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## SEVEN NEGROES IN JAIL FOR ASSAULT, ROBBERY

### The Sheriff Lands All Seven of the Assailants of Lonnie Knight; Traced by Flat Tires to Durham; Two Native Chathamites in Bunch

Supposedly, all seven of the negroes connected with the assault and robbery of Mr. Lonnie Knight, an aged bachelor living northeast of Pittsboro, have been arrested and are in jail as this is written Tuesday. A preliminary trial is set for Wednesday. Below is a full account of the robbery, written before the arrests, and it will be noted that it was stated that developments might take place at any time. They have taken place.

A car of seven negro men passing the same road back and forth the same day would naturally be noticed by numbers of people. And when it is added that the car part of the way was running on one rim and on a flat tire, it may be supposed that the recollection of its passing would be much more definite. That was what gave the fellows away. People along the highway, clear to Durham, had noted the car's returning as described. Moreover, it was not altogether impossible to track it, as the rim and the flat tire made distinct impressions in many places.

It was tracked to a garage in Durham. It was found to belong to Roy Lee, a native of Chatham and therefore acquainted with the country and Mr. Knight. He had "turned it in," being unable to pay dues on it and having made a water-haul of the attempt against Mr. Knight's fortune.

Lee's wife, it appears, helped give a list of the men with Lee; and six more were rounded up, namely, Lonnie Bell Lambeth, another Chatham county negro, but a resident of Durham, Leo Huggins, Ransom Durham, LeRoy Monk, Henry Myers, and Emanuel Super.

Sheriff Blair and his officers sought the assailants of Mr. Knight persistently and had had little rest since the robbery. As usual, they made a fine job of it, sustaining the reputation won in former difficult cases.

Below is the account of the crime as written and in type before the arrest:

### ACCOUNT OF THE CRIME

A bunch of seven negroes, got fooled in counting upon the supposed simplicity of Mr. Lonnie Knight, an old bachelor who lives alone in one of the loneliest sections of Chatham county, though it is only a few miles from Pittsboro and a shorter distance from Bynum. Mr. Knight has been generally accounted as having saved practically all the money he has ever made, and the idea has more or less generally prevailed that he, like some other miserly folk, had it about his person or residence. But it was not true. He banks his money, and well it was that he has done so. At the time of the attack of five negroes upon him, he had only sixteen dollars in his pockets, but had bank deposit slips for \$4,000. With these he was able to convince his assailants that he could not lead them to his cache, and, accordingly, their chief care was to stop pursuit as long as possible. They, therefore, bound him with a cow chain, and left him in the house under threat that they would come back and burn the house that night.

But he fooled them again. He managed to free himself from the bonds, and went to his brother Hamp's near Bynum and reported the affair, with the consequence that Sheriff Blair, a very blood hound himself, was soon active. Blood-hounds were secured from Asheboro, and that night a crowd went to the spot. The dogs struck a fresh trail at once, but some of the crowd got in front of the dogs, or in the opinion of some of the officers, the fellow would have been caught. Tracks were discovered in the cotton patch, which indicated that he was running, and it is supposed that this was the man who was left to come back that night, and perhaps the only resident of this immediate section.

Seven negroes were seen by several citizens above Bynum coming this way in a car. They stopped at Seaton Smith's filling station near the Orange county line, and he saw the car when it returned, but there were only six men in it then. The car also stopped at Ibrie Small's, Knight lives, to inquire the way, and the Small woman counted seven men. A little later Ibrie saw the

car as it was leaving the community for the Pittsboro-Chapel Hill highway, and counted only six in it. Accordingly, it is evident that one lurked in the community, or was a resident of the section and separated himself from the bunch of strangers.

The community was once well settled and prosperous, but is now isolated, without roads, or with a criss-cross of cart tracks, so that a stranger could hardly find his way, indicating that there must have been a pilot who knew the country and knew Mr. Knight's reputation for having money. Yet neither Small nor his wife recognized any of them.

Mr. Knight has only one eye and the other is said not to be very good. He recognized none of his assailants, though he thinks he might be able to identify some of them if he could see them. He had not been spending the nights at home for several days, as he had evidence that some one had been about the place one night recently.

It was Friday afternoon, in broad, open daylight, that he approached his home. The bunch of negroes came out of the bushes upon him. In the course of events, he got a blow upon his face, endangering his good eye, but was not so seriously injured that he could not make his way to the home of his brother after effecting his release.

The sheriff is not telling all he knows, and those who may know any of the party of seven and fail to give the information may soon find themselves involved in the trouble. The colored folk of Chatham county should know that the sheriff usually gets his man, and if it turns out that some one has denied knowing any of them and when the right men are caught it is shown that he did know one or more, it would likely go hard with the liar. The sheriff has warned these folk to that effect. Two have been held as witnesses, the sheriff suspecting that they have not told all they know.

The bank deposit slips were later found near the place where assault occurred. This is written Monday and developments may occur at any time.

### MAYOR WILSON PROTESTS HEARING WIGGINS CASE

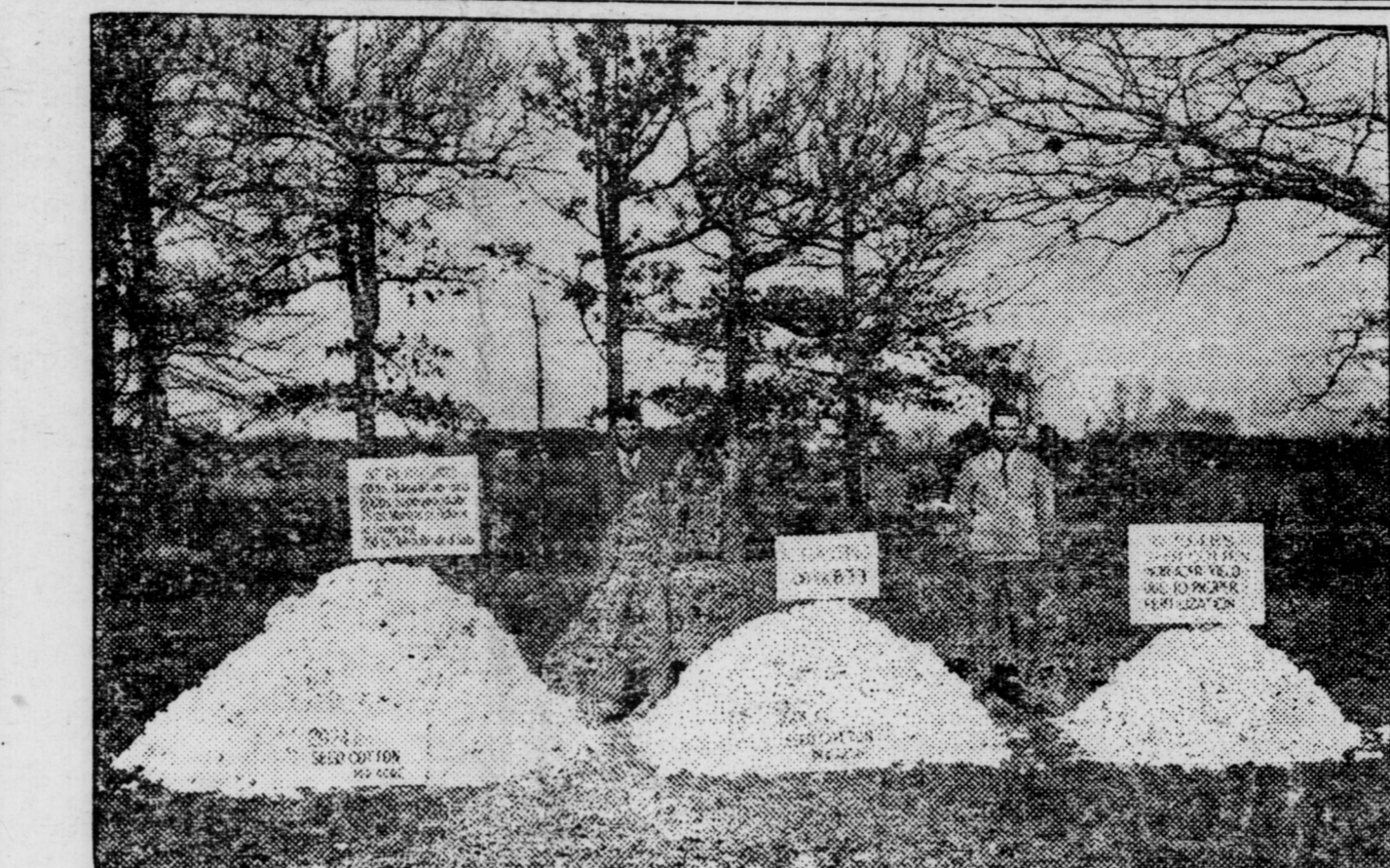
Mayor George E. Wilson of Charlotte has protested to Governor Gardner against removal of the case against the five men charged with killing Ella May Wiggins to Charlotte. Mr. Wilson says that Charlotte got lots of unfavorable publicity by having the Aderholt murder case tried there and he does not want a repetition of that. The governor replied that the matter of locating the trial was entirely up to Judge Clements, who last week ordered it moved to Mecklenburg from Gaston upon motion of Attorney General Dennis G. Brummitt. Solicitor Carpenter refused to join in the motion for removal, and the defense also opposed it. But Mr. Brummitt acting for the state asked for removal and secured it.

### HENDERSON SAYS HE'LL TALK NICE

Radio fans have been right much interested in the campaign being conducted by K. W. Henderson over station KWKH, Shreveport, La., against the chain stores. Members of congress have taken cognizance of Henderson's line of talk and the radio commission has also warned him against the use of profane and vulgar language. A few days ago Mr. Henderson wired the radio commission that he had never used curse words as the dictionary defined them, but that out of respect for the wishes of some of his audience he would hereafter refrain from the use of such words as "hell" and "damn."

### TARIFF LEAGUE SPENT \$40,000 IN CAMPAIGN

The American Tariff League spent \$40,000 during the 1928 campaign to assist in electing candidates pledged to a high tariff, according to recent disclosures at Washington. Senator Walsh thinks this a violation of the corrupt practices act and has asked for an investigation.



The above cut shows graphically how J. Wilson Alexander of Cornelius, Mecklenburg County, won the State championship in growing cotton for 1929. Mr. Alexander produced nearly 11½ five-hundred pound bales of lint cotton on five acres of land. The work was done in cooperation with D. W. Easom, agricultural teacher at Cornelius high school, and Kope Elias, county agent of Mecklenburg County.

### WEEKS MOTOR CO. HERE BANKRUPT

Liabilities Listed at \$22,724.25  
and Assets as \$19,563.96—  
Petition in Voluntary Bankruptcy Filed Friday

The Weeks Motor Company of Pittsboro is seeking voluntary bankruptcy. A petition was filed in Greensboro last Friday, in which the liabilities were listed at \$22,724.25 and the assets at \$19,563.96. Of the liabilities \$17,302.67 is unsecured, and of the assets \$15,000 represents insurance. The doors have been closed since Friday night.

The failure is undoubtedly due to the unprecedented series of poor crops in Chatham county. Before buying the business here, Mr. J. C. Weeks, who, with his father before him, was a friend of the editor of the Chatham Record, consulted this writer upon the advisability of buying the business. The writer told him that the time was unauspicious, as the county had had several bad crops and the financial condition was unpromising, but when times became normal the location would be a profitable one. It seemed reasonable at that time to expect a better crop year soon, but instead of a better one the crops have got poorer and poorer each year since he bought the business. Moreover, immediately after he had bought the business, Ford changed his model and for a year the Weeks Motor Company, as other Ford agencies, was seriously injured by its inability to get any cars. The consequence was that when the new Fords and the Chevrolet and other low-priced cars, did come upon the market, there were so many old ones ready for the bonneyard that many new cars were bought. The improved roads and the greater stanchness of the new cars have brought a great slump in repair work, and has cut off the income of practically all garages. Accordingly, his friends knew that he was having a hard time to pull through, and as everybody else is having during these times cursed with a series of crop failures and Hoover prosperity at the same time. But no one seemed to be expecting the business to fail, since all of us have got to expecting to see the people save themselves by the skin of their teeth. Accordingly, the closing of the doors was a great surprise and shock to the people, and much sympathy is felt for Mr. Weeks and for the employees of the company, who are thrown out of jobs.

At this writing there is no intimation as to whether the business will be reopened under other auspices, but it will be a bold man that undertakes the task at this period, and few there, doubtless, are who would cry if the heartless Ford could find successors to the numerous firms breaking in the handling of his cars.

Mr. Weeks is a good business man and if anybody could have succeeded under the circumstances, we believe he could have done so. His integrity is beyond question, and the experience is bound to be a bitter one for him.

His brother A. D. Weeks, now located in Florida, is understood to have been associated with Mr. J. C. Weeks in financing the company.

### 2 FOR LIEUT. GOVERNOR

The town of Marion is a little forehanded in the matter of candidates for lieutenant governor. Although the primary is over two years off that one town has two candidates in the field—W. F. Wood and D. F. Giles, both former state senators.

### AUTO EXPENSES TO LOWER INCOME TAX

Several Items May Be Deducted From Total Duce U. S.;  
Motor Club Gives List

North Carolina car owners who file federal income tax returns may deduct several items growing out of ownership and operation of automobiles, according to a schedule appearing in the current issue of the Carolina Motorist, official publication of the Carolina Motor Club.

In this State the gasoline tax is levied as a consumer's tax and under the federal rulings the total sum paid as gas tax may be deducted, as well as all registration fees, driver's licenses, State personal property taxes and municipal taxes, it is pointed out by C. W. Roberts, general manager of the club.

The schedule, showing items which may be deducted, follows:

All sums paid during the calendar year as registration fees, drivers' licenses, state personal property taxes and municipal taxes.

Total sum paid as gasoline tax where it is a consumer's tax under the law but not where it is a distributor's tax.

Interest on money borrowed for the purchase of an automobile used for either business or pleasure.

All operating and maintenance expenses, including depreciation (usually figured at 20 per cent per annum) on automobiles used wholly for business; or a pro rata share of such expenses representing business use where a passenger car is used chiefly (more than 50 per cent) for business.

Automobile insurance on automobiles used for business purposes. Uncompensated losses sustained by reason of damage to any automobile used for either pleasure or business.

Damage paid for injuries to persons or destruction of property, provided the automobile at the time of the accident was being used for business.

Amount of finance charges on automobile purchased which covers interest and risk on the loan, but not the amount covering the premium on insurance to protect the finance company's interest.

Loss sustained where an automobile used for business purposes is traded in for a new car.

The following important items of expense may not be deducted:

The amount paid for an automobile used for either business or pleasure (this being a capital expenditure and subject to claim for depreciation where the automobile is used for business purposes.)

Loss sustained where an automobile used for pleasure is traded in for a new car.

### WINBORNE NAMED TO CORPORATION COMM.

I. M. Bailey has resigned as corporation commissioner to assume his old job as attorney for the commission and Governor Gardner has appointed Stanley Winborne of Windsor in his place. Mr. Bailey formerly drew \$5000 as attorney for the commission. Then he was offered the place as commissioner at the same salary, plus \$1,000 for services as securities commissioner, and he accepted. The corporation commission later fixed the salary of the attorney at \$7,500 and Mr. Bailey resigned as commissioner to take his old job back.

### COURT ADJOURNED LAST WEDNESDAY

Road Sentences of Sugar Stealers Changed to Penitentiary Terms—Many Other Cases Tried

The following cases were disposed of in superior court last week: Judgment absolute on Coble Lane's bond was rendered. Case against W. C. Booth was dropped. Execution on bond of Paul Adams ordered. Judgment absolute on bond of Will Brays; also judgment absolute on bond of Henry McLeod; also of George Cheek. Judgment absolute on bond of John Pennington, and case continued.

Judgment absolute on bond of Jim Cotten. Capias for M. A. Phillips, who failed to answer when called. Odessa Crutchfield sued for divorce but the divorce was granted to her husband Gaston Crutchfield, as it seemed the wife was the sinner.

R. F. Horne case continued. Case against Joseph Burnett remanded to county court.

The sentences of the sugar stealers were reported last week. But the road sentences were changed to penitentiary sentences when the sheriff reported that he could not place the nine negroes on the roads of any county, and that Chatham does not have a chain gang. The revised sentences were as follows: Loyd Moore 12 to 15 months in State Prison; Horton Taylor, ditto; Dan Williams, the same; Sandy Rogers the same; Loyd Moore the same; Clyde Yarboro, 4 to 6 months; Claude Williams two to three years; Floyd Harris, two to three years; Henry Alston two and a half to three years; Jackson Alston, the same.

Colon Moore, convicted of reckless driving as reported last week, had judgment suspended to October terms on condition that he pay \$25 for the benefit of Misses Sadie and Daisie Oldham, and \$75 to Lonnie Oldham, owner of the wrecked car, also the costs of the action in the case. Thus it costs young Dollar, altogether, \$300 for stopping at a side-road with one wheel on the pavement about eight inches.

Garrett Marsh, liquor charge, four months on roads, but capias not to issue except at order of solicitor—practically not at all if he behaves. But Marsh must pay costs.

Capias for Ralph Slade, who failed to answer; also for Charlie Johnson; also for F. N. Miller.

Continuances of cases against Lemuel Farrar and A. A. Thacker. W. B. Merritt acquitted of unlawful moving of crop, but Truby Horton guilty. The latter to pay costs. Judgment continued till May term.

Case against Eddie Goldston continued.

The grand jury made an interesting report, having found everything in good shape and "the county's money judiciously expended." There are about 30 in the county home, with meat plenty and 150 barrels of corn on hand. The grand jury again recommended certain installation in the jail and presses the commissioners to heed the recommendation.

Court adjourned Wednesday evening.

The docket has been greatly reduced by the county court.

Reports of Secretary Davis indicate that employment conditions are better in all major industries. Steel, iron and automobile industries are especially good, it is said. This is the first improvement shown since the stock market crash last fall.

## COUNTY TEACHERS HAVE GOOD MEET

### Last Friday a Red Letter Day for the Chatham County Teachers—Dr. McKee Speaks—Also Others

The meeting of the Chatham County Teachers Association, at Pittsboro last Friday, January 17, was most satisfactory and instructive.

The visiting teachers, of the county, owe much to the Pittsboro teachers for their kind hospitality and helpful instructions which made the morning session a success. At 8:45 the bell sounded and the work of the day began; the Pittsboro teachers doing their scheduled class room work while the visiting teachers eagerly looked on ready to grasp new ideas and methods. Principal Waters, the faculty members, and the entire student body showed that fine spirit of co-operation which is essential in a good school. There are over six hundred students in the school, but under the splendid management of Mr. Waters, everything moves along in a creditable way. There was no evidence of military discipline or dogmatism, but "things went right."

The "Teacher Training Girls," under the supervision of Mrs. R. P. Horton, contributed much to the pleasure of the visitors by directing them to the various class rooms and introducing them to the grade teachers.

After the morning observations, a delightful lunch was served by members of the P. T. A.

The students having been dismissed at noon the afternoon session was given over to an assembly meeting, which was well filled with talks, criticisms and lectures. Mr. Waters, president of the Chatham County Unit of North Carolina Teachers Association, presided. Rev. R. G. Shannonhouse led the devotion services. His reading, a paraphrase on the thirteenth chapter of first Corinthians, was from a school reader printed early in the nineteenth century. "The Necessity of Ability to Express One's Self Well" was emphasized by Mr. Shannonhouse and the prerequisite for this accomplishment is a choice of good reading. The mission of the preacher, and the teachers alike, in that both are trying to save people, said Mr. Shannonhouse.

The spiritual and mental forces working properly in the child, is essential, but more is necessary, namely a strong physical body. Dr. Chapin discussed this field of work for us, and gave out helpful leaflets on contagious diseases.

Following Dr. Chapin's speech, Principal Vess from Moncure, and Principal Veasy from Goldston gave very good constructive criticisms of the work observed in the morning session. High commendation was paid the Pittsboro teachers by each of these speakers.

Superintendent Thompson, who believes in professional growth, never lets a meeting lack for good speakers, and at this time Dr. McKee, of the University of North Carolina, was introduced. "The Possibilities of the Teacher" were discussed and brought out very vividly by Dr. McKee. "A successful teacher," said the speaker, "must have four determinations." First, a determination to grow professionally, intellectually and culturally; Second, a determination to keep out of ruts; Third, a determination to discover the potential possibilities wrapped up in the child; Fourth, a determination to grow in the teaching profession. Every topic was fully outlined and explained, and if his message was not an inspiration to the listener, it came as a warning.

Our superintendent, who wanted to give us the benefit of a whole day, introduced a second visiting speaker, Superintendent Lee Thomas from Moore county. Mr. Thomas stressed the necessity of unity and co-operation between parents and teachers for the welfare of the schools. His talk was very instructive.

Last, but by no means least, on the program was Superintendent Thompson, who gave very encouraging remarks and facts about the schools of Chatham. There is a gradual increase in the rising standard of the teachers' certificates of the county over last year; more children are being transported to schools, and an eight-month school term is provided for a vast number of the children who did not have that advantage last year," said Superintendent Thompson.

That the day was well spent, is the sentiment of the Chatham County teachers, and it is to Superintendent Thompson that we owe our thanks and appreciation for this splendid opportunity. Mr. Thompson is like that, he believes in doing things to build up the educational system of the county to enable every child of the county to have equal opportunity.

A VISITING TEACHER.