walked across the bridge. I turned my back and went up the left hand road by myself. Clyde went down. I never looked back. I know how he threw the

child in the river. I didn't hear the child hit the water, because I didn't want to hear it, as I loved it so much.

CAME BACK WITHOUT CHILD.

"The child was alive when Clyde took it from my arms, and when he came back to me he did not have the baby. I didn't know what he did with it. Then he and I crossed the bridge and came on back up the road together. We didn't talk about it, because I couldn't bear to hear it mentioned."

Solicitor Hill asked: "When Clyde took the child and went down the river and you turned your back and left him, what was he going to do with it?"

Miss Pendleton answered: "I guess you know what he was going to do with it."

Solicitor Hill: "What did he do with it, then?"

Miss Pendleton replied: "You ought to know what he did with it?"

Solicitor Hill: "Well, do you know where your baby is now?"

She answered: "In heaven." Miss Pendleton then requested the solicitor to let her see her baby, and the solicitor said she would see it later.

Continuing her confession, Miss Pendleton said:

CATCH STREET CAR.

"Then Clyde and I came to the street car line and caught a car up town. I saw several girls get on the car just before we got there. We got off the car and I went to a boarding house and stayed all night. The next day I went down to Wood's boarding house and have been staying there ever since. Clyde went on home."

"On yesterday (that was Monday, wasn't it) I went out to Clyde's home and took dinner. I went out in a public automobile. I got the automobile from Nesbitt's garage. I came back to town and went back to my room. This morning Clyde came in from Chesnee on the train. I met him at the train, and he and I walked up Magnolia street until we got to the corner next to Kennedy library. We then stopped and talked for awhile. It might have been for 20 minutes or one half an hour. Clyde gave me \$25 and told me we had better get away from here. He said, 'You take this \$25 and get out of this town—get away from here.' He then said he had to get back home. I told him to go to Nesbitt's garage and get an automobile to carry him. He said he would do that."

PREPARES TO LEAVE.

"After that I went down to the depot and looked upon the board to see when the first train left town. I saw one marked up to leave at 1:40 for Charleston, so I decided to go on that train, it being the first one out. I came back to the boarding house, packed my trunk and grip, phoned to Blowers' Transfer company, to get my trunk down to that train. They sent for the trunk and I put on my hat and was sitting there when they walked in on me (referring to officers who arrested her.) Mrs. Hodges was with them and I recognized her as the lady with whom I was staying in Greenville. I told them everything I knew about it. I told them the truth."

Solicitor Hill said to her:

(Continued on page 8)

CONDENSED NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

A Column of the Week's Happenings Throughout the World Told in Brief—Gathered From Our Contemporaries and Boiled Down For Our Readers.

Fifteen aspirants have announced their candidacy for the governorship of Texas.

A bill is being urged in congress for the appropriation of \$25,000,000 for federal aid to the States for improvement of highways used by rural mail carriers.

W. H. Nottleton, aged 88, of Bristol, Conn., and his secretary, Mary Baldwin, aged 68, eloped the other day to Hartford, Conn., and were married.

The Virginia Senate has passed an act making it possible for a State-wide prohibition election to be held in that State in September.

President Wilson says he will use his best efforts to repeal the provision of the Panama Canal Act eliminating American coast-wise ships from payment of tolls.

A quartz company of Chester, Pa., has offered a wage increase of 10 per cent to its 300 employes if they will agree to abstain from all forms of intoxicants.

A monument to John Tyler, former president of the United States is to be erected over his grave in a Richmond, Va., cemetery. Congress has appropriated \$10,000 for this purpose.

A Chicago judge has ruled that a man who habitually sets his alarm clock for 2 a. m. and at that hour makes his wife get out of bed and sleep on the floor is guilty of disorderly conduct. The beast was fined \$500.

Forty ministers of Scranton, Pa., armed themselves with carpenter's tools last week and proceeded to build a large tabernacle which is being used by Evangelist Billy Sunday for an eight weeks revival in that city.

Congressman R. G. Bremmer of New Jersey who has been undergoing the radium treatment for cancer since last December, died Thursday. One hundred thousand dollars worth of radium was used in the treatment of his case.

Alleging that by making the change the school would be heavily shadowed, Gov. Blease has asked that the name of Clemson College be changed to Calhoun University in honor of Jno. C. Calhoun of New York, a grandson of Vice-President Calhoun.

Dr. C. T. Wyche of Newberry county, South Carolina, speaker pro tem, while presiding over the lower House of the General Assembly at Columbia was Friday night stricken with paralysis and fell into the arms of a friend alone by.

What is perhaps the most severe blizzard since 1911 held the plains of the middle west in its grip the past week. At Dodge, Kan., the thermometer registered four degrees below zero; at Denver, Colo., 12 degrees; at Sheridan, Wyo., 26 degrees; at Williston, N. D., 32 degrees and at Harve, Mont., 42 degrees below zero.

For the murder of Anna Amuller, a young woman he had married through a self performed ceremony, Hans Schmidt, an ex-Prestis was Thursday declared guilty by a New York jury and will be sentenced to death in the electric chair. This was Schmidt's second trial, the jury hearing the first one failed to agree. Upon receiving the verdict Schmidt, who is thought by the defense to be crazy said: "I would rather die tonight than tomorrow," and added, "It is as it should be and as I wish it."

A COLUMN OF STATE NEWS

Short Items of North Carolina News of General Interest To Scotland County—In Condensed Form For Exchange Readers—Gathered from Contemporaries.

Hill Granberry, colored, was hanged Friday at Opolika, Ala., for double murder. The case of Granberry has been in the Supreme Court twice and he had been sentenced to death three times.

C. E. Everett, a young white man of Abbottsburg, who was caught depositing bogus checks in a Raleigh bank recently and was being carried home by his father, escaped from the parent at Hamlet and it is said secured \$250 from a bank there. It is said the young man is weak minded.

The Monroe Journal reports the finding of two turnips in a citizen's field that are whoppers. One is two feet and eight inches in circumference while the other is two feet and seven inches. Lots of soup there boys.

Henderson county is spending \$100,000 for good roads.

Lonnie Jones, a lad of 16, stole \$181 from his father at Mt. Airy a few days ago and left for parts unknown. The father located the boy in Greensboro where he was registered at the McAdoo hotel and had him arrested. \$176 of the money was recovered.

While engaged in gambling in a negro pool room at Greensboro last week, Will Hill and Sam Harris, both colored, fell out about the results with the result that Harris was shot and killed.

For shifting cars on Sunday that did not contain perishable goods, the Southern Railway Co. was fined \$25 and cost recently by a Greensboro judge.

Forty-seven of the fifty-three applicants to the Supreme Court for license to practice law passed successful examinations Monday of last week.

Upon an improvised gallows made of twisted leather straps and telephone wires, George Evans, a white man of Greensboro hanged himself Thursday.

In his report about North Carolina cotton mills, the Commissioner of Labor and Printing says there are 287 mills in operation in the State. Of this number 265 show an aggregate capital of \$52,351,800. The number of spindles is 3,515,822; looms, 63,122; cards, 8,704. The mills annually use 372,907,046 pounds of cotton and the product is worth \$71,306,233. The mills employ 59,332 people, which means the support of about 175,000. Eighty-five per cent of the employees can read and write.

Report says that Harry K. Thaw is planning to buy an estate near Asheville and make North Carolina his home.

Brother and Raleigh Bercher, two young white men of Camden county were recently convicted of beating their aged mother and only received 30 days for the crime.

For the murder of his wife, Thera Caldwell, and her uncle Asbury Moody, Jim Caldwell who submitted to a charge of murder in the second degree at Waynesville last week, was sentenced by Judge Frank Carter to score 50 years in the State prison.

Mr. H. T. Lovejoy, a citizen of Rocky Mount, while on a trip to Richmond, Va., blew out the gas and went to sleep. When found he was barely living, but as a result of quick medical aid was revived.

OFFICERS HUBBARD AND BROWN RAID GAMBLERS

Seven Colored Boys Caught Playing "Skin" Saturday Night by Police Officers—Had Hid Themselves in the Basement of Hotel Chetwynd, and the Game Was in Full Sway When Investigated.

For some time a party of young negro boys, some of whom were employed by the Hotel Chetwynd, have been having a quiet game of "skin" quite often, using the building in the rear of the hotel, which is used by the hotel as a sample room. The matter was reported to the officers, and for some days and nights the crowd has been closely watched. Saturday night about 12 o'clock Chief Hubbard and Officer Brown made a visit to the suspected place of concealment, but evidently the gamblers had gotten wind of the fact that they were being watched, and upon arriving at the house where the officers expected to find their game, there was nothing doing. The house was darkened, no evidence of anything unlawful there showed itself. Not being satisfied, the officers continued to search and finally located them huddled close up to the boiler in the basement of the hotel. The game was in full sway and the officers slipped into the basement unnoticed. Just as they got in where they could make a quick haul, one of the boys counted up his money, and after taking the inventory of his wealth announced to the companions that he would bet the princely sum of 25 cents. At this juncture Officer Brown stepped up toward them and announced that he would raise the bet, which upon the bunch made a dive for safety, but between there was no way of escape—Chief stood guard at the only exit, the doorway. This being the only way of escape, they rushed behind the boiler and tried to hide in the mortar joints, just anywhere so it was a place of escape.

Officer Brown followed them behind the boiler, and as he reached the point where they had huddled themselves, the front one facing Mr. Brown made a motion toward his inside coat pocket. This is the move that the negro desperado made at the time that Mr. Brown and Detective Poindexter were both shot by him, and moves of this kind make this officer get ready for action, and like a flash the negro was covered and ordered to "hands up." An investigation revealed the fact that this youngster was not trying to engage in any pistol fight with the officer, but it was he who grabbed the pot when the officer arrived and was only trying to slip the money to his pocket.

The bunch, seven in all—Richard McRae, Neill Tuck, Joe Little, Luther Williamson, Nathan McLaurin, John Little and Malcolm Fairley—were placed in jail, and on Tuesday were given a hearing in the Recorder's court. John Little turned State's evidence and was given his freedom, and Richard McRae was declared not guilty. Each of the remaining five were taxed to the amount of about \$17.50 each.

Recorder Joseph McGovern of Hoboken, N. J., has instituted a cigarette cure clinic in his court room, and it is said the room is visited by hundreds seeking treatment. The treatment consists in swabbing the throat with a solution of nitrate of silver and a supply of gentian roots to chew when the desire to smoke comes.

The street cars of Chicago now by the transfer system carry a passenger 28 miles for a charge of 5c.

FROM SNEAD'S GROVE.

BY BUMPS.

Mr. Eston Covington made a visit to Baie's Creek Friday.

Misses Josie and Tillie Snead, of Hamer, S. C., spent the weekend with relatives in this section.

Messrs. H. T. and J. W. Jackson, of Laurinburg, were on our streets Sunday.

A birthday entertainment given by Miss Hattie Threadgill last Thursday night was greatly enjoyed by quite a number.

There will be a missionary meeting here on the fourth Sunday. A good committee has been appointed to arrange the program, and we may expect a good time.

From all accounts, Bud Snead must have joined the Sunday school at Rachels. He goes, anyway.

If you get sick, and this scribe reports that you are suffering untold agonies with la grippe or pneumonia, when, as a matter of fact you have toothache or lumbago, do not abuse the scribe, as it is of little consequence to the public what ails you—just so you are sick!

The patrons of Snead's Grove school are congratulating themselves upon the fact that they were fortunate enough to secure the services of such efficient and energetic young teachers as Prof. J. A. Hornaday, Jr., and Miss Lucy Hayes. The services they are rendering here is deserving of the highest commendation. They have not only been instrumental in getting our school building repaired, but also supplying the school with a valuable piano.

The oyster supper was a success. The attendance was fine and every one seemed to enjoy the occasion to the fullest. Our friend, James Peele, who superintended the cooking, fully demonstrated his ability to prepare them in the way most palatable; while Mr. J. McN. Patterson, acting as auctioneer, soon disposed of the cakes, which the ladies had prepared for the occasion, at fancy prices. The net proceeds amounted to about \$23, which will a fraction over cover the purpose for which it was intended.

Messrs. A. K. Jackson and Melvin Bowen made a pleasant trip to Hoke county Tuesday.

Why He Quit Smoking.

"The late Senator William B. Bate, of Tennessee, bought many a cigar which he simply chewed to pieces without lighting, although passionately fond of a smoke," said H. M. Doyle, of Memphis. "The reason for this grew out of a tragedy on the battlefield of Shiloh. During the progress of that bloody fight General Bate, who was devoid of fear, lit a cigar, but had taken scarcely a puff when a ball from the Yankee side knocked the weed from his mouth and, passing on, struck his brother, who was not three feet away, in the breast, killing him instantly. After that incident the surviving brother was never known to light another cigar."—Washington Post.

Miss Ella Wyatt McKinnon of Red Springs has been selected to act as sponsor for North Carolina at the reunion of the Confederate veterans to be held in Jacksonville, Fla., this year.

Mrs. W. H. H. Bagwell and W. H. H. Bagwell, Jr., have entered suit against the Southern railway for \$75,000 for damages sustained in being hurt by a Southern freight train last June at which time Mr. J. M. Jamison was killed.