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# The Smithfield Herald

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SMITHFIELD, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 3, 1925

Number 66

## WRITES LETTER ON CROP CONDITIONS

Mr. Wright Edmundson, of Waco, Texas, Tells of Outlook For Crop In Cotton Producing State

### EXPECTS HALF A CROP

The following letter on crop conditions in Texas, written by Mr. Wright Edmundson, of Waco, Texas, who formerly lived in Johnston County, and who is a brother of Mr. E. S. Edmundson, of this city, will be of interest to the people of this county. It was written on June 27, and is as follows:

"Thinking, perhaps, that your readers would be interested in condition of the cotton crop in the biggest producing state in the Union, we are outlining conditions gained from travel and observation. If you think this would be interesting reading matter for your patrons, kindly ask that you publish same.

"I have traveled over quite a great deal of the cotton belt of our State and am in position to furnish reliable information regarding present conditions. No doubt, your readers are somewhat familiar with the cotton-growing section. We have always found within a radius of 150 miles of Waco 75 percent of the entire cotton crop of the State is grown. Seventy-five percent of this area is in the extreme dry section. It has been fairly accurately estimated that we have an increase in acreage over last season of from one and a half to two million acres, and I know almost I can say with some degree of accuracy that there is just about this one and half or two million increase in the ground without sufficient moisture to germinate seed. This vast acreage not being up, and we are now into what we term the dry season, as we have rarely ever had any rain to speak of from July to October. Perhaps we will get rain in the near future, as the very unusual seems to be happening this year. Crops over the entire belt are from four to six weeks late that have been fortunate enough to have moisture to bring them up. Plant very small with a bloom in the top. Cotton growers of North Carolina, can we expect a cotton crop under these conditions? However, a Texas cotton crop cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy until it is gathered. It is possible for us to make a three or four million bale crop this year, but not probable.

"The worse feature is we had no winter rains. Consequently, we started into the crop season with the ground dry, practically six or eight feet deep. South and East of Waco, the fields and ranches are as barren almost as in December. No fed crops of any kind in this section, and the biggest percent of the cotton seed still in the ground as above mentioned.

Your readers who know me personally, know that I am no pessimist, but must see conditions as they visibly confront us, and I cannot see at this time how we can make more than 50 percent of the crop.

"North of Dallas and West of Fort Worth including the plains and Panhandle section have had enough rain. Very little cotton raised in the Panhandle. This section includes all that portion North and West of Hale County.

"I am sending you a map of Texas outlining the extreme dry portions, in blue pencil, showing you where the bulk of the crop is produced. Hope you have some way of reproducing this map in your paper, and in this way you can give a more definite idea of the section suffering from the drought. No complaint of boll-ewevils or grass-hoppers to date. Entirely too dry for them to thrive.

"Since living in Texas for thirty-two years there has been one time that pretty good cotton was grown planted the first week in July, but was under vastly different conditions. Had abundance of rain the winter preceding. Texas may wind up with a pretty good crop, but I do not see how it can be done.

"Will attempt to find time to give you the crop news about August first.

"With best wishes for the Smithfield Herald readers."

## "Baby Farm" Head



Helen Geisen-Volk, is under arrest and N. Y. City authorities are investigating the deaths of 23 babies in 17 months at her "baby farm." It is charged babies left there were starved and brutally treated.

## TO DRIVE AUTO BLINDFOLDED HERE

Dr. Keystone, The World's Most Famous Blindfolded Auto Driver To Do His Spectacular Stunt Here At 4:30 P. M. Saturday, July 4

Keystone, the marvel of the world, will give Smithfield, Four Oaks, and Dunn a thrill Saturday at 4:30 p. m. when he will drive a Chrysler car from Four Oaks to Smithfield and back to Dunn while he is heavily blindfolded.

Dr. Keystone has done this stunt in many large cities and countries all over the world and thousands have marveled at his prowess. He has a very high development of the subconscious mind and has received much publicity in newspapers and magazines all over the U. S. A. Dr. Keystone extends an invitation to any lady to make this trip with him in the Chrysler car. He will be accompanied by newspaper reporters and a Chrysler car representative of the local dealer at Four Oaks, N. C.

Dr. Keystone has driven the car over sixty-five miles per hour over dirt roads and over 90 on pavement and over one hundred miles per hour on race track while blindfolded.—Extract from Hendersonville News, Gastonia Daily Gazette, and High Point Enterprise.

## WHISKEY CASES TAKE COURTS TIME

The following cases were disposed of in Recorder's Court here Tuesday: State vs Henry Waller, violating the prohibition laws. Guilty. Reserve judgment until July 7th. Thirty days in jail. Judgment subject to be changed.

State vs Julius A. Lewis, violating the prohibition laws. Guilty; four months in jail to be worked on roads of Smithfield township and to pay costs.

State vs D. C. Byrd, violating prohibition laws. Guilty. Suspend sentence of 60 days upon payment of cost.

State vs Thoburn Johnson, drunk and disorderly, assault. Guilty. Fined \$25 and cost. Damage to property of Jim Morgan to be paid out of fine.

State vs Tom Wiggins, violating the prohibition laws. Guilty. Discharged upon payment of cost.

State vs Walter Evans, breaking jail. Guilty. Sentenced to sixty days in jail to be worked on roads.

State vs Ben Everett, Andrew Sanders, Hallie Sanders and Darsey Fellows not guilty and discharged. Ben Everett guilty. Sentenced to five months in jail to be worked on roads. Ben Everett appealed to Superior Court.

State vs Lonnie Boyett, Lew Howley, Cob Howell and Vernon Howley, Lew Howley and Vernon Howley, discharged. Lonnie Boyett guilty, assault and disorderly. Cob Howell, Four months jail sentence suspended. Fined \$50 and cost.

## PROMINENT COUPLE WEDS IN ASHEVILLE

Miss Sadie Puckett Of This City Becomes The Bride Of Mr. W. M. Palmer

A marriage that will be of interest to relatives and friends in North and South Carolina and Virginia was solemnized in Asheville yesterday, the contracting parties being Miss Sadie Spiers Puckett, of Smithfield, N. C., and Mr. Winfree Murray Palmer, of Bennettsville, S. C.

The ceremony was performed at Central Methodist Church at 5 o'clock with the bride's uncle, Dr. Edward Leigh Pell, of Richmond, noted Bible student and lecturer, known throughout Southern Methodist and in other churches, officiating.

Simple decorations of palms, ferns and baskets of cut flowers were placed around the altar for the nuptial service and lent dignity and charm to the unpretentious taking of the vows.

Mrs. Burwell Edgar Blanton, church organist, and Mr. George Hurt, violinist, rendered an appropriate program of wedding music, and also accompanied Mr. Horace Eason, an old friend of the bride, who sang, "At Dawning," and "Because" immediately prior to the ceremony. During the ceremony Mrs. Blanton softly rendered McDowell's "To A Wild Rose."

The taking of the vows was witnessed by a small gathering of relatives and intimate friends, who had come from several States. There were no attendants, the bride and groom entering together from the Pastor's Study and taking their places before the prayer desk with great simplicity.

Little Miss Sarah McLean Hipps, of Asheville, was the ringbearer and was daintily in powder blue voile frock.

The bride wore a modish afternoon gown of blonde georgette with lace trimmings, quite smart and becoming. Her hat was a poke bonnet of orchid georgette and tulle with a large French rose as adornment. She carried a shower bouquet of sunset roses and delphinium.

Immediately after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Palmer left by motor for a honeymoon trip through the mountains after which they will go to Bennettsville, S. C., to reside.

Before leaving, the bride donned a stunning traveling ensemble of natural Kasha cloth with lanvin green trimmings, and a small cloche hat of the same pretty shade of green straw.

Mrs. Palmer is the daughter of Mrs. Alice Pell Puckett, and the late Rev. W. H. Puckett, well remembered Methodist minister of the North Carolina conference. She is the niece of Dr. Edward Leigh Pell, of Richmond, Dr. R. P. Pell, president of Converse College, Spartanburg, and Judge George Pell, of Raleigh, member of the State Corporation Commission.

She is petite and winsome and a favorite with her relatives and friends.

Mr. Palmer is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace W. Palmer, of Bennettsville, S. C., formerly of Warren, N. C., and is connected with the Imperial Tobacco Company. He is a young man of fine characteristics and of great promise in business.

The entire bridal party were guests at the George Vanderbilt Hotel, and the party will dissolve today, each leaving for his or her home.—The Asheville Citizen.

Note.—The bride, who for several years has held a position in the office of the County Superintendent of Schools here, went to Asheville the first of June on and vacation, and while away sprung quite a surprise upon her many friends by her marriage. Mrs. Palmer is quite a favorite in this city, and the best wishes of a large circle of friends go with her to her new home. Mr. Palmer was on the tobacco market here for several seasons past.

**Presbyterian Church**  
 There will be no preaching service at the Smithfield Presbyterian church on Sunday, July 5. This being the last day of the Ham-Ramsay revival the congregation will worship at the tabernacle where Mr. Ham preaches at eleven o'clock a. m.  
 Sunday school at 9:45.

## Tabernacle Overflows When Mr. Ham Speaks to Colored People

### Tobacco Market Will Open In Smithfield On September 1st

The tobacco season will open in Eastern North Carolina on Tuesday, September 1. In a communication to Skinner and Patterson, local warehousemen, R. T. Corbell, secretary of the Tobacco Association of the United States, announces the following dates fixed for opening the markets this season: Eastern North Carolina, Tuesday, September 1; Middle Belt,

North Carolina, Tuesday, September 15; Georgia, Tuesday, July 28; South Carolina, Tuesday, August 4; Old Belt, Thursday, October 1; Dark Virginia, Wednesday, November 4.  
 The Middle Belt North Carolina includes Durham, Henderson, Oxleigh, Fuquay Springs, Aberdeen, Carthage, Sanford, Youngsville. Smithfield, is in the Eastern North Carolina district.

### Around 1500 Men Attend Service For Men Only; Preached Tuesday On Booze and Bootleggers

#### WILL CLOSE SUNDAY

The prediction that the warehouse would overflow with people before the revival came to a close was fulfilled Wednesday night when more than four thousand persons were present to hear Evangelist Ham preach a special sermon to the colored people. This was the largest crowd that has yet assembled in Smithfield to hear Mr. Ham, and many were standing, being unable to get seats. Quite a number were turned away. A negro choir sang the gospel songs with a zest that matched the "amens" of the brethren as the negro preachers led in prayer.

Several outstanding services have been conducted during the week, one of which was the service for men only, on Wednesday morning, when a crowd variously estimated at from a thousand to 1500 heard the Evangelist on a subject of vital importance.

Another service which was among the best since the revival began was held Tuesday morning, the subject discussed being "Booze and Bootleggers."

"Some people," declared the Evangelist, "have tried to argue that the Bible does not teach total abstinence," but when Mr. Ham was through, there were a number who shook his hand pledging themselves to let alcoholic drink alone in the future. "Wine," said the preacher, "is a generic term. Just as there are different kinds of animals, different kinds of vegetables, there are different kinds of wines, varying in alcoholic strength."

The subject was discussed from seven standpoints: (1) the Bible enjoins men to let strong drink alone; (2) it is a useless waste; (3) it closes the door of opportunity to everybody; (4) health demands abstinence; (5) a strong character demands it; (6) it is the right of a man's wife and their offspring; (7) and lastly society demands it.

Drinking and adultery are the two sins that have characterized the downfall of every civilization, warned Mr. Ham. No man ever took a drink that his character did not weaken. America's finest institution the home, is broken and cursed when strong drink rules the head of the home. Not only are homes menaced, but society is menaced by the drinking man. Since the day of automobiles it has become impossible to return to the open saloons. The overwhelming majority of accidents today may be traced to drink. Anyone riding on the highways is unsafe. "Some of you folks in Johnston County," declared Mr. Ham, "are responsible for bootlegging simply by not lifting your voice against it."

"A whiskey drinker is a dangerous character," continued the preacher. "Drinkers are worse than lepers, and ought to be colonized. If a man is going to drink he ought to have a drunken wife."

On Tuesday evening the preacher used the subject: "Why People Go To Hell." It was a powerful sermon and the inquiry room was crowded at the close of the service.

On Wednesday morning while the men's meeting was in progress at the warehouse, Mr. W. J. Ramsay preached to the women and girls in the Methodist church.

The meeting will come to a close Sunday night and three services will be held at the warehouse during the day. The churches of the town have called in their eleven o'clock services in order to have a union service at the warehouse. Mr. Ham will also preach at three in the afternoon, and at 7:45 in the evening.

The Ham-Ramsay party goes from here to Anchorage, Ky., the home of Mr. Ham, where a meeting starts next week.

God has never commanded you to do a thing that He didn't give you the strength to do it.

## Quash Indictment Against Wyatt On Pure Technicality

### Spectator Throws Cup At Solicitor

Solicitor W. F. Evans was the near victim of a would be practical joke during one of the lulls in the Wyatt trial, which indicated some of the feeling prevalent among spectators.

The court had just taken its first recess for the day, shortly after convening at ten o'clock and the solicitor was seated at his table near the jury box, when some one from the gallery hurled a loaded paper cup of water, which narrowly missed Mr. Evans' head, struck the rail of the jury box and splattered. The spectator ran and could not be identified.

## DENTAL CLINIC AT KENLY AND MICRO

Dr. J. S. Moore, who has been working in this county for the past few weeks under the State Board of Health, will be at the Kenly high school building Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 6, 7, an 8, to conduct a dental clinic. It is desired that as many children as possible between the ages of six and twelve take advantage of this clinic and have dental defects remedied.

A similar clinic will be held at the Micro school Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 9, 10, and 11. Dr. Moore begins his work each morning at 9:30 and closes at 5:30 each afternoon except on Saturday when he closes at 12:30.

## STILL DESTROYED NEAR PRINCETON

Booze that was said to be calculated to kill the cotton as it was poured down a cotton row was captured Wednesday afternoon about three o'clock about one mile east of Princeton near the railroad. Five and a half gallons of whiskey were found and a complete 1925 model 50-gallon copper still. Rodger Pearce, a man forty-five years of age, was arrested and bound over to court under \$300 bond. It is said that the man was very reluctant to see the whiskey destroyed, and asked even for half a gallon of it. The officers naturally refused his request. The plant was a new one, having been used only about three times.

### BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School 9:30. Rev. M. F. Ham will speak and conduct an evangelistic service after a short lesson period. An opportunity will be given all who wish to unite with the church to present themselves. The regular church offering will be taken in the Sunday school. Let all members bring their church envelopes. No service at the church at 11 o'clock, all the congregation taking part in the service at the tabernacle.

Watch the date on your label.

### Will Draw Venire Today Under Special Statute And Present Bill To New Grand Jury At July Term

Because the Wake county board of commissioners last December allowed a boy over ten years of age to draw the venire from which the grand jury was taken, Judge Frank Daniels in the Wake County Superior court yesterday sustained a motion by the defense to quash on that technicality the indictment returned by the grand jury against Jesse Wyatt, suspended Raleigh police captain, for the murder on June 1 of Stephen S. Holt, prominent Smithfield attorney, whom Wyatt mistook for a rum runner. The grand jury has functioned without question for a full six months and hundreds of defendants have been convicted on its indictments.

Judge Daniels sustained the motion to quash after he had denied repeated motions for continuance and also a motion to quash because of alleged irregularities in the procedure under which the true bill for murder was found.

The quashing of the indictment yesterday will carry the case over to the July term of court which begins July 13. Defense counsel contended yesterday that since the same boy had drawn the new grand jury the case could not under the law go to trial until the September Term. It developed yesterday afternoon that through an error in the office of the clerk of the Superior Court no grand jury has been drawn for the July term but that the venire drawn was ordered to report on July 6. Since no term begins July 6 the venire was discharged. Under a special statute provided for use where no venire has been drawn a new venire will be drawn today.

Judge W. A. Devin, of Oxford, will preside over the July term of court at which Wyatt is expected to come to trial. Judge Garland Midyette who is scheduled to hold the Wake courts during the next six months is ill and Judge Devin will substitute for him at his term.

**Wyatt Under Same Bond**  
 Wyatt was released pending the presentation of a new bill against him to the grand jury under the same bond of \$10,000 which his friends gave soon after the shooting.

The trial was to have begun Wednesday morning but was delayed on account of the absence of J. Will White, an important witness of the state, White having been one of Mr. Holt's companions at the time of the shooting. It was two o'clock in the afternoon before the case was really begun. Counsel for the defense asked again for a continuance of the case which was denied by Judge Daniels.

### Defense Seeks Delay

Defense attorneys frankly admitted that their purpose in making the motions was to delay the trial. Mr. Pou stated that if a continuance had been granted they would have waived the technicality. At the suggestion of Col. E. S. Abel, of the private prosecution, it was agreed that the motion, with regard to the age of the boy who drew the venire, would be heard first. The hearing recessed.

(Turn to page eight, please)