

NINE MEN HELD IN THEATRE INQUIRY

Coroner's Jury Returns A Verdict in Connection With Recent Disaster

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Nine men were ordered held for the grand jury by the coroner's jury which brought in a verdict tonight in connection with the collapse of the roof of the Knickerbocker motion picture theatre January 28, resulting in the death of 98 persons.

The nine men all of Washington: R. G. Geare, the architect of the building; J. H. Ford, the engineer who designed the roof structure; Morris Hackner, building inspector when the theatre was constructed; Frank L. Wagner, the builder; Donald Wallace, general superintendent of construction; R. G. Fletcher, superintendent of the Hammett Fire Proofing Company, which built the walls; John L. McDonald, the contractor who erected the steel; Thomas L. Costigan, engineer and computer for the District of Columbia Building Department who passed on the plans, and Julian R. Ronman, the assistant building inspector, when the building was constructed.

The inquest was begun last Tuesday and scores of witnesses were heard before the jury began its deliberations behind closed doors. It was over seven hours before it returned its findings.

The coroner's jury, in its verdict, declared that "the collapse of the roof was due to faulty designing and construction and inadequate supervision and inspection."

It also submitted a number of recommendations, one being that "all theatres and places where the public assembled be closed and kept closed until such time as their safety is assured."

District Attorney Payton Gordon said tonight that the case would be submitted to the grand jury "as soon as possible." That body is in session now and the opinion was expressed informally that it would be in a position to take up the Knickerbocker findings by the last of this week. Those who were recommended held for the grand jury were not taken into custody tonight but it was said, they would be given an opportunity to appear at the district attorney's office the first thing in the morning. Their bond, Mr. Gordon said, would be five thousand.

The jury, in its findings, recommended that there be a thorough revision of the building code in the District of Columbia with heavy penalties provided for violation of any of its clauses.—News & Observer.

WAKE FOREST LAW CLASS PASS

Annual Inter-Scholastic Declamation Contest To Be Held Mar. 16-17.

WAKE FOREST, Feb. 11.—When the Supreme Court convened in Raleigh on January 30, the twenty-seven men and two representing Wake Forest College composed the 18th Supreme Court class of this institution which has made a one hundred per cent record in receiving licenses from the court for the practice of law. The Law School here was established thirty years ago by Dr. N. Y. Guley. Since that time it has turned out 871 lawyers and numbered in the list are three North Carolina governors and many other prominent men.

Secretary T. D. Collins of the Alumni association is to raise funds for equipping the new athletic field. At a recent meeting of the construction committee of Gore Athletic Field plans were inaugurated to put the grounds in shape for baseball this spring. A thirty foot section of concrete bleachers is estimated to cost \$800. The present Senior class has voted to construct one such section of the new stadium as its share in this work. Last week Mr. Collins was made responsible for raising \$5,000 for equipment. He intends to appear personally before the alumni organizations over the entire State presenting this and other important alumni problems.

Only last Saturday Mr. Collins visited the Wilmington Alumni Association. Here he secured \$300 as a hearty response to his call for their part of the \$5,000. At small meetings of one or two other local asso-

FIRST TITULAR CONTEST ON SATURDAY NIGHT

Raleigh High Will Meet Smithfield Quint at Raleigh In First of Series.

The first championship game in the elimination series to determine the winner of Eastern North Carolina in the annual high school basketball race will carry Smithfield to Raleigh as the opponent of the Raleigh quint. The game will be played in Raleigh (tomorrow) Saturday night on the auditorium court. The winner of this game will play either Benson or Wilmington February 23 in Chapel Hill.

The schedule was arranged at a meeting of representatives from twenty-eight high schools Tuesday night in Raleigh. Only fifteen teams were scheduled as it was found necessary to divide the contestants into four groups. Two groups were assigned games Tuesday night.

The final game of the championship of the East will be played March 3 in Chapel Hill, while the deciding game between East and West champions will be staged March 10 or 11.

The Smithfield High has not been defeated by any high school team this season. They have won eight games from six different high schools including two from the strong Wilson team and one from Benson, which is acknowledged as being one of the best teams in the state. Raleigh's record is more doubtful. She was defeated by Doulton and split even with Clayton whom Smithfield defeated twice in a two game series. But Raleigh has since defeated the strong Sanford team. The game will be hotly contested. The rivalry between the two schools has been greatly increased since Smithfield defeated Raleigh in the State Football Championship race last fall.

A Birthday Celebration.

On Sunday, February 12th, much to the surprise of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Powell, all of their children met at their home to celebrate Mrs. Powell's sixty-first birthday. They got there about ten o'clock each carrying a nice basket containing chicken, ham, sausage, eggs, pickles, loafbread and several different kinds of cakes and custards. They sat around the fire and spent the time in conversation. At noon the dinner was spread on two tables and served in picnic fashion. After dinner was over, the young folks played and sang several hymns. Those present to enjoy the birthday celebration were: Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Johnson and children, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Powell, and baby, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Powell, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Champion and children, of Smithfield, Mr. M. D. Johnson and Miss Eula Johnson, Miss Fern Stephenson, of Pleasant Grove, and Miss Ila Champion of Smithfield.

Presbyterian Church.

There will be regular preaching services at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Sunday school will be held at 10 a. m. The public is cordially invited to all of these services.

He has raised the sum of \$550. Dr. W. L. Potrat attended the alumni banquet at Wilmington last Saturday at which he was the principal speaker of the evening. On the following Sunday afternoon he addressed a mass meeting of the men's organizations of the First Baptist Church there.

Don't forget the annual Inter-Scholastic Declamation Contest which will be held March 16th and 17th. Every high school is urged to send a representative. Each representative will be royally entertained. The Contest Committee has spared no pains in securing the best possible entertainment—reception, baseball, automobile rides, movies, all free. There will be no expense to contestants after their arrival here. The only necessary requisite is a good declamation not exceeding 1100 words. Get in the race and win a fifty-dollar scholarship and a twenty-five dollar medal. For complete information write T. S. Graham, Jr., Wake Forest, N. C.

PROGRAM STEWARDSHIP MEETING

Rev. Neill McInnis and Rev. A. T. Lassiter on Program At Fayetteville

By JOHN A. McMURRAY

Wanted Men! 1000 officers, ministers and laymen of the Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville Presbytery to be present at the three district conferences on Stewardship to be held in the bounds of the Presbytery. This district comprises the counties of Cumberland, Harnett and Johnston, and the conference will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, Friday, February 17th at 1:00 p. m. An interesting program has been arranged dealing with vital questions of the Kingdom of Christ, and an urgent call is made to the laymen of these counties to attend.

The program deals with the objectives of the Progressive Program as outlined by the General Assembly on the four-fold plan of: Evangelism, Stewardship, Spiritual Resources and Missionary Education. The Progressive Program inaugurated 5 years ago has gone steadily forward, and its aim this year is an increased attendance upon the worship of the sanctuary; a Sunday School enrollment at least equal to the church membership; an increase for candidates for the ministry; a family altar in every home; a church paper in every home; adequate financial support for the approved Causes of the Church; the establishment of Sunday Schools and mission points where needed.

- The program is as follows:
1. Spiritual Resources—A. R. McQueen, Dunn.
 2. Evangelism—C. M. Gibbs, Linden.
 3. Missionary Education—G. F. Kirkpatrick, Lillington.
 4. Stewardship—J. M. Wilson, Fayetteville.
 5. Ministerial Support—C. G. Rose.
 6. Echoes from the Home Mission Fields—
 - (1) C. E. Clark, Kenly.
 - (2) A. T. Lassiter, Benson.
 - (3) A. T. Lassiter, Smithfield.
 - (4) Neill McInnis, Smithfield.
 - (5) The "Every-Member Canvass—How to Conduct it—
 - (1) In a town church, F. H. Stedman, Fayetteville.
 - (2) In a country church, C. M. Gibbs, Linden.
 - (3) In a vacant or pastorless church R. A. McLeod, Fayetteville.
 - (6) Will Fayetteville Presbytery do its part?—W. E. Hill, Fayetteville.
 - (7) Responsive Reading.
 - (8) The Call to Laymen—J. B. Spelman, Synodical Manager.

The program will only last two hours enabling those who come in cars to return home before night, and those who come on the train can make their return on schedule. It will be an open meeting to the public and a general invitation is given to all to be present. We are counting on YOU.

Bucket Shops in New York.

The bucket shop has been exposed as often as wood alcohol has been, but men crave financial and alcoholic stimulation, and if the genuine thing is out of reach, or is beyond their means, a good many people are reckless enough to take their chances with fatal imitations. It is now estimated that the victims of bucket shops in New York number more than 100,000 and a great many poor people who did not know the difference between a bucket shop and legitimate brokerage have lost the savings of a lifetime. The bucket shops do not deal in the commodities at all, though they often pretend to. At best they bet on market prices with earlier information than their victims can have, and at worst, they are plain swindles.—Philadelphia Record.

NEGRO LANDS JOB AS RECORDER OF DEEDS

President Harding has appointed and the Senate has confirmed Arthur G. Froe, a negro lawyer and politician of Welch, Virginia, as recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia.

DEMONSTRATION AGENT ACTIVITIES

Despite Bad Weather and Bad Roads Miss Garrison Makes Rounds

Despite the unfortunate weather and the bad conditions of the roads, Miss Minnie Lee Garrison, Home Demonstration Agent, makes her visits to different parts of the county, helping the club girls in their work, giving suggestions for making homes more comfortable and attractive. There is hardly any subject pertaining to the home on which Miss Garrison cannot give helpful advice. And not only does she tell what and how to do things, but as her title implies, she shows how. Below are some reports which show how her work is appreciated:

Pomona Home Demonstration Club.
Miss Minnie Lee Garrison visited Pomona School Friday, February 10, from 9:30 to 10:30. We discussed home gardening, poultry raising and the family cow. The benefit of each in the home, and the value if we were marketing the product. Some pamphlets were handed out telling how to set hens for the best results.

Miss Garrison also demonstrated the making of rag rugs, and showed how a room could be made more attractive by using these and the unbleached sets.

We enjoyed her visit very much and wish for her to visit us often.

NELLIE HILL, Sec. Pomona club.
New Hope Sewing Club.

Miss Minnie Lee Garrison visited New Hope Sewing Club girls January 20, 1922. She first talked to all the school about what we ought to carry for our school lunch. After the boys left, our club met and we talked about sewing. Miss Garrison had two aprons which all the girls thought were very pretty. The next lesson on sewing we will make our aprons. Everybody enjoyed her talk and visit very much.

FLORENCE LEE.
(Miss Siler and her associate teachers are having meetings with the New Hope girls between the visits by the Home demonstration agent.)

Miss Siler writes:
"Our club is enthusiastic and live now, and we are anxious for you to visit us again. We have made sewing bags, learning to make French seams and several stitches. We have made fudge and coconut candy to sell to the boys. We made enough money to buy nails for our new basketball back boards, and to pay freight on a traveling library. We have a little money left, and we are going to try to make enough to buy some song books and a dictionary.
"At our next meeting we will begin to study the bulletins you gave us.
"Thanking you for your help and hoping to be of help to you."

Jazz Music and Liquor.

In a recent speech made recently before a thousand public school teachers in Kansas City, Mo., I. I. Mammack, superintendent of county schools there asserted that jazz music has about the same effect on young people that a drink of intoxicating liquor has and should be legislated against. He said:
"The nation has been fighting booze a long time. I am just wondering whether this jazz isn't going to have to be legislated against as well. It seems to me that when it goes into the blood of some of our young folks, and I might add older folks, too, it serves them just about as good as a stiff drink of booze would do.
"I think the time has come when teachers should assume a militant attitude toward all forms of this debasing and degrading music."

MR. GAITHER TO BE HERE

On Tuesday night, February 21st at 7:30 o'clock Mr. E. W. Gaither will be at the Commercial Club rooms to discuss the sweet potato—its growing, housing, keeping and selling. Mr. Gaither is a government man and has large experience in connection with sweet potatoes and may be of great help to those who hear him.

SMITHFIELD HIGHS DEFEAT "INVINCIBLES," 31-30

Score Was Tied When Whistle Blew; But Ellington Won Game By Shooting Foul

Smithfield won from Benson the closest and best game yet played on the local court here Monday night, when Ellington shot a foul after the whistle had blown. The final score was 31-30 in favor of the Smithfield boys. The score stood 21-13 in favor of Benson at the end of the first half. But Smithfield, with Brown playing stationary guard to a perfection and Ellington and Caudill caging the onion with veterans skill, woke up and took the game out of the very hands of Benson.

Ellington was the star of the game, scoring five field goals (against his guards none) and seven out of nine fouls making a total of 17 points. He played over the entire court. Just as the time of the last half was up a foul for hacking was called on Benson. Ellington was given the ball but missed the first shot. All the warehouse was breathless with anxiety over the next shot. If he missed it the game would have to be continued by another period of five minutes. But he caged it and the game was won for Smithfield.

Caudill guarded by the famous Talton, played a fine game. He scored three field goals against Talton's one. Brown played a fine game. His men secured four field goals. Godwin's men secured six but he evened up with Brown by scoring two himself. Stephenson and Stone each secured four points at center. Hudson for Benson scored six field goals, more than any other one person.

Line up and summary:

Smithfield (31)	Benson (30)
Caudill, E.	Johnson
Ellington	Right Forward
Stephenson, R.	Left Forward
Codwin	Center
Brown	Right Guard
	Left Guard
	Talton

Scoring for Smithfield: Field goals, Ellington 5; Caudill 3; Stephenson 2; Godwin 2. Foul goals Ellington 7 out of 9 chances.

Scoring for Benson: Field goals, Hudson 6; Johnson 4; Talton 1; Stone 2. Foul goals, Talton 2; Johnson 2. Referee Tiner. Umpire Wheeler. Scorer Wharton. Timekeeper Ennis and Johnson.

Carry the Schoolhouse to the Home.

To the Editor: The great number of illiterates in North Carolina, as recently stated, challenges attention. About thirty years ago in the interest of better education, a movement began to consolidate school districts. This was directly at variance with my notion of what the conditions in the State required. The illiteracy that had long afflicted the State, it seemed to me, could be eradicated more surely by neighborhood schools than by removing the schools to a distance. Apparently our system—providing for better education, has resulted in a great sacrifice.

The State has gone into the business of educating every child to some extent—but we are not polishing up half the children beyond the reasonable limit and leaving a large number of illiterates. As an incentive for children to acquire enough education to enable them to read with understanding, I proposed in 1897 a constitutional amendment that no person coming of age after a few years should be allowed to vote unless he could read and write. That I believe is now the law. The result is not satisfactory. We should carry the schoolhouse to the home.—S. A. Ashe, Raleigh, N. C., in News and Observer.

JUDGE BROOKS IN FAVOR STATION

Matter Considered Favorably by Railroad Authorities Before War

During the summer of 1922 the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company should take some steps looking toward giving Smithfield an adequate, comfortable and modern passenger station, in keeping with the progress of the town.

This matter was taken up with the railroad authorities "before the war" (I mean the "World War") though the buildings might lead one to believe I meant the Civil War) and the Company took the matter under consideration and Col. Newell talked very favorably about the proposition.

The War came on and the railroads were all taken over by the Government and everything was side-tracked until the war could be won and the railroads turned back to their original owners. This has been accomplished and it seems to me that now is the time to again take up this matter of new passenger depot for Smithfield.

Few towns in the State of the size and importance of Smithfield have such poor and inadequate passenger facilities. I believe if the matter is brought to the attention of the proper authorities of the Railroad Company that they would give the matter consideration and at an early date give us a new depot.

How about the Chamber of Commerce getting behind the project, secure the facts relative to the passenger and freight receipts, etc., and submit a strong petition to the management of the Coast Line "making our wants and wishes known," and who can tell what the result will be? We cannot expect a limestone building with granite base and terra-cotta furnishings in keeping with our new Court House, but we might expect, yes, not unreasonably demand, that the Company would give us an up-to-date brick building with modern conveniences in keeping with the spirit of progress evidenced on every hand around little city.

We're united; let's move onward and upward!

F. H. BROOKS.

Nixon-Munden.

Mr. J. W. Nixon, of Wilson received a handsome Valentine, February 14th in the person of Miss Vida Munden. In other words, this couple was quietly married at the Pisgah parsonage Tuesday afternoon at one o'clock. Rains and roads prevented the attendance of a number of friends and rendered the occasion less elaborate than was anticipated, but did not prevent a happy and interesting marriage. Mr. Nixon presents a strong arm and a dependable character to support his bride along life's rugged road, while she will be a perpetual sunbeam to cheer and gladden his home.

The groom wore the conventional black and appeared a handsome specimen of stalwart manhood. The bride was becomingly gowned in a beautiful traveling suit and never looked prettier than on this occasion. Mr. Nixon is a prosperous farmer living near Wilson. The bride is well known in this and surrounding communities. Among other accomplishments, she is an authoress of real merit.

Immediately after the ceremony the couple hastened away to catch the 1:30 train, followed by the good wishes of a large circle of friends.

"R." Stealing Autos in Philadelphia.

Sunday seems to have been rather a red-letter day for automobile bandits in this vicinity, three policemen who interrupted their activities having been shot by them. Never in the old days of horse stealing was there such bold defiance of the law. What will be the end if justice does not deal with these outlaws with the utmost severity?—Philadelphia Record.

No Recorder's Court Tuesday.

On account of the illness of Judge F. H. Brooks, there was no Recorder's Court held here last Tuesday. Judge Brooks has been confined to his room with a deep cold but is much better now.