

# The Laurinburg Exchange

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## RURAL POLICEMAN FRANK SMITH KILLS BAD NEGRO MAN

Officers Went to Round Up Gamblers and Ran Into Two Negroes, One of Which Refused to Throw Up His Hands and Tried to Shoot Officer—Officer Exonerated.

Rural Policeman Frank R. Smith shot and killed Stacy Leggett, colored, late Saturday night, and was exonerated by a coroner's jury Sunday morning.

The facts leading up to the tragedy are about as follows:

It had been reported to the officers here that the home of Leggett, which was near Mason's Cross in Williamson township, was a bad place for drinking and gambling, especially on Saturday nights.

Responding to the call of the good people of that section Saturday night, Deputy Sheriff Lamar P. Smith, Rural Policeman Frank R. Smith, Mr. Grady Gibson, who was visiting his brother-in-law, Mr. Lamar Smith and Mr. J. E. Wright went to that section about 11:00 o'clock to round up the gamblers, if possible, and put a stop to the persistent devilment from which the community suffered. As a result of the visit, Mr. Frank Smith was forced to shoot and kill Leggett in order to keep from being shot himself. Three shots were fired by the officer, the first two struck the negro in the legs. Neither of these seemed to conquer him, but instead of answering the officer's demand to drop his gun and throw up his hands, he continued to try to shoot and finally used both hands in his efforts to make his pistol shoot. Fearing that he would be killed by the negro the officer shot him in the body. The ball entered the shoulder and passed through his heart producing instant death.

The coroner's jury that heard the evidence Sunday morning rendered a verdict that the deceased came to his death by a gun shot wound in the hands of Frank R. Smith, who acted in self defense, and who being an officer, was in the discharge of his duties.

Upon reaching Leggett's house the party of officers split, Mr. Frank Smith going up to the house and the others waiting near by. About the time that the officer reached the house two negro men, Leggett and George Baldwin, opened the door and came out. Mr. Smith stooped and went under the house in order to keep them from seeing him. The negroes walked on toward where the other officers were. Desiring to wait for a further investigation before making any arrests, the three officers lay down by the road. When Leggett and his companion reached the road, Leggett remarked, "I hear somebody, don't you?" and saying this, pulled his pistol and shot toward where the officers were secreted.

Mr. Frank Smith thinking the shot was fired by one of the other officers came to them and told them that they had done wrong by shooting, as the two negroes had gone off after their crowd. He was then told that it was one of the negroes and not the officers that shot. It was then determined to make the arrest for shooting and carrying concealed weapons. To this end the four officers followed and caught up with the negroes. Mr. Frank Smith reached them first, and flashing his flash light in their faces and commanded them to stop and throw up their hands, at the same time asking who it was that did the shooting. The Baldwin negro complied with the demand and was turned over to Mr. Lamar Smith, who searched him and found no pistol. The Leggett negro refused to do as commanded, but instead snatched his pistol. The officer called upon him several times to drop his gun and throw up his hands. Instead of doing so he continued to present his pistol, apparently trying to shoot the officer. Mr. Smith then fired two times, both bullets lodging in the negro's legs. He again commanded him to drop his gun, but instead of doing so used both hands in an attempt to fire upon the officer. It was then that the fatal shot was fired by the officer.

It developed that the chamber in the negro's gun was hung up in such a manner as to prevent him from firing it, and perhaps killing a brave and useful citizen.

Parties testifying before the coroner's jury stated that the negro was a bad and desperate character. It is also said that he had served a term in the South Carolina State prison for murder.

Union Prayer Meeting will be held at the Methodist church tonight at 8:30 o'clock. Note change of hour.

## THINGS PERTAINING TO LIFE

By Harry M. North.

### YOUR NEIGHBOR.

The question "Who is my neighbor?" has been asked in some form by nearly everybody. The Master gave us to understand that it was any one who came within the sphere of our personal influence to whom we might show a kindness. The expression has a very broad application. Our enemy as well as our friend may be neighbor to us if we will allow him to be so. Possibly you claim as your neighbors only those who belong in the same section or the same race or same social set with you. But to be a neighbor knows no class or family or race.

I lived in the country when I was a boy. I recall that on one hot summer day a negro man was chopping wood in the forest near my home. The axe slipped and cut a deep gash in his flesh and he was fast growing weak through loss of blood. There was no physician near and the poor fellow knew not what to do. My mother heard his cries, and taking me with her she went to his assistance. Frail, sensitive woman that she was I remember well how she sat down on the ground, took his foot in her lap, stanching the flow of blood and sewed up the wound. Was she not a true neighbor of one of another race? Whether he be next door to us or be a stranger who passes the highway it differs not if we really wish to be friendly to him.

Jesus told us that one of the great commandments was that we should love our neighbor as ourselves. I think that he meant by that that you should give him as fair a chance for life and liberty and happiness. He should have your good will as he seeks these things. While you are planning every day for your own highest interests, do the same for him. So often one is inclined to pass him by as if it did not make much difference about him. Ask this question, "What do I wish most for myself and family?" Then would it not be well to ask if your neighbor would not like to have something of that sort too?

The law of God is fulfilled when you love your neighbor as yourself. Let me show you how that is. Take the ten commandments and you will find that the first four are concerning your duty to God. The other six are concerning your duty to your neighbor. Now just lay the law of love down beside each one of them and you will find that love will keep them all. The first is "Honor thy father and thy mother." You will keep that commandment if you love your parents. The next is "Thou shalt not kill." Any one who loved his neighbor would not kill him. "Thou shalt not commit adultery" would be kept if each one had the proper consideration for the well-being of the other concerned. Then again a man would not steal from his neighbor if he loved him as he should. He would not bear false witness against him, neither would he covet the things that belong to him. So love is the fulfilling of the law.

But you object that he has no claims upon you. You are wrong however in this: Common humanity demands that you be a neighbor to him. He has the same feelings and impulses as you; his desires and burdens are like yours. You both walk the same earth, the same sky bends above you, and both are struggling toward the same destination. If you should find yourself in a wreck with him some time, or both of you should be confined in a burning building without hope of escape, this common calamity would make you seem very close together even though you had never met before. In reality this neighbor is a brother, the child of the same Father.

Possibly you have not considered this neighbor, have not thought of him enough. If you would look at things from his side how different they might appear. I wish that you might put yourself in his place for a day in order to appreciate something of his life. Are you an employer? Suppose you should be a workman for a while, how would it seem to you? Or maybe you are a workman, how would you act if the whole business were put in your hands for a week? Suppose you could see your life from the standpoint of your neighbor, might it not affect you greatly? Possibly you would see that your children were a nuisance to him, that your back yard with its unsightly appearance was an offence to his family, that your dogs and chickens and cows were a constant source of annoyance to him

and his. Live a day with him in his home and see his hopes and fears, his struggles and longings. But would it make any difference in your attitude to him if you knew these things? It would if you loved him as you do yourself.

### ERRONEOUS REPORT.

Cucumber and Cantaloupe Seed Mixture Not So Bad as Was Reported.

The Laurinburg correspondent of the News & Observer sent a communication to that paper one day the past week regarding the mixture of cucumber and cantaloupe seeds that was in some particulars erroneous. The Exchange nor McLean & Gibson think that the report was purposely colored, but in justice to McLean & Gibson, and at their request, we are offering a correction that we know is correct.

The report says that McLean & Gibson bought the seed from a Virginia seed house. Now, the folks in Scotland county don't believe in any seed for cantaloupe culture unless they come from Colorado, where the best cantaloupes in the world are grown except those grown here in Scotland, which are the same variety and quality as those grown in Colorado. Scotland folks are all grown from seed propagated in Colorado, and those that McLean & Gibson bought and sold were Colorado seed and came from "Burrell" who is famous for producing cantaloupe seeds.

One shipment that McLean & Gibson received, and sold for cantaloupe seed, did contain a portion of cucumber seeds. These were bought and planted by a number of planters with the result that some have a scattering of cucumbers growing where they thought they were planting cantaloupes. McLean & Gibson, of course, do not know of the mixture of the seeds, and as soon as it was discovered, they wrote to Burrell laying the matter before him and are now awaiting his reply.

Mr. McLean told the Exchange man he felt sure that Burrell would make good any loss that our planters may have because of the mixture of the seeds. Mr. McLean also stated that there was not so many cucumbers growing as is currently rumored, and that the conditions regarding the matter have been overdrawn.

### SUCCESSFUL SEASON.

High School Undeclared—Won Fourteenth Game Wednesday.

The Laurinburg high school baseball team has just closed the most successful season that it has ever enjoyed. They have played all comers from two states and have not been humbled with defeat during the season, in which they have played fourteen games, the last one of the season taking place here Wednesday afternoon last, in which the high school team of Clio, S. C., was defeated by a score of 17 to 0.

It takes hitting to win any ball game, and that is what these youngsters seem to know how to do, and to do it at the right time. In the Clio game they secured a total of 14 hits and all but one boy on the team helped to garner them. Smith took a couple of singles and a double; Correll, two singles; Odum, one double and one single; Fields, one single and a triple; Wallace, one single; McArn, one single and a double; Herndon and Carmichael took one single each.

Carmichael came near working out a no-hit affair and yielded only one, which went for a double and was delivered by Woody. He fanned an even dozen and allowed but two of the visitors free transportation.

### Purchased by Mr. Lee.

A re-sale of the mill property of the late D. C. Lytch was held Monday by attorney E. H. Gibson. The property, which included the right to manufacture and sell the famous Lytch cotton planter, was bought by Mr. R. E. Lee.

Miss Genevive Randal, who formerly taught here in the graded school, and has during the past year taught at Newman, Ga., is the guest of Miss Fan Louise Neal this week. The many Laurinburg friends of Miss Randal will be glad to know that she school, and has during the past year her old position in the school faculty.

## CAPE FEAR BASE BALL LEAGUE IS ORGANIZED

Formation Perfected Here Friday Night—League Composed of Fayetteville, Parkton, Fairmont, Lumberton, Raeford & Laurinburg—Fifty Games Divided Into Two Series—Begins June 6th.

### ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED.

Mrs. Jones Announces Engagement of Miss Ina McNair to Mr. G. F. Avinger.

One of the prettiest parties of the season was given Saturday morning by Mrs. James A. Jones, when she announced the approaching marriage of her sister, Miss Ina McNair to Mr. George F. Avinger, the wedding to take place June 28th.

Mrs. Jones, with her accustomed ease and grace, met the guests as they arrived, and directed them to rear of the hall, where refreshing punch was served by Mrs. Jas. L. McNair and Miss Emma Ritch.

The beautiful home, which lends itself perfectly to entertaining, was lovely in the use of ferns, sweet peas, poppies and carnations, pink being the color note of Mrs. Jones' entertainment.

After all had assembled, beautiful hand-painted score cards were passed, and partners matched for Progressive Rook. The pleasure of the games was enlivened by the strains of sweet music from the victrola. Miss Minnie Smith made the highest score and was awarded the prize, a pretty piece of hand-work. The consolation prize, a picture, was won by Miss Bettie McDougald.

Mrs. Jones, assisted by Mrs. Jas. L. McNair and Miss Ritch, served a delicious ice course, which also carried out the color scheme, the cream being moulded to represent a pink rose. This was followed by coffee.

The climax of the occasion was reached when little Miss Elizabeth McNair and Master Halbert Jones, brought in trays of tiny boxes containing pink and white mints. To each box was tied a dainty pink and white heart, and when unfolded, disclosed Cupid's secret: "I. MacN.—G. F. A., June 28."

During the remainder of the hour many good wishes were showered upon the happy bride-to-be.

The announcement of the engagement of this popular young couple is one of much interest to the social circles in Laurinburg and Scotland county.

Miss McNair is the youngest daughter of Mr. John F. McNair, is a young woman of many accomplishments and is deservedly popular throughout the State.

Mr. Avinger is one of the most successful young business men of Laurinburg and holds the responsible position of Secretary and General Manager of the Scotland, Dixon and Waverly cotton mills.

### Laurel Hill Items.

Mr. Edwin Pate has returned home from A. & M. College.

Mr. Sim Farmer and Miss Katie Farmer visited relatives at Lilesville Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Malloy will soon go to Texas to make their home.

Rev. I. N. Clegg is assisting in a meeting at Roberdell.

Mrs. Mark Morgan is ill this week, we regret to note.

The little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Campbell, who has been real sick, we are glad to say is much better at this time.

Mrs. O. C. Causey and children are in Hamlet visiting Mrs. Causey's sister, Mrs. McColman, who has been quite ill.

Rev. D. B. Parker and two boys spent last Thursday in Raleigh.

Miss Emma Gibson spent Sunday in Hamlet with relatives.

### Plunges Through Bridge.

The large motor truck owned by Mr. John E. Phillips crashed through the bridge at Lytch's mill Wednesday morning. It was loaded with flour from the Hammond Company, wholesale grocers, and was being driven by Mr. Pickett to Gibson. When the truck struck the bridge, which is about five miles from Laurinburg, the bridge crumpled under the great weight and the big truck, driver and load, plunged head first into the stream below.

Good fortune favored the driver, the truck and the load. Mr. Pickett was not hurt, the truck and the flour but little damaged.

It required several hours to lift the heavy machine and its load out of the stream.

Play Ball was the slogan Friday night, and all this talk we have been hearing about a league for this neighborhood materialized into the real thing.

Responding to a call sent out to the various neighboring towns to come to Laurinburg Friday night and either perfect or abandon the plans proposed for the formation of such a league, Fairmont, Fayetteville, Raeford, Lumberton, Parkton and Laurinburg had representatives at the meeting and in short order the Cape Fear Base Ball League was formed.

The league is composed of the following towns: Fayetteville, Fairmont, Parkton, Lumberton, Raeford and Laurinburg.

The teams, according to agreement, are to be composed of home boys with the exception of four players. Each team has the right to employ four players who have not participated in more than fifteen games of professional base ball, the balance of the team must be composed of boys who have been bona fide residents of the county in which the team is located for a period of thirty days previous to the formation of the league.

There will be two series of twenty-five games each, the winner of the first half to play the winner of the second half a series of seven games for the championship of the league. There will be four games a week, Saturday and Monday being the off days. The date of beginning is Tuesday, June 6th.

A meeting was held at Raeford last night to work out and adopt a schedule, which will appear in our next issue.

It was determined to elect a president for the league from some town not in the league, and Hon. Henry A. Page, of Aberdeen, was unanimously chosen to be the head of the organization.

Laurinburg will put out a team to win one or both ends of the series, in fact, Laurinburg is going after the championship rag and nothing less will satisfy us.

Prof. H. B. Gaston, principal of the Snead's Grove school, has been elected to manage the local team. Prof. Gaston is an experienced base ball manager, having managed the Trinity College team. He is an energetic and resourceful young man and will put large wads of pep and ginger into the local organization.

There is no town in the league that will be more loyal to its team than Laurinburg, and, as stated above, they are going into this league to win the honors.

The different towns were represented at the meeting by the following gentlemen: Mr. Clayton, of Fayetteville, representing Lumberton; Mr. W. F. Smith, of Fayetteville, representing Fayetteville; Mr. Lawrence Poole, of Raeford, representing Raeford and Parkton and Mr. A. F. Blue, of this city, representing Laurinburg and Fairmont.

### Players to Report.

The following players will report soon for try outs for places on our team: Lauch McKinnon, City, H. H. Duncan, of Dallas, Glenn McArthur, Will Smith, — McIntyre, Q. Covington, R. Covington, Arch McNeill, John Carmichael and Douglas McArn, of Laurinburg and the county.

The pitching staff will be composed of Rob Covington, Arch McNeill, John Carmichael and Chief Myers.

### NEW FORD AGENCY.

Universal Car Co. Succeed Mercantile & Machine Co.

The Universal Car Company is a new enterprise in Laurinburg. The company succeeds the Mercantile & Machine Co., of Laurel Hill, as Scotland agents for the Ford automobile.

The new company occupy the same quarters on Railroad street that the Mercantile & Machine Co. occupied and have added another building of the same size to take care of their enlarged plans for business.

The new company is composed of Mr. Henry A. Page, Jr., cashier of the Page Trust Company, Aberdeen, and Mr. Fred C. Page, proprietor of the Aberdeen Hardware Company. Mr. Fred Page will have charge of the affairs of the new company and will be a frequent visitor to Laurinburg. The man in charge of the office and sales department is Mr. C. P. Osborne, of Aberdeen.