

# The Smithfield Herald

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## BYRD DRUG CO.'S IMPROVEMENTS

### Entire Store Worked Over; Is about Complete For Christmas Opening

The reporter dropped in at Byrd Drug Co.'s handsome store, corner of Market and Second street, Saturday to buy his favorite magazine, of which, by the way, he had never heard until Mr. Byrd's good literary taste procured it for the magazine counter in his drug store. While we were there Mr. Byrd came up with such an unusually happy smile that we were constrained to ask the particular cause. He replied that at last he believed his store was going to be finished in time for his Christmas Opening next Friday and Saturday. The improvements were begun in the Summer, but the difficulties in obtaining labor, and such material as the work required, were so great, that at one time, he had almost despaired of every getting the building to suit him. Now, however, everything on the interior is complete, except the big white lights for the front windows, which may come on any express. The outside still lacks the ornamental base of tiling under the large front windows, which replace the old front put in for the Bank 18 years ago. These will present a new and modern appearance. Within, the store was already decorated for the Opening, with the Christmas colors apparent in bells and fancy wreaths. The new metal ceiling gives an air of elegance, while the freshly painted wood-work and the brightly polished glass show cases, proved that Mr. Byrd appreciates good housekeeping. We sat down for a quiet chat, and immediately one of the talking machines struck up a tune. It was a pretty tune, but our host asked some one to "cut it out." We believe he is tired of taking machine music, for he told us that he would sell them all out at nearly cost. In fact he said that in his opinion, it was the part of good business to mark everything this season with a view to matching 12 1-2 cent cotton and cheap tobacco. The reporter thought a talking machine would make an ideal Christmas present, and so would the handsome toilet sets, manicure sets and ivory goods of every description on the shelves, not to speak of the other varied assortment of Holiday goods, found in a strictly up-to-date gift store. We noticed some beautiful cut glass and some good English china, and our host laughingly remarked that he had the brides in mind when he ordered them, and he would be glad to hear the wedding bells start ringing.

While we were comfortably chattering one of the town's most prominent citizens came up to thank us for an editorial he had just read in THE HERALD. Now this reporter hadn't written one line of that editorial, but being human we took every bit of the credit. Our friend was eating a sandwich, and when we looked our surprise, Mr. Byrd said that he got it in his store, that they were fixed for light-housekeeping and did a good deal of it. He said the well but hungry man could find a sandwich, and get a cup of his favorite hot drink there at any hour of the day, that they had an electric device which would heat anything in three minutes.

But it was easy to see that all these were side lines, for Mr. Byrd's heart is in his prescription work. He told us that while he had had experience in the drug business in several lines, he preferred the work of a conventional drug store. For a while he was State Drug Inspector with the supervision of the entire state, and immediately before coming to Smithfield, he was in charge of the immense laboratories of John Scott, of Charlotte, where he gained some knowledge of drug manufacture. He told us (but asked us not to mention it), that he could make any thing in the drug line, and that while it wasn't always necessary to do so, that he had found the knowledge of wonderful assistance during the influenza epidemic.

This enterprising firm, composed of Mr. W. R. Sanders, Judge F. H. Brooks, and Mr. Clement Byrd, went into business during 1919, so that they are about to celebrate their second Christmas in Smithfield. Most efficient help is rendered the firm by Mr. D. G. Ridenhour, formerly with

## FOUR OAKS NEWS

Four Oaks, Dec. 11.—Miss Catherine Wilson is spending sometime in Durham.

Miss Leona Martin went to Benson Friday to visit her brother and sister Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Martin.

We are glad to know that Mr. Will Keene is able to be out again after being confined to his room for several days on account of sickness.

Mr. O. F. Blackenship attended the Teachers' meeting in Smithfield last Saturday.

Miss Caroline Fitzgerald is spending a few days at her home in Micro.

The "Hi Y" club held an interesting meeting in the school building Friday night. They are making plans to uplift the moral of our community which will be a great benefit to all.

Last Thursday night the Philatheas class of the Methodist church gave Miss Eva Allen, a bride-to-be a surprise towel sower. About 7 o'clock the Philatheas rushed in on Miss Allen at her home and told her to please turn them in for they had more bundles than they could carry.

She invited them in after which she was asked to look in her bundles. Just at this time a toast was given to the bride-to-be by Miss Annie Ford. Miss Allen received many useful as well as beautiful presents that attest her popularity. Miss Allen will be married Sunday night to Mr. Baucom of Wilson.

Miss Virginia Wellons, who is teaching at Rose Hill spent the week end near town with relatives.

Our entire town was moved with sorrow Friday morning when it was learned that Mr. W. H. Lee, of Bennettsville, S. C., had committed suicide. Because of some trouble he felt that life was no longer worth living and thus ended his time here on earth. His remains were brought here Friday, accompanied by his wife and little daughter and several of his friends from Bennettsville. He was buried in the Four Oaks cemetery Saturday afternoon. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. H. W. Baucom of Smithfield. Mr. Lee who was formerly from Detroit, Michigan came here about six years ago. Five years ago in December he was married to Miss Mary Barbour, a daughter of the late Kincien Barbour, of this place. The later moved to Bennettsville where they resided until his death. Mr. Lee made many friends while here who regret that he took his life. The sympathy of the community goes out to Mrs. Lee and her little girl who are left to mourn his loss.

## FEDERAL RESERVE POLICIES OUTLINED BY GOV. OF BOARD.

Washington, D. C.—In a speech delivered before the American Farm Bureau Federation in Indianapolis, Indiana, given out at the offices of the Federal Reserve Board, here yesterday, W. P. G. Harding, governor of the board attempted to correct what he called "wrong impressions" about the policies of the board, particularly as they were concerned with deflation and its effect upon the farming interests of the country.

"The Federal Reserve Board," he explained, "is not charged with any responsibility for prices or living costs. It is a banking board, which exercises a general supervision of the federal reserve banks. The board cannot, with propriety, establish rates with a view of putting prices up or putting them down.

"The impression exists that the Federal Reserve System has adopted a policy of radical deflation and that the farming interests have been the chief sufferers from this policy," said Governor Harding. "No such policy has ever been undertaken and as a matter of fact there has been during the past year an increase and not a reduction in the net volume of bank credit and currency."

While assuring the farmers of the sympathy of the Federal Reserve Board, Governor Harding added:

"It is impossible, however, for any banking system to provide funds for withholding all staple crops entirely from the market for any length of time."—Christian Science Monitor.

the Vinson Drug Company, of Goldsboro, a licensed Pharmacist, and by Mr. G. H. Peedin, of Smithfield, who gained considerable experience with the Hicks Drug Company, of Raleigh.

## GENERAL AND STATE NEWS PARAGRAPHS

### Happenings Of Interest As Gathered From Daily Newspapers

Former Congressman E. B. Lewis, rated as one of the wealthiest men in the Georgia peach belt shot and killed himself at his private office in Montezuma, Ga., Friday afternoon. Condition of the cotton market and the failure of the peach crop last season are given as motives for the shooting.

Forty-five students of the University of Florida were suspended Friday because they shaved the heads of lower classmen.

The state livestock association closed a three day session at Salisbury Friday. Addresses by prominent men of this and other states featured the program.

Mrs. S. Waters Howe, of Orlando, Fla., while on a Pullman car enroute to Cincinnati was drugged with chloroform after having retired Tuesday night, and when she regained consciousness next morning, discovered that her rings and money were gone and that her hair had been cut short in the back.

Among nominations sent to the Senate Friday, was the name of Stonewall Jackson Durham to be U. S. Attorney in the Western district for the unexpired term of W. C. Hammer, Congressman-elect.

E. F. Young, of Dunn, has been named temporary receiver for the Bank of Coats, whose president N. T. Patterson, committed suicide a week ago. The bank is believed to be entirely solvent, but the character of some of its loans make immediate liquidation of its assets impossible.

More than fifty fox hunters from different parts of the state met in Statesville last week and perfected an organization known as the North Carolina Fox Hunters' Association. The object of the association is to improve the fox hound by holding field trials and to protect the fox for the mutual protection of the fox hunters of North Carolina.

An inquiry to determine the extent of unemployment in 65 principal industrial cities of the country has been announced by the department of labor.

Women witnesses in the Bronx Supreme court have been ordered to remove their hats on taking the witness stand. The justice said he had no objection to women wearing hats in the courtroom, but that since a man had to remove his head-gear on the stand, women should be required to do also.

Despite the near approach of Christmas, candy sales in the United States have slumped. Speakers at a Confectionary Salesmen's Convention in Chicago attributed the cause to the retailers, who, they said, were not passing the manufacturers' reductions along to the consumers.

## PISTOL BATTLE WITH NEGRO ILLICIT DISTILLER

Sunday night, December 11th, Mr. R. A. Keen, chief of police of Four Oaks, accompanied by Mr. George H. Moore, of Smithfield and four other men went to a place just east of the Lassiter bridge on Black Creek to see about a whiskey still which had been reported. He still was being run by Son Tate, a Four Oaks negro. The work was being done on a small island on the south side of the creek. They waited for the distilling to be completed and saw the still put away in hiding. The negro started out with a jug of whiskey in hand and was battled when about twenty steps from the officers. He opened fire on them with a .45 caliber revolver. He fired four or five shots. The officers then began shooting at him and continued to do so until he jumped into the creek and could not be followed further. Mr. Moore went back there yesterday morning and found a shot gun and some more whiskey.

## Epworth League Meeting.

One of the most enjoyable Epworth League meetings was held last night. Miss Eula Parrish, who is superintendent of the department of recreation and culture presided. It was an entirely musical program. A quartette by Messrs. Waadall, Coats, Medlin and Eason; a duet by Misses Lawrence and Austin; an instrumental selection by Miss Kennedy, and a solo by Miss Myatt were the features of the program.

## CENTRAL PART OF IRISH CITY BURNED

### City of Cork Has Expensive Fire; Follows Ambush Of the Military

Dublin, Dec. 12.—The central portion of the city of Cork has been burned to the ground and other portions of the city are ablaze.

The conflagration followed an ambush to the military at Pillons Cross Saturday night in which four persons were killed and many wounded.

Three civilians were taken from their houses and shot dead after the ambush of the military. Then fires started. There were bomb explosions and firing also was heard. The populace is panic stricken. The municipal buildings, the Carnegie library and the corn exchange, which cover a large area, have been consumed by the flames, which are so hot at places that passing tram cars have been set on fire.—Associated Press.

Belfast, Dec. 12.—A score of fires had burned themselves out in Cork by four o'clock this afternoon and the firemen were in possession of the ruins. At 6:30 o'clock this evening a special train left Dublin for Cork carrying Captain Myers, chief of the Dublin brigade, and a motor engine with crew.

A deputation of the citizens of Cork, says a dispatch received here, including the protestant bishop and the town clerk, waited on the officer commanding the Cork troops and requested him to take measures to prevent a recurrence of the appalling damage to property. He promised to send out special military patrols.

The destroyed city hall in Cork was only exceeded in point of size in Ireland by Belfast's great civil building. This was the third time it had been set on fire, the firemen being driven out at the point of revolvers. The great hall seating 3,000 and having a fine organ, shared the fate of the municipal premises.

## Plans for N. C. Day in Schools

North Carolina Day in the public schools of the State will depart from the beaten track in its program this year, and instead of the usual historical features each school will work out its own observance on a general suggestion from the State Board of Education of "Our School and How to Improve it."

In submitting the general outline of programs to be developed locally in each school, Superintendent Brooks suggests that patrons of the school, religious, fraternal and civic organizations be invited to cooperate in making the day a valuable day for education in the State. The outline sent to each school is as follows:

"1. What is the community doing to provide recreational activities for the young people? What should it do?"

"2. Can our neighboring communities co-operate with us in making a stronger school for the education of the children of the community?"

"3. How is the school co-operating with the social and industrial activities of the community?"

"4. What improvements should be made on school buildings and school grounds?"

"5. Should new features be added to the school such as music, physical education, athletic activities, etc.? What value would they be to the school?"

"6. How can the school secure a better co-operation of patrons in the community?"

"7. Should the school term be increased? If so, what steps should be taken by the school, by the community?"

"8. How can the high school be improved?"—News and Observer.

## Caruso Bursts Blood Vessel.

New York, Dec. 11.—Enrico Caruso, tenor, burst a blood vessel in his throat while singing at the Brooklyn Academy of Music tonight. The performance was stopped.

The accident which it was said is not serious, occurred during the first act of Donizetti's "L'Elisir d'Amore" but the tenor did not stop until the end of the act. A physician in attendance then told him it would be unwise to continue, for if he did so, the results might prove serious. In addition, the blood in his throat interfered with the singer's vocalization.—News and Observer.

## CLAYTON NEWS

Clayton, Dec. 11.—Miss Hettie Wilder spent one day this week in the Capital City.

Mrs. Sharpe, of Fayetteville has been the guest of Mrs. Thurman Smith this week.

Rev. and Mrs. A. O. Moore returned this week from an extended trip to relatives in Mississippi. They were very much surprised Thursday night to open the door to a host of people singing at their front door. They were found to be members of the Baptist church with their armful of good things for the pastor and his wife.

Messrs Doane Stott and Carl Mabry, of Trinity college, Durham, spent last week-end here with friends.

Mrs. John S. Barnes was hostess to the Woman's club on Friday, December 10th.

Miss Thelma Johnson, a student at Meredith college, Raleigh, spent last week-end here.

Mr. Lea Thomas of Wake Forest college, Wake Forest, is here for the week-end.

Rev. C. T. Thrift filled the pulpit of the Methodist church last Sunday morning for the first time. He had a large audience at both services.

Mr. and Mrs. Julien Starling have gone to Goldsboro for the week-end.

Several of our town people attended the play, "Passing Show" in Raleigh on Thursday night of this week.

The second sale of the Baptist bazaar was held today in the building joining the Clayton Banking Co. By the opening of the first bazaar it was impossible to get a sufficient amount of work bags and aprons. These with some other things were on sale today. All proceeds go to the organ fund of the Baptist church.

## Death of Mr. Kirkman Creech

On the 26th day of November the death angel visited the home of Mr. Kirkman Creech and took him away from his loved ones.

His health had been failing for several months. His death was caused by Apoplexy. He was taken sick November 25 and only lived a short while.

Medical aid was rendered by Dr. Coleman and Dr. Hinnant but nothing could stay the icy hand of death. But oh, how sweet it must be when death loses its sting and the guardian angels gather around the death bed and carried the save one into the promised land. His funeral was preached at Bethany church by Rev. W. D. Stancil and his remains were laid to rest in Bethany cemetery. He was buried with honors by the Masonic and Junior orders.

At the age of 23 he married Miss Allie Broadwell and chose farming as his occupation. He was a successful farmer producing more on his farm than his family consumed.

Therefore he accumulated quite a bit of property. He conducted his farm in a systematic way.

He was the oldest son of Rev. W. H. Creech. His stay on earth was 53 years, 10 months and 18 days. He grew up under Christian influence and joined the Missionary Baptist church at an early age and has lived a spotless life since.

From childhood to manhood he was obedient to his parents. He was kind and loving to his family and neighbors, and the writer believes that he had the most model home that he ever had the pleasure to visit. All his family was very much devoted to each other and it was a home full of religion and love. He lived to see all his children converted and united in "the army of the Lord." His life was a model life and a life lived like God wants people to live. How beautiful it is to live a life without a scar on his character. He was a devoted husband, father and a Christian, a kind and helping neighbor, a cheerful giver of his means, faithful to his church—filling his pew on every church day and as faithful to the masons and Junior order of which he had been a member for several years.

Oh, how sad it is to lose a man like this! He leaves a host of relatives and friends, a wife and seven children to mourn their loss. His children are Messrs Spurgeon, Julian, Hobson and Yates Creech and Misses Sadie and Ruby Creech and Mrs. Tommie Durham. We feel their loss is his eternal gain.

A friend, C. A. Corbett.

## MR. R. C. LASSITER TAKES OWN LIFE

### Prominent Citizen of Four Oaks—Financial Trouble Probable Cause for Act

Between three and four o'clock yesterday afternoon, Mr. R. C. Lassiter, a prominent business man of Four Oaks, locked up his store, his clerk being out at the time, went by the Bank of Four Oaks and had a consultation with the cashier and then went home and killed himself. He had not been home to eat dinner. He went out into a back porch and lying down on a piece of matting placed one hand on his breast and with the other hand shot himself in the right temple. It is not thought that he even struggled in dying. He held the revolver firmly in his right hand after his death. Mr. Lassiter was a fine man and regarded as one of the best merchants in the county. Some months ago he bought quite a lot of good property in Four Oaks and went in debt for part of it, making poor progress selling goods and poor collections and these land notes had given him much concern of late. He was worth good property but could not get money to meet his obligations. These things weighed down on him like a mill stone and no doubt caused him to take the fatal step. This sad affair is a great shock to the town and surrounding community. We extend tenderest sympathies to relatives and friends.

## J. W. Holt Takes Own Life at Raleigh

Raleigh, Dec. 11.—J. W. Holt, recent manager of Robertson's hotel, Clayton, and yesterday made manager of Wright's cafe, committed suicide late this afternoon by shooting himself through the head with a .38 caliber revolver.

A note telling his wife and baby good-bye, but explaining nothing further than to indicate at what telephone Mrs. Holt could be found, was discovered by the coroner, who examined the pistol, which had one empty chamber. Firmly gripping the weapon, the dead man had cocked it after firing the first shot through his head, and prepared the pistol for a second discharge. The young fellow was 28 years old. He had recently worked for the Swifts, and had been promoted to the Fichmond office, but did not go.—Greensboro News.

Mr. Holt is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Holt, of Cleveland township. Besides his parents and wife and child Mr. Holt leaves three brothers, Messrs Douglas, David and Edgar Holt, of Cleveland township, and one sister, Mrs. Ashley Johnson, of Pleasant Grove.

The funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon at Oakland cemetery by Rev. D. M. McGeachy, pastor of Oakland church.

## W. B. Cooper Candidate in 1924

W. B. Cooper of Wilmington, who was elected Lieutenant-Governor in the recent election, has announced through the papers that in 1924 he will be a candidate for Governor.

As banker, cotton exporter, churchman and politician, Senator Cooper is well known throughout the State. He has served several terms in the General Assembly and with the incoming Legislature he goes into the highest office within the gift of the people of the State excepting alone the one he will seek four years from now.

Mr. Cooper is the father of our townsman, Mr. H. C. Cooper, cashier of the Citizens National Bank.

## Historic Documents Not Safe

Washington, D. C.—The original copies of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution are in grave danger from mishap, Bainbridge Colby Secretary of State declared in a memorandum transmitted to Congress in which he asks for an appropriation of \$25,000 to be used not only to provide protection against fire, water and violence, but in exhibiting them during business hours to the public. The documents, the Secretary says, are stored in an ordinary safe of thin steel, proof against neither fire nor water, which stands in the library of the State Department, necessarily surrounded on all sides by the combustible material usually found in libraries.—Christian Science Monitor.