

## HIDES BABY UNDER STRAW

Nettie Graham Young Moral Derelict, is Taken to Columbia

## HUMAN INTEREST STORY

Great Work Being Done by Board of Public Welfare in This State

The taking of Nettie Graham and her baby to the public welfare institution in Columbia recently, by J. S. Vaught, Judge of Probate for Horry County, ends a human interest story involving moral turpitude in young people as well as in older ones, and a possible reform which may in time produce more useful members of some community.

The facts of the case have not been generally known. They are being published for the first time now. It all shows the great work that is being done by the State Board of Public Welfare, through and by means also of the better class of our people and their officers of government.

It dates back to about July 1922, when citizens of a section of Dog Bluff township came to the Judge of Probate and made complaint that a young woman, about twenty years of age, a daughter of George Graham, was off in the woods with a young infant which she was managing to take care of in some way, and without the aid of family or friends, and without the usual comforts of raising the young, and probably with scanty food and clothing that she was able to pick up or that may have been thrown at her by those who had cast her out.

The Judge of Probate looked into it and found that the facts had been correctly reported to him.

He then summoned to a hearing, the girl herself, with the baby, the father of the young woman, and a number of members of the community to testify. He arranged to have it certain if possible that those whom he summoned would be apt to attend.

At the hearing it was brought out that the baby had been born while she lived at the home of her father; that the father had sought to have her take legal steps against another who appears to be a relative by blood or marriage, and failing in this, he cast her out. She went off with the baby. Later the father got sorry and decided that he would try to get her to let him take the baby and raise it. By another person, used by him as a messenger, he got possession of the child. Still later he found it too hard a job, as he was a widower, and not anxious to marry again, so he gave the baby to Fred Lewis to have and to hold.

Some time after this baby had been given to Fred Lewis, the mother, having worried her heart sore over its absence, slipped up to the Lewis place and stole the baby back again, so that at the time the complaints were made before Judge Vaught, she was hiding off in the woods, keeping it amid piles of pine straw, and sheltered from the rain by a little house made of pine bark and branches picked up by her mother in the pine groves.

Fred Lewis appeared at the hearing and laid claim to the baby. He employed an attorney to fight his case and he was thoroughly interested in getting back what he claimed was his own by right of gift from the mother herself. But what legal right did he have to the child? It had not been bound to him in the way provided by the laws of South Carolina. A dozen lawyers, of the smartest sort could not establish any legal claim for him.

An important witness, that the court needed was not at the hearing, although such care had been used in summoning the parties. The case was continued.

Then the court decided to put the matter in the hands of the board of public welfare. He wrote and told the board the facts. The board promised to look after the case.

The board was rather slow in taking it up further with Judge Vaught, and by this means the hearing was not held for another session. Several months passed and the matter had almost been forgotten. Then one day citizens came again to the court to make complaint. The woman was in the woods still, living there and taking care of the helpless infant as she had been doing before; and the report was that more babies, twins, had been born in the meantime.

Another letter was hastily sent off to Columbia and in a few days the board sent Mrs. Wooten, of Columbia, to investigate. Coming to Conway an appointment was made for her to go with Judge Vaught into the country to look for the mother and her offspring. They went in a car most of the way. Arriving in the neighborhood of the place where reports said the girl was hidden, they took to the woods and commenced looking for her. They found her with the baby in a bed of leaves and straw; the aforesaid report as to other babies being in a way untrue; but the girl was not in good health, neither was the baby.

They decided to use arguments and try to get the girl to come with them without resistance. After talking with her for some time she agreed to

## L. D. MAGRATH FINISHES TANK

Also the System Which Refines Conway Water Supply

L. D. Magrath is about to complete for the town of Conway the addition to the public water system, consisting of an efficient filtration and settling plant for the water, which comes from the big artesian well.

Until this new work had been finished so that it could be used some time last week, the water from the well was pumped directly from the flow as it came from the ground into the elevated supply tank and from thence furnished through the mains to all of the hydrants and other water fixtures of the town. This was accomplished by means of a feed pipe inserted inside of the large casing of the well so that the artesian flow always furnish the supply at the end of this feed pipe. Coming up with all of this artesian water there is always more or less sand and gravel from the strata of earth from which the artesian flow is taken down at the end of the casing. This accumulation of sand and gravel can be found near the outlets of nearly all wells put down in this section of the country. With these things in the water, it could not be taken through the pipes for a long time without the danger of accumulations in the pipes that would obstruct and corrode them in time.

This fact was also one thing against the water as not being clear and pure as it might have been. Another thing was the natural gases formed by the action of chemical forces found in the soil and the rocks of the up-country where this artesian water originates and soaks down between different strata of rocks to be taken up by the pipes of these artesian wells. This gas could be seen in the water after it was drawn from the cocks at the water fixtures, the bath tubs, basins and the like.

The purpose of the new plant, now completed except the housings, was to eliminate the sand and the gravel, also the natural gas formed in the water imprisoned under the ground. The work has been successful and the system is now delivering the pure artesian water without any trace of any sand and without any sign of this gas, which in itself did no harm except to detract from the appearance of the water at times when drawn.

The new plant consists of a large concrete basin which measures 23 feet by 60 feet, from which the clear water is pumped into the elevated supply tank; two smaller basins at the side of this through which the water flows on its way from the artesian flow, entering through a pipe at the bottom of the first; thence passing over through a cross pipe from the surface of this first basin into the second basin, entering this also through the pipe near the bottom; thence passing, cool and clear over the concrete wall of the second settling basin into the large basin above described and from thence lifted into the supply tank as above mentioned.

The sand is left in the two compartments through which the water first passes and only a small quantity will ever pass from these into the larger basin. The system has in addition a very ingenious and efficient way of draining off the sand from the basins just as often as this may accumulate so as to give trouble in the working of the flow of water. By means of cocks and a large drain pipe the whole force of the water can be turned into a drainage system and the sand washed out into the waste in the twinkling of the eye.

When looked over, the middle of last week, all of this work had been completed except the building of the house over the basins. The material for this was on the ground ready for the workmen awaiting better weather for this work to be done. It will be made tight so that nothing can get

accompany them. They brought her and her baby to Conway and arranged lodging for them at a boarding house.

On the following day the Judge of Probate took the girl and her baby to Columbia. He had been instructed to leave her at the Door of Hope. When he got there the office was closed and he could not get her in there, and he was informed that the Door of Hope did not take babies.

Judge Vaught then went back to the board and left the two in charge of the board. He has not heard from the matter since he closed the transaction recently, he feels sure that the board has placed the baby in some good family through the Child Placing Bureau, where it will be legally adopted as a member of a good family, and if this has not been done yet, it is sure to be done before they are through with it; while there is, too, a better outlook for the mother of the infant.

This girl, according to reports, had a common school education, could speak and write intelligently. That she has been misled by some one who should answer for it, is the opinion of all who have heard the story.

Such aid as this which the board is able to do in this sad case and in many similar cases all over this state, proves that it is one of the best institutions we have.

## AUDITOR HOLDS UNTIL APRIL 18th

The matter of turning over the affairs of the Auditor's office of Horry County to the new Auditor, Mr. J. A. Calhoun, was somewhat muddled according to a news item published in a recent issue of the Herald.

The Herald stated that the new Auditor had taken charge of the office, or words to that effect. This was an error. Mr. Calhoun was at the court house but he was there to aid County Treasurer, C. E. Barker in collecting the taxes. He did not know at first just when he would be expected to take charge of the affairs of the auditor's office. Later a letter was received from Columbia which showed that Mr. Adams' time would not be out, under his commission, until April 18th, 1923; and on that date the new Auditor will take charge.

The management of N. C. Adams, though carried out with much labor owing to the frequent changes in the school districts, and the addition of more districts, has been eminently efficient and satisfactory to his constituents.

The newly elected County Auditor has had a long experience in clerical work and he will no doubt manage the affairs of this important office with much credit to himself.

## BOND ISSUE! ROAD SYSTEM

Columbia.—South Carolina is on the threshold of what may be the greatest era of road progress ever known in the state, according to members of the "committee of eight," appointed by the recent conference called by Governor Harvey, and at its meeting in Columbia Thursday the committee outlined an ambitious program, which if the state puts into effect, will put South Carolina on an equal footing with other progressive states and ahead of many in the South, with a county seat hard-surfaced road system.

The road program will be finally acted upon by the second sitting of the governor's conference here today, January 11th, which prominent people from every county are expected to attend. The action of the gathering will be reported to the legislature, as the people's program for a state highway system of hard-surfaced roads connecting county seats.

The main features of the proposed plan are as follows:

1. A bond issue for \$50,000,000.
2. A 100 per cent increase in motor vehicle license fees (except trucks).
3. A three per cent tax on gasoline, in lieu of the present two cents tax, and also a tax on lubricating oils when used in automobiles.
4. The proceeds of the gasoline tax and the increased licenses to be used for maintenance and sinking fund, but prior to the issue of the bonds, which would probably be about two years, hence, allowing time for the necessary legislation the vote of the people, and the details connected with the issue of the paper, the proceeds of these special taxes to be used for maintenance of roads already built and construction of new roads.

The committee declined to accept the report of the subcommittee for a \$25,000,000 bond issue and a hard-surface program combined with top soil and sand clay roads, the hard-surface highways to be built according to the traffic density. In lieu of this recommendation of its own subcommittee it was decided to recommend a county seat to county seat program.

It was the general opinion that no vote could be taken until the regular election in 1924, but no definite answer could be given. The same subcommittee was asked to make up the report to be submitted to the convention. (Continued On Editorial Page.)

into the system to contaminate the water.

While making the new plant, Mr. Magrath remodeled the piping from the well with all of its attachments so that this is in good condition and laid below the frost line to prevent freezing. With the old construction the pipe had to be packed to avoid a repetition of the bursting which occurred on one occasion during a cold winter and the town was without water for several days.

The new plant is built on another lot of land sixty by twenty feet donated by the Burroughs & Collins Company, to the town for so long as the land is used for this water system. Before that time they had donated the main lot of land on which the large tank with its steel tower was erected.

Mr. Magrath has completed this improvement during the last year of his administration as mayor of Conway. He was the engineer who planned it. He not only planned it in a way that was efficient and adequate for all time to come, but he gave his personal time and attention to the work of construction, employing only such labor and skill as he could get in Conway. The work is a monument to his training and skill, and to the wholehearted service which he rendered in his office and which he was more than willing to do.

The cost of the work has been two thousand and two hundred dollars, using the round numbers.

## CO-OPERATION IN MARKETING

Editor Herald:

Having read so many articles referring to the Tobacco Marketing Association, I want to say a few words. I am now simply convinced that the association is the salvation for tobacco growers, and that every one who fights the association is just trying to cut his own throat. I have studied and watched the marketing of fruits here by the associations and through the chamber of commerce and personal interview with old settlers here. I find the following to be facts: Prior to the organization of fruit growers' association apricots were selling for 3 and 4 cents per pound. Peaches were selling around 5 cents per pound, and 10 cents was top market for almonds, figs brought 2 and 3 cents per pound. Hundreds of tons of fruit was never gathered for it would not pay expenses of gathering and drying. Here are present prices today from my own personal observations:

Apricots sold this year for 25 cents per pound; peaches 12 to 15 cents; almonds, 21 cents, figs 10 cents. These are association prices, delivered at the several warehouses owned by them and of course independent buyers' prices were the same. The association sets prices on all fruits and independent buyers are governed accordingly. Another thing I wish to call attention to is the dairy product prices previous to the entry of the Northern California Milk Producers' Association in the field. The farmer was getting 28 cents to 30 cents per pound for butterfat and today to my own knowledge, the farmer is getting 57 to 58 cents per pound for it, and pure creamery butter is retailing today for 60 cents per pound which only leaves a margin of 2 to 3 cents between producer and consumer, so you can readily see that the farmer is getting every thing possible for his cream. You see this is only a margin of 3 cents between the raw product and the retail price on manufactured goods. Why can't other industries operate on a margin similar to this. Who gets the difference between the price say of 20 cents per pound the farmer receives for his tobacco and the 60 to 80 cents he has to pay for the manufactured product. Another big industry of this state is raising growing, which is all practically handled through the association. There is only about 4 cents per pound difference between what the grower gets for his raisins here than what you pay for them in your grocery store. Last summer when your canteloupes, and watermelons were rotting on you for lack of a market the farmer here was getting 12 1-2 cents each for canteloupes and 25 to 50 cents each for watermelons. Cabbage selling for 6 cents per pound. All the year sweet potatoes are \$3.50 per bushel. I have talked to several farmers who state that if it were not for the association they would cut out their orchards. Land is selling here for \$300 to \$1,000 per acre, according to improvements, but let me say that Horry County lands are far superior to any land in this country with exception of delta lands around Sacramento. All the crops here are grown by irrigation as we have no rains from about the first of April to first of November, and water is an expensive part of farming. Wells have to be sunk 200 to 300 feet deep and it takes around a 25 horsepower motor to lift this water with a centrifugal or turbine pumps, and the power company does not forget to charge for the current whether used or not. And I fully believe today that Horry County would be one of the richest sections in the United States if they only had the marketing systems for all products as California has. Horry County has as fine lands as I have seen anywhere. I don't know of any other state that has five seasons except South Carolina. Suppose it cost the farmers of Horry three dollars per acre to water his crop every time during the year that this was necessary, you can see

## W. R. BRITT PASSES AWAY

Illness Which Lingered Dated From About Eighteen Months Ago

Many were saddened last Thursday evening when they heard that W. R. Britt had passed away at about the hour of 3 o'clock on that day; following an illness which had lingered for about eighteen months. He is survived by his wife and children, the latter being all about of age. He is survived by two daughters who are married. Two of his sons, Walter and Percy, are both printers.

He was a prominent member of several fraternal organizations. He was a skillful carpenter and worked at this trade for many years. At one time he was engaged in the mercantile business as a groceryman in Conway. After closing out his store, which was located on the eastward side of Main Street, near where the brick building of the Gents Furnishing Company now stands, he became more devoted to the trade, which he had learned in his youth. His work on many buildings in Conway will attest to his efficiency and skill as a worker of wood and metal.

His death was doubtless result of the effects of an accident which happened to him in Hopewell, Va., in the early days of January A. D. 1916. He had gone to that town, with a number of others from Horry County, to engage in his trade.

There was very little or no work of that kind going on in Conway at that time. Everything had fallen flat, owing to the low prices of cotton and other farm products. In Virginia the DuPonts established a big factory for the manufacture of gun cotton under a three-year contract that the company had with England. A town sprung up at the place almost overnight. The new town was known as Hopewell, and it was the place where thousands of workmen from all over the South went to work for the high wages of sixty-two and one-half cents per hour offered by the DuPont Company for operators.

W. R. Britt went there with a number of others. One morning he was passing along a crowded street. The weather had been wet and the new streets were all in the rough. They had been cut up deep by the wheels of heavily laden vehicles carrying the traffic of a new city. A negro boy riding a horse was passing around a corner just as Mr. Britt was trying to get by. The negro reared his horse and trampled Mr. Britt into the mud. The heavy shod feet of the horse striking him in the head and painfully bruising his body in many places.

He was taken to a hospital and lingered for a long time between life and death. Finally he was able to get up and go back to work, but he was never the same man again. The negro was run down and finally caught, a time was fixed for his trial, but in one way or another he went unpunished for his act. One reason for a continuance of the case against the negro at Hopewell on occasion, as reported here, Mr. Britt was still sick and could not appear to testify. The officers finally dismissed the case.

The scene at Hopewell at the present time is said to be quite different from what it was then.

## BANKER STATES HIS TESTIMONY

Hearing Commences in Farmers and Merchants Bank Case

## BIG EXPENSE FIRST YEAR

Facts of Failure of Defunct Bank Comes Back to Memory

The trial of the case brought by W. A. Freeman, as receiver of the Farmers & Merchants Bank under order of the court, against the administrators of the personal estate of W. R. Lewis, L. D. Magrath, George Officer, J. J. Williams, W. B. Hucks, Robbie Stalvey and W. B. Chestnut as defendants, commenced at the court house on last Wednesday before C. P. Quattlebaum, appointed by the court as special master to hear the case and report his decision to the court on both the law and the facts.

This suit is evidently in the nature of a claim which might have been advanced by the stockholders of the now defunct bank. The action which is now maintained by Mr. Freeman as receiver under the law is for the benefit of the people who invested their money in the capital stock of the bank that failed.

There was some delay in bringing (Continued On Back Page.)

this would be a big item which they could not afford. Well, this is what it costs the California farmer for water, and he could not afford it until the associations says: "I will get you a profitable market for your product." M. D. MISHOE, Kirkwood, Calif., Dec. 30th, 1922.

## BANK HISTORY BROUGHT BACK

Hearing Set in Action by Receiver Against Directors

W. PERCY HARDWICK

Formed Bank at Aynor Which Failed and Injured the Conway Institution

The hearing that was set for last Wednesday in the case of W. A. Freeman, as receiver of the Farmers & Merchants Bank against the estate of W. R. Lewis, one of the directors and against a number of others, Robbie Stalvey, W. Percy Hardwick, J. J. Williams, W. B. Hucks, George Officer, L. D. Magrath and W. B. Chestnut, all of whom were at one time the directors of the bank; brought back to mind the establishment of the institution, and its career which lasted about two years.

Some of the matters of interest connected with it will follow in this article.

The Farmers & Merchants Bank, of Conway, S. C. opened its doors on December 13th, 1913.

Among the names of the defendants now being sued appears the name of W. Percy Hardwick.

So far as this establishment of the bank went, especially the procuring of subscriptions to its capital stock, and the details of its organization and methods of doing business, its policy in regard to making loans, at least in the beginning; these were all the product of the activity of Mr. Hardwick. It is true that he may have been encouraged by others in his efforts to establish this bank as a new financial institution at that time; but his was the idea and his was the work of carrying it out.

Hardwick had been connected here with one of the first banks ever established in Conway. He held the position for several years which placed him in the front office of the institution to deal with the depositors, and the people who applied there for financial assistance or to cash their checks. Whether it was cashier, or assistant cashier, the writer of this article cannot now recall, but it is well to remember that he was placed in direct contact with the people who patronized the bank.

In those days he became extremely popular. He was the most obliging, attentive, and accommodating banker that the town possessed. He did not treat his customers there with either coolness or indifference. When a farmer called in it was, "Hello John, how is your crop getting on this time? How did you leave the folks?" If it was a merchant the question would likely be, "You have a good business now, what will be the amount of your business this year over that which you had last year?" No matter what kind of man came into that bank, Percy Hardwick had a good word for him. He was liked by every customer of the bank and he had such a popularity that he soon was apparently to establish any kind of business that might strike his fancy. If friends had money they would deposit it with him.

He conceived an idea of establishing another bank in Conway. He talked it to others on the quiet and interested many people in the new enterprise.

But the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Conway was not his first venture.

It was in May or June 1913 that he conceived the idea of establishing a bank at Aynor. The Farmers State Bank of that town was the result. Of that bank he was the president and he found no trouble in getting plenty of money for the buying of the stock. Depositors also followed to make the bank apparently a success.

After establishing the Farmers State Bank of Aynor, he soon got to work on his main idea which was the making of a bank at Conway. He began the organization of the Bank of Conway about September or October, 1913.

When his connection with the older bank with which he had worked for so long, was severed, the old institution suffered in the matter of customers. Many of those who had been regular depositors in the older bank at once changed their accounts to the new bank.

A building was secured on Third Avenue, near the Conway Bargain House building, and which is the same place now occupied by the jewelry store of J. E. Dawsey.

The two new banks ran through the year of 1914. The Farmers State Bank of Aynor went under before the end of 1915. About the close of the same year the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Conway closed its doors.

The Farmers State Bank of Aynor went under and was closed up first. This caused a run to be made on the Conway institution. Hardwick had been connected with the bank at Aynor and it had failed. This caused a gradual dropping off of deposits at the Conway institution and a rather rapid withdrawal of accounts that had been enjoyed by the Conway bank up to that time.

This is believed by many, and not without reason, to have been the real cause of the failure of the Farmers (Continued On Editorial Page.)