

# The Smithfield Herald

FORTY-THIRD YEAR

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## CHRISTMAS CAROLE CAUSES DISASTER

Thirty-Four Lose Lives When School Building Catches Fire at Entertainment

### TWENTY IN HOSPITAL

Hobart, Okla., Dec. 26.—All of the 34 victims of the fire which destroyed the school house during a Christmas Eve meeting having been identified, the people of the Babb's Switch settlement today set about the sad work of interment. The list of the dead was increased today by the death of John Goforth, who had been in a hospital.

Plans for using a common grave, first considered when it appeared identification of all bodies would be impossible, were abandoned last night when the identity of the last victim—a little girl of eleven—was established. Joint funeral services for sixteen of the dead will be held this afternoon, followed by burial in individual graves. The Rev. G. W. Estes, pastor of the Presbyterian church, was named to conduct the services, with ministers from all denominations participating. The remaining seven victims of the fire probably will be buried tomorrow.

Twenty persons injured in the fire still are in the hospitals. Six are considered to have at least an even chance for recovery.

A committee of Hobart citizens has been appointed by Mayor F. E. Gillespie to provide for the care of children orphaned by the fire, and to work toward rehabilitation of the home life of Babb's Switch. A movement is under way to raise funds for a monument to those killed in Oklahoma's worst Christmas tragedy. The monument would be placed either in Hobart or on the site of the fire.

Three small fires in Hobart yesterday added to the city's tension. One of the blazes, originating in a jewelry store, caused a mild panic in two nearby moving picture theatres, but no one was injured seriously.

Authorities said they expected to take no action toward investigating the cause of Hobart's worst fire.

Vigilance of the school trustees in placing wire netting at the windows to keep out vandals was held chiefly responsible for the heavy loss of life. Could the windows of the one-story building have been used as a means of egress virtually all of the 40 persons in the building could have escaped, it was believed. As it was, the door was the only exit and there was such a rush for it that the persons farthest from it had little chance to escape, as the fire, starting from a candle on the Christmas tree, swept through the small structure.

At two previous Christmas Eve celebrations at the school Christmas trees caught fire, but were extinguished without serious damage. Last Christmas, William Curtis, who lost his life in this fire, played the role of Santa Claus, and during the distribution of gifts, his white beard caught fire, but he quickly extinguished it.

Babb's Switch is a prosperous farming community seven miles south of Hobart. Cotton and wheat are the principal products. The population is about 250.

Complete identification of the dead has established the fact that the loss of life among children was far less than at first believed. Only five small children perished.

Nearly half the number of persons in the room were children and their escape is regarded as a tribute to their elders.

Mrs. Florence Hill, the teacher, and Dow Bolding, who played the role of Santa Claus, both of whom died, are given much credit by survivors for getting the children out safely.

Death entered the Christmas celebration suddenly, cutting off at its height the program rendered by the children of the neighborhood. The last little girl had spoken her piece and a Santa in red suit and furs had distributed to each chubby pair of eyes and a little sack of candy

## Herald Subscription Campaign To Close

Wednesday, December 31, marks the close of The Herald Subscription campaign. Quite a number of new subscribers have been added to our list, whom we are glad to welcome as new readers, and quite a number have renewed their subscription for another year. It has been in no sense a contest. All who have entered the campaign will be rewarded for their work. Those added to our list have taken the paper because they wanted it, a fact which will be appreciated by our advertisers.

We are now asking that just as soon as possible after next Wednesday every one who has been given a receipt book turn it into our office and receive the premium for which they have worked. If any one has taken a receipt book and then decided not to solicit subscriptions, we would be glad if those books are turned in also. We appreciate the co-operation given us by those who have entered the campaign, and are desirous of closing the details of the campaign as early as possible.

## Much Interest In Hood Bros. Contest

During the four weeks before Christmas quite a bit of interest was manifested in the voting contest put on by Hood Brothers. With every cash purchase over ten cents were given votes with the privilege of nominating a person who at the end of the contest would receive a prize. Fifteen prizes were to be awarded. By the night of the twenty-third the race for first place was sharp between little Miss Marion Gray Grimes, daughter of ex-Sheriff and Mrs. W. F. Grimes and Master Norman E. Humphrey, Jr. young son of Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Humphrey. The counting of the votes was complete by noon Christmas eve, and it was found that Master Norman Humphrey was in the lead with 49,775 votes. Little Miss Grimes was running close with 45,520 votes. The first prize was a floor lamp, while the second was an Eastman kodak. Others in the contest who received prizes in the order of their votes were: Raymond Stephenson, Miss Nora Cooper, Rose Radford, Miss Ethel Barbour, Elizabeth Coates, Lily Koonce Paterson, E. V. Pittman Marguerite Lane, Sam Stallings, Jr., Dorothy Hooks, Miss Helen Gue, Marcia Stevens, and Juanita Sorrell.

There were seventy-nine persons nominated in the contest.

### Moran-Pou

Mr. and Mrs. Edward William Pou request the honour of your presence at the marriage of their daughter, Margaret Atlee, to Mr. Carleton Edward Moran on Saturday, the seventeenth of January, at eight o'clock in the evening, Saint Margaret's Episcopal church, in the City of Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Edward Moran will be at home after the fifteenth of February, The Wardman Park Hotel.

### Whitley-Boykin

Married by D. T. Luncford, J. P., on Christmas Day, in this city, Miss Louana Boykin and Mr. Levy Whitley, both of Wendell.

while parents and friends who packed the small one-room structure to capacity looked on.

Santa reached for one of the few remaining candy sacks. His arm struck a candle on the Christmas tree. The tiny blaze fell from its meagre perch and in an instant a ball of cotton on the tree burst into flames. A rush to put out the flames, and the tree fell over, scattering blazing twigs. In an instant the room was in a panic. Men and women sprang for the single exit at the rear and to the windows, beating out the panes, only to find the openings covered by a heavy wire netting. The windows shattered, brisk wind blew through the room, fanning the flames, and the structure caught like firewood. —Associated Press.

## FIRST MEMORIAL TREE TO WILSON

North Carolina Long Leaf Pine Planted in Grounds of National Cathedral in Washington, D. C.

### MISS POU IS COLOR BEARER

The first memorial tree to Woodrow Wilson was planted on the grounds of the National Cathedral in Washington, D. C., Sunday afternoon. North Carolina was particularly interested in this planting, quite a number of North Carolinians being in attendance. The tree planted was a North Carolina long leaf pine and about its roots was placed earth from the campus of Davidson College, where Woodrow Wilson was once a student. The exercises were planned by Mrs. Charles Fisher Taylor, formerly of Goldsboro, and Mr. Edward T. Britton, of Raleigh, was the master of ceremonies for the event. Mr. Britton delivered a brief eulogy of the life and service of Woodrow Wilson and read a number of letters from prominent men paying tribute to the memory of the World War president. Congressman Charles L. Abernethy, of the third North Carolina district, delivered the principal address of the afternoon and formally presented the tree to National Cathedral. Miss Margaret Pou, of this city, was color bearer for the exercises. Canon Devries, of the National Cathedral, accepted the tree, declaring that the long leaf pine is a worthy symbol of the life of Woodrow Wilson.

## Busy Men's Bible Class To Have Banquet

The Busy Men's Bible Class of the Methodist Sunday school will hold a banquet on Friday night, January 2, at six o'clock on the third floor of the Austin building. This Bible class which has nearly a hundred members believes in the genial fellowship enjoyed around the festive board, and from time to time a banquet is given. At the beginning of the new year, such an occasion is particularly fitting to make plans for a bigger and better class. The committee in charge of the banquet Friday night is as follows: E. J. Wellons, B. C. Copeland, B. L. Jones, C. S. Broadhurst and A. J. Fitzgerald.

### Six-O'Clock Dinner

One of the most enjoyable social affairs of the Christmas season was the six-o'clock dinner given at the May-San Tea Room Wednesday evening by the following young gentlemen: Messrs. Lawrence Stancil, Frank Lawrence Skinner, Delma Brown, Tilden Honeycutt, Thel Hooks and Edward Patterson. Christmas decorations were in evidence and a Christmas menu in four courses was served. Guests on this occasion were: Misses Pauline Broadhurst, Irene Page Stevens, Arah Hooks, Mary Avera, Sarah Patterson and Rose Grantham.

### Duke-Benson

Greenville, Dec. 27.—Thursday night at 8 o'clock at the home of C. J. Harris on Paris avenue, a very quiet and beautiful marriage was solemnized when Miss Vashti Benson became the bride of Edgar F. Duke, Mr. Harris being the officiating minister.

Mr. Duke is the son of Mr. S. L. Duke, of Farmville, and is an energetic young man of excellent character.

Miss Benson is the pretty, attractive and accomplished daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Benson, of Smithfield. She came from Wilson to Greenville with Dr. Dickinson when he came here to take charge of the Pitt County Community Hospital, of which she is a trained nurse.

She has a host of friends in and out of Greenville. Their marriage was indeed a surprise to all.

Immediately after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Duke left for Rocky Mount, Henderson, Smithfield, and other points. They will return to Greenville in a few days.

## WEDDING SOCIAL EVENT OF SEASON

Miss Jessie Thurston of Clayton Becomes The Bride of Mr. Clyde Edgar Mizelle of Nashville

### SOLEMNIZED IN CHURCH

Clayton, Dec. 27.—The social event of the Christmas season was the beautiful wedding solemnized in the Baptist church of Clayton on the evening of December 25th at 6 o'clock, when Miss Jessie Jenkins Thurston became the bride of Mr. Clyde Edgar Mizelle, of Nashville.

The church, spacious and modern, was lovely with white and green decorations and myriads of soft candle lights. The pulpit was transformed into a lovely snow scene enhanced by interlacing ivy and blooming narcissus and above the scene shone a brilliant star, its warm rays scintillating over the snow clad bowers.

While the edifice was in candle glow and the star was bright, an invisible choir from the distance softly sang Franz Grubert's "Holy Night".

As the soft music died away and the lights were flashed on, Mrs. E. W. McCullers, one of Clayton's most talented musicians, entered the choir loft and charmed the large audience with "The Sweetest Story Ever Told" and "At Dawning" by Cadman. Miss Susie Young was accompanist.

Then came the bridal chorus of eight young ladies gowned in white with lighted candles in white roses; they sang the Bridal Chorus from Lohengrin. Those comprising the chorus were: Miss Dora Barbour, of Smithfield; Miss Vivian Dawson, of Zebulon; and Misses Geraldine Garner, Zeldia Barnes, Floris Jeffries, Gene Thomas, Bessie Lee Poole, and Gwendolyn Mitchell, of Clayton.

The ushers, Messrs. H. C. Thurston, Jr., William G. Massey, of Lexington; R. L. Isaacs, of Raleigh; Aubrey Gattis and Council Poole, of Clayton, proceeded down the aisles and stood near the altar awaiting the bridal party as the bridal chorus pealed forth its joyful melody.

Then entered Mrs. L. E. Bunn of Zebulon, dame, lovely in pink chiffon with rose and crystal embroidery, rhinestone coronet and silver slippers; she carried an arm bouquet of pink roses showered with sweet peas.

Next came Mrs. G. S. Barbee, of Zebulon, dame, exquisite in a gown of silver cut velvet chiffon trimmed in silver and rhinestones. She wore silver slippers and carried an arm bouquet of Columbia roses with orchid shower.

Then followed Mrs. Emmet H. Steger of Reidsville, cousin of the bride and dame of honor, beautiful in a gown of orchid chiffon embroidered in old blue and gold over a gold slip with blue and gold slippers and pearl coronet; she carried an arm bouquet of Marshall Neil roses with orchid shower.

Miss Ruth Thurston, sister of the bride and maid of honor, followed in ombre chiffon, shading from faint pink to deep carmine with rhinestone ornament and heavy fringe finish; she wore silver slippers and rhinestone coronet and carried an arm bouquet of Richmond roses with sweet pea shower. The groomsmen were Mr. F. S. Page, and Mrs. G. S. Barbee and L. M. Massey, of Zebulon. Little Margaret Bunn, dainty and beautiful in white crepe and lace preceded the bride, bearing the ring on a white satin pillow.

The bride, queenly and beautiful in imported gown of white chiffon, heavily embroidered in crystal roses, with silver tracery over white Duchess satin with silver slippers, entered on the arm of her father, Mr. D. J. Thurston, as the groom attended by his best man, Mr. T. D. Finch of Zebulon, approached the altar. A large ostrich pom-pom with chiffon streamers graced the bride's gown while her court train of chiffon was bordered with ostrich. The long flowing veil was becomingly attached to her head with an orange blossom

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Wm. Green, of Ohio Mine Workers, is now president of the American Federation of Labor to succeed the late Samuel Gompers. Green's election at a special called session of the Executive Committee, deposed Acting Pres. James Duncan, First Vice-President.

## North Carolina Gains In Small Grain Values

North Carolina farmers realized \$4,000,000 more on their small grains this year than in 1923, according to the Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation, which reports that the national increase in grain values amount to \$550,000,000.

The half-million bushel increase in the North Carolina wheat crop this year brought the value up to \$10,250,000 as compared with \$7,500,000 of 1923. The oat crop of this state this year is up to 6 million bushels as compared to the 5 million bushels on this crop as compared with 3 1/2 millions the year before.

The yield per acre on corn in North Carolina the report states, dropped to 14.9 bushels per acre and the normal production of \$60,000,000 bushels dropped off to 38,000,000 bushels this year. The wet days, on the other hand, were a great help to the wheat and oats production, the former rising to 12.1 bushels per acre as compared with 11.1 the year before, and the latter to 25.2 from 22 in 1923. The profit per bushel of wheat this year was 22 cents where a loss of 34 cents was taken last year and a 11 percent profit in oats for the 18 percent loss of the preceding year.

The increased yield per acre of small grain and the increased price per bushel on all grains has aided materially in restoring the farmer to a better financial basis, the Foundation report concludes. The higher grain prices have resulted in higher live stock prices and this has brought a new vitality to agriculture.

## North Carolina Hens Lay 500,000,000 Eggs

Approximately 566,100,000 eggs were laid by the 6,000,000 hens in North Carolina during the past year, according to V. W. Lewis, livestock marketing specialist of the North Carolina extension division. Five and one half million of this hen population live in the rural districts, it was said, while the other half-million live in the back-yards of city homes. Eleven percent of 660,000 of these hens Mr. Lewis terms "aristocrats", that is, bred poultry that will lay 170 eggs per year. The other 89 percent he calls "proletariat", as they will lay only 85 eggs each per year. According to the specialist, this amount will average only 221 eggs each for the 2,559,123 people in the State during the year.

### Instructing Georgia Farmers

Mr. M. P. Holland, formerly of Micro, but now of Camilla, Ga., renewed his subscription to The Herald last week. Mr. Holland is in Georgia instructing the farmers in that section in tobacco raising. This is their second year raising tobacco around Camilla.

Miss Lizzie Lawrence, of Charlotte, is spending the holidays here with relatives.

## LOCAL BANK MAKES SPLENDID SHOWING

Farmers Bank and Trust Company Has Healthy Growth Since Organization Three Years Ago

### LUNCHEON IS SERVED

A strong financial system is essential to the prosperity of any commonwealth, and Johnston County's success in a material way reflects directly to the credit of its banking institutions. One of these institutions, the Farmers Bank and Trust Company, of this city, celebrated the close of its third year of business last Saturday, reports showing a splendid growth of business. Following a meeting of stockholders, a luncheon was served at one o'clock to the stockholders and a few others. A turkey menu in three courses was served by the May-San Tea Room in the basement of the Methodist church. Places were laid for twenty-eight guests. Mr. R. C. Gillett, who has been president of the bank since its organization on January 17th, 1922, was master of ceremonies.

After a few pleasantries from Mr. Gillett, Mr. J. D. Parker, one of the directors, was called upon for a talk. "Confidence," said Mr. Parker, "is the foundation of our business life." When a man writes a check and pays his merchant, the merchant has confidence in his customer and confidence in the bank on which the check is written. It is confidence that has made the Farmers Bank and Trust Company the strong institution it is today—confidence in all who have made this bank possible. Mr. Parker then proceeded to show in actual figures just how much this bank has grown during the three years of its existence. The bank began business on January 17, 1922. On December 26 of that year, the total resources were \$115,280.61. On December 26, 1923, the resources had more than doubled, the amount being \$252,359.23. During the past year, which has not been considered a good year, this bank has steadily gone forward. The total resources on December 26, this year, were \$297,291.62. At the close of business last Friday the bank's capital was \$17,500 with a surplus of \$2,500 with authority of the board of directors to increase the surplus on December 31 to \$4,000. Two dividends of three percent each have been paid during the year and net profits of \$2,684.93 are on hand, from which the surplus fund will be increased.

Following Mr. Parker's talk, Mr. Gillett called upon Rev. S. L. Morgan for a few remarks. Mr. Morgan spoke of the value of a bank to any community and how it would be almost impossible to carry business in modern times without banks. An impromptu speech was made by Mr. W. W. Jordan, who paid a very fine tribute to the man who heads the Farmers Bank and Trust Company. Mr. Gillett in responding thanked the stockholders for the handsome cigar case with which they had previously presented him.

Those present on this occasion were: Mrs. Alice Y. Cole, Mrs. T. J. Lassiter, Mrs. C. F. Gordon, W. N. Holt Chas. Davis, W. W. Jordan, R. C. Gillett, E. S. Edmundson, Robt. A. Sanders, Jas. D. Parker, C. F. Gordon, C. L. Sanders, W. Ransom Sanders, J. M. Peele, W. T. Holland, W. P. Daughtry, W. S. Peterson, Rev. S. L. Morgan, Andrew Johnson, Geo. T. Scott, J. E. Woodall, A. A. Peedin, W. H. Flowers, R. L. Fitzgerald, J. B. Parker, H. L. Cohen, Dr. J. H. Fitzgerald, D. W. Peterson.

At the stockholders meeting held before the luncheon, the following directors for the ensuing year were elected: R. C. Gillett, R. L. Fitzgerald, James D. Parker, J. E. Woodall, W. H. Flowers, D. W. Peterson, W. N. Holt, C. L. Sanders, W. Ransom Sanders and W. T. Holland. The board of directors will hold its annual meeting January 5, at which time its president, vice-president, cashier and

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