

**Smithfield Needs:**

- Bigger pay roll.
- Modern hospital.
- Renovation of Opera house.
- More paved streets.
- Chamber Commerce

# The Smithfield Herald

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Forty-fourth Year

SMITHFIELD, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 31, 1925

Number 74

## May Uncover Big Gang Of Robbers

Arrest Negroes Who Were In The Four Oaks Robbery; White Men Also In the Gang.

### OPERATE IN THREE STATES

An article which throws light upon the robbery which took place not long ago in Four Oaks was published in the Williamston Enterprise in the issue of July 24. We herewith reproduce the entire statement concerning the operations of what appears to be an organized gang:

"What appears to be the breaking in on one of the largest bands of organized thieves that ever operated in this section occurred last week when Chief of Police Martin of Bethel arrested Frank Modica and W. L. Forrest of House Station.

The arrest was made upon complaint of Whitehurst and Andrews of Bethel whose store had recently been broken into and much merchandise stolen. Information had reached Whitehurst and Andrews that Modica had been selling various articles of wearing apparel around the camps of a road construction force and to the workmen of a contractor nearby.

Both Modica and Forrest were arrested and placed in the Greenville jail. The trial led to the discovery of a large number of items which had been stolen. Among the articles being a suit of clothes and a shirt bearing the cost mark of Bailey and Barnhill of Everetts which were identified by Mr. C. B. Roebuck, the clerk who marked the goods.

For sometime the negroes refused to talk but after a time Modica admitted not only the Whitehurst and Andrews, and Bailey and Barnhill robberies but many others.

He stated that he was the local agent of two men and one woman who generally traveled as salesmen in a Cadillac and a Hudson automobile and that they would drive into the territory by appointment and when the shadows of night grew deepest, they would enter some store, generally good dry goods and clothing houses. He also stated that he was at the breaking in of the Bailey and Barnhill store, that a white man also went in, that they divided and packed the goods stolen on the old ball park when the trail had been followed by blood hounds.

Mordica further stated that they were never to take too much, but were to take a suit, shirt, dress or pair of shoes from here and there in such a way that the stolen articles would not be missed. He stated that the store of Bailey and Barnhill and also that of Johnson, Smith Co., of Robersonville, had been robbed recently. The owners did not even know their stores had been robbed. The same occurred at Bethel, where they had gone in Bunting's store and Blounts store.

Mordica said they paid him on a percentage basis, that is he received a portion of the stolen goods, which he took to the pressing club of Forrest and worked them off by degrees. The territory worked by Mordica was Pitt and Martin Counties, from Everetts west. He said he was not in the robbery of the B. F. Perry store here, which occurred a few months ago, though he knew about it and the white people were the same people that he served, but their allies were local men.

The store of Turnace brothers of Ayden and stores at Four Oaks had also been broken into and robbed. A negro named George Young, who was serving as agent for the gang has also been arrested with two other negroes who were in the Four Oaks robbery.

Sheriff Jackson and deputies of Pitt county, following the statements of Mordica took him and George Young to Norfolk to search for the white people implicated in the stealing and leaders of the gang. They found that the parties living at the place alleged to be the receiving station for the gang had been abandoned and the occupants in jail for larceny, but no

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## ORGANIZE POST OF AMERICAN LEGION

Raleigh Men Assist In Organization Meeting Held At The Armory.

### DR. HOOKS ELECTED CHM.

Mr. Frank Capps 4th District Committeeman, accompanied by Col. John H. Manning and Messrs. Howell and W. Oliver Smith of Raleigh came down Wednesday night and met at the Armory with several of the ex-service men of this county and assisted them in the organization of a local post of the American Legion. Mr. Capps made a very interesting talk explaining the purpose of this organization, its aims, and their success in a number of communities where the ex-service men had completed the organizations and were carrying on. He acted as chairman and accepted the nomination of Dr. Thel Hooks as chairman of this post with

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## ANNUAL MEETING COTTON WAREHOUSE

Manager Reports a Falling Off In Number Bales of Cotton Handled by the Warehouse

The total amount of cotton both from the cooperative association and independent cotton growers handled by the Farmers Cotton Warehouse here last year was less than five thousand bales. According to the report of the warehouse manager, Mr. J. V. Ogburn, made to the annual meeting of the directors and stockholders held in the commissioners room here Wednesday afternoon, 4097 bales were received during the year which closed on July 1, 1925, and 4401 bales turned out at a labor cost of \$2170.50 including the salary of the manager.

Two hundred thirty-one shares of capital stock was represented at the meeting Wednesday, 132 in person and 99 by proxies. Mr. J. W. Stephenson, president of the organization presided over the meeting and after hearing the secretary, Mr. R. P. Holding, read the minutes of the last annual meeting, the manager of the warehouse, Mr. J. V. Ogburn, gave his report for the year.

Mr. Ogburn reported 28 bales of coop cotton in storage on July 1, 1924. During the year up to July 1, 1925, coop cotton in the amount of 1667 bales had been stored, and the entire amount of 1695 bales had been turned out. This cotton was kept on an average of only two months and six days making the amount of storage per bale received 87 cents, thus costing the warehouse as much to handle it this short period as it would to have kept it six months.

The showing for independent cotton was very little better. Three hundred sixty-nine bales of cotton were on hand on July 1, 1924 and during the year which has just closed only 2430 bales were stored. The number of bales turned out was 2706 leaving in storage on July 1, 1925, ninety-three bales. This cotton was held an average of three months and ten days, making the amount of storage per bale received \$1.33

Comparative figures show that nearly a thousand bales of cotton less were handled last year by the warehouse than the year before and the cotton that was stored was held only about half as long as the previous year. In the discussion that followed it was brought out that if the stockholders and farmers of the county would take the proper interest the warehouse could be operated to quite an advantage. The president stated that the cotton mills were asking for Johnston county cotton, the

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## TENTATIVE PLANS BRYAN'S FUNERAL

Arlington Will Be Last Resting Place; Body May Lie In State in Historic Church.

### CEREMONIES TO BE BRIEF

Washington, July 29.—Tentative arrangements for the funeral of William Jennings Bryan here Friday, all subject to the approval of his widow, were made today as the Commoner was being brought to Washington from Dayton, Tenn.

There will be services both at the New York Avenue Presbyterian church, where Mr. Bryan worshipped when Secretary of State, and at the grave at Arlington national cemetery, but the whole ceremony will be as simple as might be that of the humblest citizen.

**Simple Rites**  
Save possibly for the artillery caisson on which the body will be conveyed from the church to the Potomac hills and the sounding of taps, the soldier's requiem, at the grave, there will be no hint of military honors. That will be as Mr. Bryan had wished.

Immediately upon the arrival of the funeral train at Union Station early tomorrow, the bronze casket will be taken to an undertaking establishment, but if Mrs. Bryan approves, it will be moved a few hours later to the New York Avenue Presbyterian church, to lie in state during the afternoon and the early hours of Friday.

Funeral services at the church will begin at 3 p. m. Friday, and will be conducted by the Rev. Doctor Joseph R. Sizoo, the pastor, who is returning here from his vacation in New York state. At the conclusion of these services the funeral procession will move across the Mall and Potomac Park to the Virginia hille beyond the river, where the body will be interred on the side of a hill dominated by the Dewey mausoleum.

**Historic Church**  
The edifice in which the services will be held is a red brick structure three quarters of a century old, tucked in among buildings in the heart of the city's business district. It is known as "The Church of the Presidents."

Here it was that the martyred Lincoln, whose life Bryan so much admired, worshipped. The pew which he and his family occupied is still preserved.

Andrew Jackson, Franklin Pierce, James K. Polk, James Buchanan and Andrew Johnson were other Presidents whose names have been enrolled as members of the church either since the construction of the present building or between that period and the year 1803, when the congregation was first organized.

The building can accommodate about 1000 persons in the main auditorium and in the old-fashioned balcony above, but most of the seats will be reserved for government officials, diplomats and friends of the Commoner.

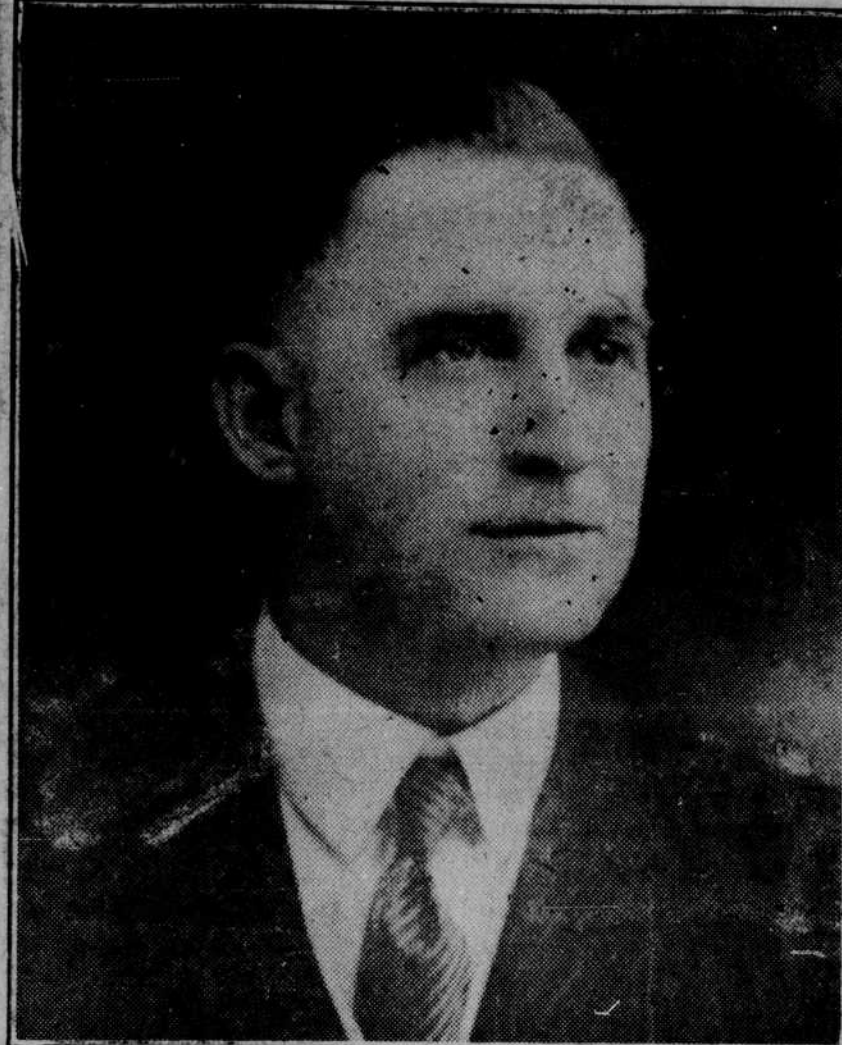
Because of the usual congestion of traffic in the vicinity, the police have made elaborate arrangements to handle the thousands who are expected to visit the church if the body lies in state tomorrow and Friday. With exit doors on each side, as well as the main entrance, the quick passage of those who would pay a last tribute to Mr. Bryan would be facilitated.—Associated Press.

## OVER HALF MILLION SERVED BY NEAR EAST RELIEF IN 1924

According to report to Congress by the Near East Relief for 1924 which has just been issued, 554,978 persons which number included mostly women and children, were served during last year.

Summarized, the work is sub-divided as follows: Those furnished with clothing supplies were 424,353; general adults, 56,773; children 73,852, of which 41,062 were being maintained in the orphanage on January 1, 1924. More than 12,000 were being fed in families where the parents were unable to give them support, 10,000 in General Clinics in refugee camps where free medical treatment was administered and the remainder in special schools for the purpose of

## Revival to Begin at Wilson's Mills



Rev. A. F. DeGafferly, a distinguished Evangelist, of Danville, Ill., will begin a series of meetings at the Christian Church at Wilson's Mills, beginning Sunday, August 2. All are cordially invited to attend these services.

## Schedule Second Typhoid Campaign

The second county-wide typhoid vaccination campaign begins August 1st and will continue through the month. The vaccine is given in the arm in three doses at weekly intervals, and is given to both white and colored. Every person who has not taken this treatment within the past four years should avail themselves of this opportunity to be protected against typhoid fever. Diphtheria vaccine (toxin-anti toxin) will also be available for children from six months old to four years. This treatment is given in a similar manner as in the typhoid vaccine and affords protection against diphtheria for a period about equal to that of the former, which just about covers those years at which age children are most susceptible to diphtheria.

Please note the following schedule and meet me promptly on the days mentioned and at the place most convenient:

Tuesday, August 4, 11, 18, Selma City Hall, 2 p. m. Pine Level 4 p. m. Wednesday, August 5, 12, 19, Brogden school, 2 p. m. Princeton at 4 p. m.

Thursday, August 6, 13, 20, Benson City School, 2 p. m. Four Oaks 4 p. m. Friday, August 7, 14, 21, Wilson's Mills 2 p. m. Clayton 4 p. m.

Each Saturday, Smithfield, Court House, 3 p. m. C. C. MASSEY.

## THIRTY-EIGHT FARMERS IN N. C. LEGISLATURE

More than one-fourth of all the members of the North Carolina state legislature are farmers, according to the Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation, which has been compiling figures of farmer representation in the state legislatures and in Congress.

Of the 50 Senators in the state legislature, 7 are farmers, states the Foundation, and 31 out of the 120 members of the lower house list themselves as agriculturists. A few divide their time between farming and banking, farming and insurance, or some other profession or occupation in addition to their farm interests.

Iowa with a farm population of 46 per cent has 99 farmers in its legislature membership of 158, the highest proportion of any of the states studied, the Foundation states. Pennsylvania with its 11 per cent farm population, has only 15 farmers in its legislature out of a total of 258 members. Mrs. Mabel A. Gillespie of Gretna, a member of the Nebraska lower house, is the only farmer's wife on record holding a legislative job.

teaching them trades and means of becoming self-supporting.

## LUDICROUS CASE AMUSES THE COURT

Street Preacher Shorn of His Locks and Beard Without His Consent Sues Benson Barbers.

### CASE OF HUBERT GAINEY

Ben Parker, Hubert Norris, Parlia Raynor and Joe Dunn, all white men of the town of Benson, faced the Recorder's Court here Tuesday under a charge of assault upon A. G. Manning, also of the town of Benson, the case furnishing quite a bit of amusement for those who heard it. A. G. Manning is well known here and in other parts of the State. Twenty years ago he was a beardless youth riding a bicycle about the southern sections of the county selling pills and plasters. He was then known as Dr. Manning. Manhood brought to him a growth of whiskers and an ambition to preach. About eighteen months ago he turned out the whiskers and his hair to grow, and himself to preach. The whiskers and hair made fine progress and being justly proud of them, he frequented the defendants' barber shops and made free use of their combs and brushes in grooming his luxuriant beard and hair. The defendants, disliking to operate a free beauty parlor for the preacher, warned him that unless he should desist from making such free use of their implements that they would certainly shear his hair and shave his beard. He seemingly forgot their warnings and on last April 25, the defendants in broad daylight and unmasked went to the field where Manning was plowing and asked him to take a little ride with them. Riding about a mile out of town they found a forest near a spring. Displaying their implements they informed Manning that the promised shave and haircut were now at hand, and they proceeded with the operation. Manning stated on trial that the boys forced him on and off a car thereby injuring his arm and side. He also stated that by depriving him of his locks and beard that they had rendered him less attractive to the public and he could not, therefore, preach with the same far-reaching power as he could before the assault. He alleged no other harm. The State was represented by L. L. Levinson and the defendants were represented by James Raynor. While the court sharply censured the defendants for their action in forcibly taking Manning into their own hands, the court also had a word or two to speak to Manning. The court expressed the fact that Manning was at liberty to wear a beard in any style he may choose but unless he should keep it in a more sanitary condition than he had formerly done that he was liable for action for maintaining a public nuisance about his face. The defendants were taxed with the costs and discharged.

Manning is well known in Smithfield. For the past year or two he has been in Smithfield during court weeks preaching on the court house green and selling cabbage plants. If he has been missed here since April, the probability is that he has been here but those who knew him as the street preacher and plant salesman have failed to recognize him since he has been shorn of his magic locks. He has been inoffensive here. He has sold thousands of his cabbage plants here and no complaint has ever been made against his reliability.

The case of State vs Marvin and Man Thornton, in which these two white men are charged with the burning of Hubert Gainey on the night of March 26, came to a hearing at this session of court. This case had been set for two previous hearings but owing to the seriousness of the young man's condition he has not been able to attend trial on the prior dates set for the hearings. The State at this hearing produced the testimony of only one witness, that of Hubert Gainey. The court found probable cause and the two defendants were bound over to the August term of the superior court, which is set to open here on August 17th. The defendants were released under a \$2000 bond. Owing to the singular charge of burning and the extreme punishment

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## THIRTY-ONE JOIN FOUR OAKS CHURCH

Daily Vacation Bible School In Four Oaks Enrolls 104 Pupils For a Month.

Four Oaks, July 29.—The splendid revival at the Baptist church closed Friday night with thirty-one additions to the church. The campaign from the beginning to the close was refreshing and uplifting to the soul. The church was revived, the community was made better and the town as a whole felt its power. The gifted, Rev. T. F. Callaway, of Macon, Ga., did most of the preaching. The laymen's Federation of Smithfield showed their cooperation as much as possible. The music of the meeting was directed by the talented Rev. T. E. Bush, of Florida. Mr. Bush's organization and work with the young people was marvelous. No Four Oaks congregation ever witnessed before such a service as was offered by the "Booster Choir" during the revival. Approximately one hundred children were trained by Mr. Bush—giving thirty minutes each day. Their message in song and service thrilled the town.

Saturday night at eight o'clock the Daily Vacation Bible School, which has been in progress here for a month at the Baptist church, gave their commencement exercises. Quite a number of the parents and friends attended. Miss Margaret Rich, who was a student at Louisburg College last year, directed the music. The professional was a scene of much beauty.

Rev. James A. Ivey then read the honor rolls for the different departments. The students on the honor roll for the intermediate department were: Lucile Stanley, Pauline Rich, Elizabeth Lewis and Bessie Massengill. In the Junior department: Levondus Baker, E. B. Johnson, Ruth Barbour, Hazel Parker. There were 104 students enrolled with an average attendance of 57. Mrs. J. A. Ivey had charge of the primary department. Their exercises were very interesting. Mrs. J. W. Sanders taught the Junior department. Their memory work is wonderful. They had learned many things about the Bible that the older people do not know. Mrs. Ivey had charge of the Intermediates. That department dramatized the story of Ruth. Miss Marvel Sanders played the part of Ruth. Misses Annie Belle Thornton, Bessie Massengill, Catherine Barbour, took part in the play. The boys that took part were: Shelton Lewis, B. I. Tart, Clifton Grant, Richard Thornton, Obed Keene. The people then looked at the work these pupils had done. The sewing, building of little houses, tables, etc., were very, very good.