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TWO DIE IN PISTOL DUEL AT TOPTON

Boys Entered Cafe As Friends; Trivial Joke Said To Have Precipitated Gun Play

Two men are dead and another is wounded as a result of a pistol duel in a cafe at Tipton last Saturday night.

Victor Birchfield, 22, son of Sheriff D. M. Birchfield, of Cherokee county, and his cousin, Emmet Wright, 26, of Tipton, were fatally wounded and Arnold Wright, 18, an innocent bystander, was slightly wounded during the pistol battle which occurred as a result of a trivial joke, according to witnesses.

The two victims of the fight were apparently on good terms, Birchfield having taken supper at the Wright home earlier in the evening, when they entered the cafe Saturday night about 8 o'clock. Others in the restaurant were scarcely aware that anything unusual was under way until the firing started.

Face Deadly Hail

They continued shooting, neither giving an inch of ground under the deadly hail of bullets, until both fell mortally wounded. Wright was carried to his home a few hundred feet from the scene of the duel, and died almost instantly. Birchfield was taken to the home of his father near Tomlin and died at 8 o'clock Sunday morning.

The cousin of Wright was wounded in the hip but a medical examination at an Asheville hospital where he was carried following the shooting, disclosed that he was not dangerously wounded.

Emmet Wright was the son of Tom Wright, of Tipton, and is survived by his parents, his widow and two small children. Birchfield is survived by his parents, two sisters and one brother.

The men had been together all day, according to reports, and appeared to be the best of friends. After they entered the cafe they had been seated only a very few minutes when a trivial joke caused them to become deadly enemies in an instant, and led to the shooting that cost them their lives. Both men were well known in this section.

Funeral services were held for Wright Sunday afternoon at the First Baptist church at Andrews by Rev. W. H. Ford, assisted by Vaughn Kinsey.

Last rites for young Birchfield were held Monday morning at Andrews by the Rev. Clay Whitaker. Interment of the two young men were in the Andrews cemetery, within less than 100 yards of each other.

No investigation of the affair is expected as both were slain in the pistol battle.

Victim Tells Story

Arnold Wright, when questioned at the Mission hospital Sunday night by a Citizen representative, gave an eye witness' version of the affair. He had gone to the cafe with the two men after they had had supper together. His statement of the shooting was as follows:

"We all went to the restaurant together, I went in the restaurant with my cousins, but was not so near them when they began shooting. I do not know what statement or joke it was that started the shooting, but the first thing I knew both were shooting at each other at close range. One was using a .38 calibre special and the other a 32-30 pistol, Victor shot six times and Emmet shot five times. There were three or four others in the cafe besides my cousins and myself.

"It all happened so quickly that I did not realize much about it until I had a bullet in my hip. Emmet and Victor had always been quarrelsome and fractious about little things, but they had never had any real trouble before this. I was not paying any attention to the conversation in the

BILL INCREASES SCHOOL BOARD TO 6 MEMBERS

Three Other Bills Affecting Cherokee County Are Passed By The Legislature

A bill changing the membership of the Murphy School Board and increasing the number from three to six passed the legislature on Friday of last week. The new law becomes effective at once, and names the following as members: Dr. R. S. Parker, Thos. S. Evans, W. S. Dickey, J. D. Mallonee, Dr. J. N. Hill, and S. D. Akin. The old board was composed of D. Witherspoon, chairman; Mrs. M. W. Bell, secretary-treasurer and C. M. Wofford.

The new board will meet the first Monday in March and organize by electing a chairman and secretary-treasurer, it was stated.

Among other bills passed by the legislature affecting this county are the following:

Road bill, consolidating the road laws of the county. The road laws remain practically the same, and the membership is the same with the exception of one, M. L. Mauney, of Peachtree taking the place of N. E. Dockery.

Reward Bill, authorizing that officers shall be paid \$25 for each bootlegger convicted, the reward becoming a part of the fine imposed upon conviction. Officers are already paid \$10.00 for each still captured and \$10.00 for each man caught with the still.

Fish bill, authorizing the abolishment of license fees for fishing in the county. Otherwise the law remains the same, it is understood.

LANCE RAISES HOG WEIGHING 750 POUNDS

R. L. Lance of the Belleview section, near the Georgia-N. C. state line, brought to Murphy this week one of the largest hogs ever seen in this section. It weighed 755 pounds after being dressed, the scales of the F. D. Dickey Feed Company being used.

The hog was twenty-six months old, full blood Poland-China stock, and the feed used was mostly corn and rye, Mr. Lance stated.

Mr. Lance brought the animal to Murphy to sell, along with a number of others but on account of its size no market was found here. The local market for pork dressed is 15 1-2 cents per pound, which if sold, would make this hog alone worth \$117.02. Mr. Lance stated that he had sold more than \$500.00 worth of pork in the last few months.

cafe as they had not been arguing about anything at home or on the way to the cafe. I think they both had been drinking, but were not drunk, Emmet was placed in a car to be taken to Andrews, but died on the way, and Victor died at 8 o'clock this morning. I have always thought that Victor and Emmet were friends, although we all knew that they argued all the time about little matters. I had not heard any argument and we had been in the cafe but a few minutes when the shooting began."

An X-Ray picture was made of young Wright's hip. The bullet is still in his hip but will not prove serious the doctors think. He was carried to Asheville Sunday by relatives.

The shooting affray is indeed a sad occurrence. Both young men were members of prominent families in the county and were well known in this section.

"Yes, he has retired from politics and is raising extensive fruit orchards."

"All of his trees are grafted I suppose?"

BILL WOULD FORCE FIRM TO BUILD DAMS

Most Of County's Power Sites Are Tied Up, Is Charge

(Asheville Citizen.)

RELEIGH, N. C., Feb. 18.—A bill to amend the charter of the Carolina-Tennessee Power company, introduced by W. P. Odom, representative from Cherokee county, and referred to judiciary committee No. 2 of the House, came on for hearing this afternoon. The bill seeks to require the Carolina-Tennessee Power company to begin actual construction of its three proposed dams in Cherokee with one year and to diligently prosecute the work to completion and in default the attorney general is authorized to institute proceedings to repeal the power company's charter.

This power company was chartered in North Carolina in 1909 and since that time is said to have acquired practically every water power development site in Cherokee and has as yet begun no actual work on its dams.

Development Needed

It was pointed out to the committee that Cherokee's resources were undeveloped for lack of electrical power and that the building of these dams would mean a new era for the most western section of the state, aside from the fact that several million dollars would be expended in Cherokee in developing the water power rights.

The committee was informed that some three years ago the president of this power company had stated that he and his associates could develop their water power properties as soon as the then litigation was ended, and that though the litigation had ceased over two years ago, nothing looking toward the actual developing of these properties had been done.

W. V. N. Powelson spoke to the committee for several minutes and offered as an excuse for not going ahead with the developments, the lack of a market for electrical power in Cherokee. One of the power company representatives stated in response to questions by the chairman, that in order to make the development feasible, a market for around 50,000 horsepower would have to be secured. He stated that such a user of power as the Aluminum company of America would have to be secured.

The chairman referred the bill to a sub-committee. It is believed that the bill will either be reported favorably or a substitute offered looking toward the early development of these water powers.

Petitions signed by several hundred Cherokee citizens asking relief were given the committee along with a number of telegrams from prominent citizens of Murphy.

The citizens of Murphy and Cherokee were represented at the hearing by Hon. J. C. Biggs of Raleigh, Attorneys D. Witherspoon, J. D. Mallonee and Mayor Frank S. Hill of Murphy.

The power company was represented by J. C. Martin of Asheville and D. H. Tillitt of Andrews.

Among those attending the hearing and opposing the bill were: W. Mercer Fain, E. P. Hawkins, C. W. Savage, L. E. Bayless, M. L. Mauney, and E. B. Novell of Murphy, and O. L. Anderson of Hayesville.

Mr. Trainor, a factory representative, will give a demonstration of the well known Duco paint and its uses and application, at Brittain and Axley hardware store, Murphy, on Friday, February 26th, and at the office of the Carolina Lumber and Supply Co., Andrews, on Saturday the 26th. See their ad elsewhere in this issue.

SLOAN DIES AT HOME IN TENNESSEE

Formerly Resided in Murphy And Was Well Known Here

Clarence Sloan, 22 years old, former resident of Murphy, died at the home of his parents near Tellico Plains, Tenn., last Wednesday, February 16th, after an illness of three or four days. Heart failure is said to have been the cause of his death.

Young Sloan was well known here, where he resided with his parents, the family moving back to their old home some time ago. His father, O. B. Sloan is now employed with the Murphy Mills here.

Funeral services were held at Tellico Plains. He is survived by his father and mother, three sisters and two brothers, Misses Merle, Rebba and Jean Sloan; and Ulie and Warren Sloan.

Clarence was a quiet likeable boy and made many intimate friends during his sojourn in Murphy, who extend heartfelt sympathy to the family.

GRANDVIEW

There is quite a bit of snow here at the present date.

Miss Hattie McRae of this place, who has been employed at Gastonia, has returned home to spend a while.

Mr. Ernest Kephart and wife visited the latter's mother, Mrs. N. B. Odell, of Boiling Springs, Sunday.

Mr. Clifton Kephart and wife, spent one night last week with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Next Kephart.

Miss Oma Kephart was the guest of Miss Mary Jones one day last week.

The folks of this place are intending to have a singing school to begin this week. We wish them much success.

There was a forest fire in the grape vine cave on the land of Mr. J. T. Hays the 17th.

On February 16 William Has and wife Grace, buried their infant baby at old Hangingdog cemetery.

Mr. Fred Dockrey from Boiling Springs is hauling apples to Murphy and shipping to his father at Madisonville, Tenn.

Mr. W. J. Sosebee visited his old home the past week.

Sheriff Birchfield and deputy Rose seem to be making it hot for the bootleggers. Look after them and brake it up if you can.

Mr. Andy Kephart caught two large oposums the past week.

There is some sickness on Owl Creek at present.

The following announcement has been sent out here:

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Leo Sasser announce the birth of Thomas Livingstone Sasser, Thursday, February seventeenth, nineteen hundred twenty-seven, Murphy, North Carolina.

The Lion's Club held its regular semi-monthly meeting on Tuesday night in the parlors of the Methodist church. The ladies of the church served supper for the public in connection. This was also ladies night with the Lions and a motion carried to dispense with the business and make the occasion a social hour.

If tennis develops the racquet arm of players as 'tis said, then we would back President Coolidge in Tex Richard's heavyweight tourney, since he shook hands with 1,220 people in twenty-seven minutes the other day.

HOT HOUSE ROAD TO HELP THE STATE

New Route To Tennessee Will Cut Distance To West

(Asheville Citizen.)

FRANKLIN, N. C., Feb. 16.—Citizens of Andrews, Murphy, and lower Cherokee county are deeply interested in the construction of a road from Murphy to the Tennessee line. And building this road is of almost equal importance to Franklin, to other towns along Highway No. 28, to towns along N. 10, to Asheville and Western North Carolina, and to Tennessee as well, declares D. S. Russell, of Andrews, secretary of the Cherokee County road commission.

Ninth District Highway Commissioner J. G. Stikeleather recently chose the so-called Hot House route as the most desirable one for a road from Murphy to the Tennessee line. Announcement of his choice brought to an end a county disagreement of long standing, two other routes having been agitated.

The route has been chosen by Mr. Stikeleather, Mr. Russell pointed out, and he no doubt will shortly recommend it to the highway commission. And the next problem is to get the road completed. The Hot House route would cross the Kinsey Mountain connecting with Cleveland.

Would Benefit All

Illustrating the importance of this stretch of proposed road, about 25 miles in length, Mr. Russell placed a ruler on a map, showing that a straight line drawn from Raleigh to Chattanooga, would pass through important manufacturing towns of Piedmont North Carolina, near Asheville, and through Murphy, to Chattanooga, opening up to all the Mississippi valley the mountains of Western North Carolina.

"Now," he said, "where do Franklin, Highlands, Hendersonville, and other towns along No. 28 come in? The answer lies in the fact that the mecca for all these people will be Asheville, and that they will want to come one route and return another."

"When they start for the mountains, they generally will have Asheville, advertised as it is, in mind. They will come to Murphy, and there they can take either of two routes, No. 10 or 28. If they take No. 10, when they get ready to go home they almost certainly are going to come along No. 28, and see a new section of the country."

Route To Chattanooga

"Another reason why this road is important to towns along No. 10, especially Highlands and Franklin, is that visitors coming west pass numbers of towns where they may decide to stop, long before they get to your Macon county cities; whereas coming from Tennessee toward the mountains, they strike only two towns, Murphy, and Hayesville, prior to reaching Franklin. Then Highlands is the next stop."

"The entire Mississippi valley wants to get to the mountains," continued Mr. Russell, "and this would provide it a short and beautiful route. This road would do another thing for our section. It would place Chattanooga, a thriving manufacturing city, as close to us as Asheville and Atlanta are now."

About 15 of the 25 miles of the road has already been graded by Cherokee county and the county has \$50,000 additional to spend on it. But to complete the grading will require, it is estimated, \$70,000. Then the road would have to be improved as to surface.

Mr. Russell believes the road is of importance not only to Cherokee county, but to all Western North Carolina; that it is not a county project but an inter-State proposition.