

The Smithfield Herald

FORTY-THIRD YEAR

TEN PAGES TODAY

SMITHFIELD, N. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1924

TEN PAGES TODAY

NUMBER 97

TOWN IS SHOCKED BY TRAGIC DEATH

T. S. Ragsdale Shoots Himself With Shot Gun Early Wednesday Morning.

FUNERAL YESTER DAY

The entire town and community was shocked Wednesday morning when the news flew from lip to lip that Mr. T. S. Ragsdale had fatally shot himself that morning just before eight o'clock. Mr. Ragsdale had arisen in unusual spirits that morning and was preparing to go bird hunting. He had taken his gun and had gone into a small dressing room opening off his bedroom. Soon afterward the family heard a report, went to the room and found that a shot had entered below his chin and had gone through his head. Medical assistance was summoned immediately but the shot evidently brought instantaneous death.

About two years ago Mr. Ragsdale suffered a nervous breakdown, but it was believed that he was much improved. He had been attending to his business as usual and on Tuesday followed the tobacco market here, buying some tobacco. He had only recently returned from a business trip to Valdosta, Ga.

The deceased was one of the most prominent citizens of Smithfield, and the news of his death will be a distinct shock to many who will now learn of it for the first time. He has a number of friends and acquaintances not only in Johnston County but throughout the eastern tobacco belt. He was a life-long tobaccoist. He was born fifty-three years ago in Granville County. He was engaged in the tobacco business in Louisburg before he came to this city in 1898, the year a tobacco market was established in Smithfield. He was the first proprietor of the Riverside warehouse which formerly stood on the location now occupied by the Sanders Motor Company. Since that time he has been prominently associated with the tobacco interests of Smithfield and was at the time of his death owner and proprietor of the largest re-drying plant in this section.

In January, 1900, Mr. Ragsdale was married to Miss Eliza Robinson, of this city. To this union were born four children: George Y., T. S., Jr., Kate Nixon, and Hugh Ragsdale. The little girl died in infancy. Several years after the death of his first wife in 1913 he was again married, this time to Miss Elizabeth Hancock, of New Bern, who together with the three sons, survives. An orphaned niece of the deceased, little Miss Juanita Sorrell, whom Mr. and Mrs. Ragsdale had taken in their home, also survives.

The deceased had been for a number of years a member of the Baptist church. He was a member of the board of deacons and was superintendent of the Sunday school until a few weeks ago. He was liberal in his contributions to the church and was identified with its every movement.

The funeral was held yesterday afternoon at three o'clock in the Baptist church, after which interment was made in the city cemetery. The service was conducted by Rev. S. L. Morgan, pastor of the deceased, assisted by Rev. D. H. Tuttle, of Elm City, formerly pastor of the Methodist church here. A large concourse of relatives and friends attended. The floral offerings were numerous and beautiful. The honorary pallbearers were members of the board of deacons of the Baptist church and were as follows: Messrs. M. A. Wallace, W. H. Lassiter, Lawrence Brown, W. T. Holland, L. T. Royall, J. A. Underhill, D. H. Creech, and J. W. Stephenson. The active pallbearers were: Messrs. P. H. Kasey, H. L. Skinner, H. B. Marrow, J. J. Broadhurst, N. L. Perkins, F. H. Brooks, R. P. Holding, and Dr. Thel Hooks.

Watch the date on your label—and renew.

Johnston County Tax Books Open

Mr. J. P. Parker, sheriff of Johnston County, has asked us to announce that the tax books are now ready and taxes may be paid at any time. Sheriff Massey will for the present keep an office in the judge's room on the second floor of the court for the purpose of collecting the delinquent taxes. The county commissioners at their meeting here Tuesday authorized the sheriff to send each tax payer an itemized statement of his taxes of 1924. This plan was used last year with satisfactory results.

North Carolina's Next Gov. and First Lady

A Robesonian, Fred Brown, of Lumberton, writes to the editor of the Lumberton newspaper the following letter—and appreciation of Governor Elect A. W. McLean and his good wife.

Now that the election of 1924 is a thing of the past, we wonder if there be any Robesonian who will ever forget it. Robeson (still, we believe, the largest county in the old North state) has had her first recognition and has lent to North Carolina for four years at least her most loved and distinguished son. A. W. McLean's election to the highest office within the gift of the people of North Carolina shows at least two things:

First, it shows the possibilities of a country boy born and reared on the farm in what was once old Blue Springs township. He became familiar with nature and her laws. Young McLean at an early age characterized himself as a student, and those who knew him then will today testify that he never was idle. When not engaged in the work of the farm, or in the woods dipping turpentine, he could be found carefully perusing his books and, the periodicals of that day. True, like all boys, he gave some time to training his social nature. Having been born and reared in a cultured Christian home, culture and refinement and attendance upon the services of the sanctuary became a second nature with him for no boy ever had a better father and mother than did A. W. McLean, though both have for several years been gathered unto their fathers, yet their memory still abides as a sweet aroma, and their children rise up and call them blessed. Wilton McLean was raised not at the feet of Gamaliel but enjoyed the tutorage and companionship of such saintly men as Rev. Hector McLean (his grand uncle), who for more than half a century preached the gospel at old Antioch Presbyterian church, and Rev. H. G. Hill, who was pastor at Center and Maxton. His environments were the best, but these would not have placed him where he today stands had there not had coupled with it that strong Scottish determination which surmounts all obstacles and knows no defeat.

The history of A. W. McLean if written would read like fiction. As a student, lawyer, farmer, banker and all-around business man, success has been written on every page. But Mr. McLean's election not only shows the possibilities of a country boy, but it also shows that merit will win. Of McLean's deeds of philanthropy and charity the world doesn't know but little. He has been untiring in his service to humanity, to his county, state and nation, and in him Robeson county has a son and North Carolina a Governor of both national and international reputation, and while many of us who voted for him may probably not live to see the close of his administration, yet we believe when the future historian shall rewrite the history of the old North State, that the administration of the immortals, Vance, Glenn, Aycock, Bickett, Kitchin and others will not equal the administration of Robeson's son.

Mr. McLean is not only prominently qualified in every respect for the great office while he will soon occupy but this article would be incomplete if we failed to mention her who will be the first lady of North Carolina. She, too, is a Robeson county product, possessed of all those finer traits of character, which go to make up a typical Southern lady—un-

D. C. SMITH IS NOW KEEPER CO. HOME

New Board County Commissioners Continues Busy Through Second Day's Session.

C. Q. STEPHENSON JAILER

The new board of County Commissioners met here again Tuesday to complete work left undone at the session Monday. Official bonds that were not approved at the Monday session were completed Tuesday, which together with the regular routine business consumed practically the entire day. Applications were considered from quite a number who wished the position as keeper of the county home. Mr. D. C. Smith, of Micro township, received the appointment. Mr. Charles Q. Stephenson was appointed jailer to succeed his brother, Mr. J. D. Stephenson. Mr. F. L. Pittman was appointed court crier and he will also be janitor of the courthouse. Mr. Jesse Daughtry was the former court crier.

Among other items of business transacted were the following:

It was ordered that Mr. E. D. Eudy complete the bridge across Swift Creek near the Burkett Jones place which had been contracted for by Mr. R. D. Johnson.

It was ordered that Mr. Ira B. Raynor, chairman of the Banner township road commission, meet and compete with the Harnett County road man in making Johnston County's part of the road to the Harnett line as good as that in Harnett, and also to co-operate in building a bridge over Mingo.

It was ordered that the register of deeds give public notice that it is the intention of the board to create a bridge commissioner for each township in the near future.

It was ordered that William M. Fancher, veterinarian who has been doing work in the county in the examination of cows for tuberculosis, be paid 222.50 for his salary and expenses for November.

Other bills and minor items were disposed of.

Dwelling Near Depot Burned Yesterday

The fire alarm yesterday called out the fire company about 11:30 and it was found that the two-story dwelling near the depot occupied by C. L. W. Smith was on fire. The fire company worked heroically and put out the fire before the building was burned to the ground. The furniture upstairs and part of that on the first floor was burned, however. The fire represents a considerable loss which is sustained by Ashley Smith, colored, who owned the building and by C. L. W. Smith, his son, part of whose furniture was burned. The loss is partly covered by insurance.

Henry Ford Asked To Renew His Bid

Washington, Dec. 2.—Henry Ford was asked today in a telegram sent by Senator McKellar, Tennessee, and Senator Heflin, Alabama, Democrat, to renew his offer for Muscle Shoals. Late today the motor manufacturer had not replied to the message. He was asked that if the senate agreed to accept his bid which was withdrawn would he be willing to accept the Muscle Shoals.

FORD REFUSES TO BID
Washington Dec. 3.—Henry Ford today declined to commit himself on the proposal to renew his Muscle Shoals bid.

uring, yet a leader, cultured and refined, yet nothing superficial; and, like her husband an humble follower of the meek and lowly Nazarene. As the people of North Carolina shall look upon their next Governor and wife, they may truthfully exclaim, "Behold two Israelites indeed in whom there is no guile."

GROWERS DELIVER COOPS 5476 BALES

Members of Cotton Association To Receive Second Payments Before Christmas.

DELIVERIES IN COUNTY

Receipts of cotton in Johnston County by the North Carolina Cotton Growers Association have been considerably larger this year up to December 1 than they were last year for the same period. The market opened September 1, and according to figures given us by Mr. J. G. Lawton, field representative of Johnston County, a total of 5,476 bales had been delivered to the different points in his district up to November 30. Nine hundred and fifty-two new members delivered this amount, all of whom will receive their second payment sometime before Christmas.

An itemized statement of the deliveries follows: eight persons delivered 179 bales at Wilson's Mills; 216 members, 1366 bales at Benson; 18 members, 104 bales at Angier; 108 persons 373 bales at Four Oaks; 86 members, 419 bales at Pine Level; 18 members, 73 bales at Fremont; 150 members, 1285 bales at Smithfield; 103 members, 463 bales at Kenly; 9 members, 35 bales at Coats; 37 members, 157 bales at Selma; 34 members, 204 bales at Princeton; 16 members, 42 bales at Goldsboro, 23 members, 77 bales at Micro; 74 members, 515 bales at Clayton; 24 members, 82 bales at Wendell; 16 members, 29 bales at Garner; 13 members, 73 bales at Middlesex.

Dies As Result of Motoring Accident

Pinehurst, Dec. 3.—R. R. Sharman, of Youngstown, Ohio, died here tonight as a result of an accident incurred while motoring here from his home in Youngstown when the automobile in which he was riding ran off a railroad bridge near LaCrosse, Va., and dropped 30 feet below. Mr. Sharman was accompanied by his wife and apparently neither of them sustained serious injuries. They boarded a train and proceeded to Pinehurst. Mr. Sharman subsequently developed pneumonia from which he died tonight. He was 57 years of age. He was the head of a large printing establishment in Youngstown and had been coming here every winter for a number of years. His daughter and son-in-law Dr. and Mrs. C. M. Reed, were at his bedside when he passed away.

Proprietor Busy Bee Cafe In Toils of Law

J. E. Lewis, proprietor of the Busy Bee Cafe, was arrested yesterday morning, being charged with giving bad checks. The warrants were issued from Princeton, and the case will be tried today (Friday) before C. H. Holt in Princeton.

J. W. Wyatt Loses His Home By Fire

Yesterday morning about 7:30 o'clock Mr. J. W. Wyatt, who lives near Selma, had the misfortune to lose his two-story dwellinghouse and practically all furniture by fire. The family was at breakfast when a neighbor gave the alarm that the whole top of the house was on fire. The blaze had gained such a headway that it was impossible to save the building. The loss is estimated at \$2500, which is partly covered by insurance. Mr. Wyatt is connected with the Selma Johnstonian.

Sam Hogwood Now All Time Fireman

Mr. Sam Hogwood has been appointed all time fireman and began his duties December 1. Mr. Hogwood is anxious to give good service and asks the citizens of the town to co-operate with him by keeping trash and rubbish cleaned up.

Oldest Senator



Senator Francis D. Warren, of Wyoming, 82 years old, is now the oldest lawmaker in the upper branch of Congress. He has been mentioned as the next Senate leader since the death of Senator Lodge.

Mr. S. A. Braxton Organizes Band Here

The first meeting led by Mr. S. A. Braxton, of Raleigh, in an effort to organize a band here was held Wednesday night in the Junior Order hall. About fifteen were present at the initial meeting and all were enthusiastic for the organization of the band. Mr. Braxton has promised to give one lesson a week here, one every Wednesday night, and everybody who has an instrument or is interested in the band is invited to attend. The next meeting will be held next Wednesday night, December 10. Mr. Braxton is an experienced leader of the 120th Infantry band in Raleigh, and of the Raleigh high school band. He is also leader of several bands in other towns. He hopes to have a 35-piece band here within the next six months. Smithfield has for some time been striving for a good band and it is hoped that this effort will be successful. All who are interested are urged to be present at the next meeting Wednesday night.

County Treasurer In Auditor's Office

The new treasurer of Johnston County, Mr. Geo. T. Scott, has given bond and has taken over the work of the treasurer from the First & Citizens National Bank. Mr. Scott may be found in the auditor's office in the court house.

Death of a Little Boy

The funeral of the little son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Creech, who live on Smithfield, Route 1, was held yesterday afternoon. The service was conducted by Rev. H. R. Faircloth, pastor of Hopewell Free Will Baptist church, and interment was made in the Hopewell cemetery. Little Malton was exactly two years old, having died on his birthday. Several weeks ago he was taken with pneumonia, and his death was caused by complications following that disease. He leaves behind his sorrowing father and mother three brothers and a sister.

Death came with friendly care, The opening bud to Heaven conveyed, And bade it blossom there.

Sheriff Appoints Township Deputies

Township deputies have been appointed in fourteen townships in the county, the vacancies yet to be filled being Smithfield, Bentonville, and Wilson's Mills.

Those who have received appointments are as follows: Banner, Herbert McLamb; Ingram, Rowland Parrish; Ellettsville, Sam Jones; Meadow, H. G. Mangum; Boone Hill, F. J. Langley; Pine Level, J. F. Hinnant; O'Neals, J. H. Hocutt; Wilders, J. H. Stancil; Beulah, Leonard Boyett; Micro, Jasper Pittman; Clayton, E. S. Pleasant, Jr.; Cleveland, Sam Lee; Selma, H. T. Chapin.

DESPERATE NEGRO IS ARRESTED HERE

Chiefs Cable and Stevens Capture Negro Wanted In Raleigh and Wilson.

ESCAPED FROM RALEIGH

Smithfield's chief of police, C. R. Cable, and the night policeman, Will Stevens, figured in the arrest of a negro desperado, Kid Williams, wanted at Wilson for shooting a policeman, selling whiskey and skipping a bond, here Tuesday night. Chief Cable was in Raleigh Tuesday attending Federal court. He learned from the Raleigh chief of police that Williams was at large after having escaped from Raleigh officer who undertook to arrest him. The Raleigh officer had had quite a scuffle with Williams in a Raleigh pressing club. He had resisted the officer and the officer had been forced to attempt to hit the negro with his blackjack in an effort to stop his attempt to escape. In the encounter the officer's foot slipped on a brick and he dropped his pistol. The negro picked it up with his free hand, struck the officer twice in the mouth with the pistol in an effort to release his hold on a chain which was around his wrist. The negro succeeded and fled. The Raleigh chief of police asked Mr. Cable to be on the lookout for the negro who was reported to be coming toward Smithfield.

Accordingly, after reaching Smithfield on Tuesday night Chief Cable made investigations and found that Williams was at the home of John Allen colored, on Market street near the depot. He, together with the night policeman, Mr. Will Stevens, called at Allen's house about ten o'clock. Some colored women answered the door and denied his being there. The officers demanded that they be allowed to search the house and went upstairs where they had seen a light burning. It was necessary to force the door to the upstairs room but they found the man wanted. They arrested him and carried him to the chief's office. A telephone message to Raleigh officers started four officers on their way to Smithfield at once. He will be tried first in Wilson and then in Raleigh.

FOUR OAKS NEWS

Four Oaks, Dec. 3.—Miss Luna Lewis and Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Canada attended the "Vanity Box" in Raleigh Thanksgiving.

Misses Smith and Mary Moore, of A. C. College, Wilson, and Mr. William Manning, of Williamston, visited Miss Sallie Adams Thursday.

Miss Doxey, a member of the grammar school faculty, spent Thanksgiving in Greensboro.

Miss Laeta Potts, of Smithfield, spent last week end here with Mrs. R. C. Canaday.

Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Adams spent Thanksgiving in Pinehurst.

Mrs. Sterling Gates, of Farmville, spent several days here with her parents last week.

Miss Eula Mae Farmer, of Clayton, spent the week end here with Miss Annie Lou Alston.

Mr. Thomas Adams spent Tuesday in Fayetteville on business.

Miss Ethel Belle and Lucile Owen spent Thanksgiving here with Miss Hicks Stanley.

Mrs. C. E. Parrish entertained at her home Saturday night in honor of her niece, Miss Beulah Lee Sadler. Those attending the party were: Misses Marvel Sanders, Willie Masengill, Lucile Stanley, Catharine Barbour, Maude and Pauline Strickland, and Messrs. Newitt Williams, Hubert Allen, Ed Keene, Wilton Strickland, and Hugh Sanders.

Miss Beulah Lee Sadler, of Goldsboro, spent the week end with her aunt, Mrs. C. E. Parrish.

BOX PARTY NOTICE

There will be a box party at Peares school house Friday night, December 12. Public is cordially invited.

F. E. LEE.
MISS JESSE GURLEY.