

## FIVE MEMBERS OF TILLEY FAMILY HELD FOR CHILDRESS MURDER

### Tilley and Stanley Held In 6-Year-Old Murder

#### Witness Receives Note Warning Him About Testifying

Handwriting Expert, E. B. Brooks, Found Note At Winston-Salem Home

#### SPAINHOWER IS JUDGE

Two Defendants Are Held In Jail Without Bond Until March Court

At the close of one of the most sensational preliminary hearings in recent years in Wilkes, Justice of the Peace A. E. Spainhower on Friday afternoon ordered Luther Tilley and Winfield Stanley held until the March term of Superior court for the alleged murder of Andrew Eldridge, whose lifeless body was found floating on Sandlake Lake near Elkin in June, 1927, 19 days after the young man had disappeared from the home of his parents in the east edge of Wilkes near Benham. The two men were committed to jail without privilege of bond to await the findings of the grand jury.

Introduction of a new note, the appearance on the stand of an armed witness and clashes between Solicitor John R. Jones and attorneys for the two defendants were the high lights of the hearing.

E. B. Brooks, handwriting expert who testified in the Childress coroner's hearing at Ronda on January 21, told of finding a note on the porch of his Winston-Salem home three days later. "If you know what is best for you, you won't tell who wrote that note. And you won't show this note. You think you dam sharp."

The note was printed in capital letters and was not punctuated. The note was introduced in evidence after Brooks had testified that in his opinion the note found by the parents of Andrew Eldridge when they returned home the day the boy disappeared and the handwriting of Luther Tilley were identical. The expert stated positively that the same person wrote both papers, the note and the letter written by Tilley.

When J. Hayden Burke, of Taylorsville, of counsel for the defense, took the witness for cross examination, he told the court that this was the first time in his experience that he had had to cross examine a witness who was carrying a pistol. Mr. Brooks explained that he had secured a permit to arm himself following receipt of the note, but at the suggestion of Solicitor Jones removed the weapon and gave it to an officer.

Tilley and Stanley were represented by Mr. Burke and his son, Harold Burke, and Turner Grant, of Yadkinville. Solicitor Jones was aided in the prosecution by J. H. Whicker and Parks Hampton, the latter of Elkin. Stanley was linked with the killing by statements witnesses said he made to them. Tilley was involved by the similarity of his handwriting with the handwriting of the note found in the Eldridge home and by evidence that he had accused the Eldridge boys of stealing his liquor and that he inquired of neighbors about the boys.

The note found when parents of young Eldridge returned home from work on the day of the boy's disappearance read: "Notice—I have gone to Elkin to work. Will be back Saturday. Andrew."

Instead of returning home, the boy was not found until 19 days later.

Jeff Eldridge, father of Andrew Eldridge, was the first witness to be placed on the stand by Solicitor Jones. He testified that he and Mrs. Eldridge left Andrew at home the day of his disappearance and that they went to the field to work. He said they found the note upon their return to the house about dark.

Nineteen days later, Mr. Eldridge said he saw the body of his son in Klondike lake near Elkin. The face was swollen and there was a very black mark around the neck, he testified.

Mr. Eldridge then told of a visit he and Mrs. Eldridge made

#### Heart-Breaker



Baton Rouge . . . Undergraduates at Louisiana State university have twice elected Virginia Kilbourne the school's champion "heart-breaker." Other honors also bestowed are cheer-leader, a movie bid . . . and a newspaper job.

#### Checks For Post Office Property To Be Delivered

Assistant District Attorney Give Checks To Owners On Wednesday

Checks in payment for the property on which a new post office will be erected here have already been drawn and will be delivered Wednesday.

Thomas C. Carter, of Mebane, assistant district attorney, was here last week in connection with the post office site. He will return Wednesday to deliver the checks.

The property on which the post office will be built is located on "C" Street between Ninth and Tenth streets and consists of six lots.

J. T. Prevette, who owns four of the six lots, will receive the largest check. One lot is owned by Mrs. W. F. Absher and the sixth lot is owned by Absher and Blackburn, J. C. Henry and C. D. Coffey & Sons.

Early erection of the post office is anticipated, a committee having already been named to supervise the North Carolina buildings, including the one here.

#### Fun Festival Is To Be Repeated

Legion and Auxiliary To Sponsor Festival Again On February 16th

The Fun Festival, which proved so popular last year, will be repeated under the sponsorship of the Legion and Auxiliary on Friday evening, February 16, at 7:30 o'clock. The festival will be held this year in the Call building where city and township elections are held.

Bingo, auction sales and many other interesting bits of entertainment are in store for those who attend. Those present last year will recall the worlds of fun provided and will welcome the opportunity to again attend the festival.

Mrs. W. E. Harris, who has been critically ill at her home in Wilkesboro for several weeks, continues to improve, we are pleased to state.

#### Course Will Be Given At Church

Presbyterians Will Study 'The Christian Home' February 11, 12, 13 and 14

Classes in the study of "The Christian Home" will be organized at the Presbyterian church here on February 11-12-13-14.

The family budget, child training, social and religious life are some of the subjects to be discussed. The first class will be held Sunday afternoon at 3:30, while the other classes will be held on the three succeeding evenings at 7:30 o'clock.

Mrs. W. J. Bason, Dr. H. B. Smith, R. G. Finley and Rev. C. W. Robinson will be the instructors in the order named.

#### Annual Banquet Of Berean-Bible Class Held Here

Members and Their Guests Enjoy Excellent Program At Club House

C. O. McNEILL PRESIDES

Debate On Humorous Topic is Feature; 84 Persons in Attendance

The annual banquet of the Berean-Bible Class of the First Baptist church held in the Legion-Auxiliary Club House Thursday evening was a most enjoyable affair.

C. O. McNeill, president of the class, was toastmaster and welcomed the members and their guests at the banquet at 7 o'clock.

The invocation was spoken by Rev. C. W. Robinson, pastor of the Presbyterian church, a guest, and the members of the Legion Auxiliary unit here then served an excellent dinner.

A delightful entertainment feature of the early part of the program was the singing of the Barber Brothers quartet which is composed of Grisco, Lewco, Roscoe and Dawkins Barber. They sang several negro spirituals to the delight of all present.

A duet was also given by Rev. and Mrs. Eugene Olive, Rev. Mr. Olive, pastor of the First Baptist church, gave the toast to the ladies who were guests of the class.

A debate on the query, "Resolved, That Things Are Not As Good As They Used To Be," proved to be the hit of the evening. J. C. Wainwright and Attorney Buford T. Henderson, representing the affirmative, carried off the honors from J. B. Williams and J. C. Reins who upheld the negative side of the query. The humorous aspects of the topic kept the banqueters in an uproar of laughter throughout the entire debate.

A serious note was touched by Attorney A. H. Casey, teacher of the class, who spoke on the better things of life.

Rev. Mr. Robinson also talked briefly and was heard with much interest.

Attendance prizes for the evening were won by Mrs. Carl Coffey and Shelton Brewer.

Attendance at the banquet was 84, the number including members, their lady guests and a few special invited guests.

#### Miss Andrews Is Taken By Death

Member of Well Known Family Passes; Funeral Held On Saturday

Miss Robena Andrews, member of a well known family, was claimed by death at her home in the city Thursday morning at 7:45 o'clock. She had been in ill health for the past six months.

Miss Andrews was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Irving Andrews, of Orange county, who moved to North Wilkesboro about 30 years ago. She was a faithful member of the First Baptist church and was highly esteemed by a wide circle of acquaintances.

Surviving her are two sisters, Miss Nettie Andrews and Mrs. Lorena Jones, of this city, and one brother, G. A. Andrews, of Camargo, Okla. Her parents and one brother, C. P. Andrews, preceded her in death.

The funeral service was conducted from the residence Saturday morning at 7:15 o'clock with Rev. Eugene Olive, Baptist pastor, in charge. The body was then carried to Mt. Herman church near Durham, Orange county, where interment was made in the church cemetery. Rev. Mr. Olive was also in charge of the service at the grave.

Active pallbearers were A. H. Andrews, E. E. Eller, E. M. Blackburn, A. W. Horton, C. O. McNeill and J. E. Caudill.

Mr. W. F. Miller, of Boone, was among those in the city Saturday looking after business matters. Mr. Miller is well known here as he was engaged in business in North Wilkesboro for a number of years.

#### To West Point



Omaha . . . Verona Gruenther, former Omaha Women's single tennis champion, is soon to become the bride of Lieut. Garrison Davidson, football coach at West Point Military academy.

#### State President P.-T. A. To Speak Here Thursday

Mrs. J. L. Henderson Will Deliver Address On Founder's Day At 3:45

Mrs. J. L. Henderson, of Hickory, president of the North Carolina Parent-Teacher Association, will deliver a Founder's Day address at a meeting of the North Wilkesboro P.-T. A. Thursday afternoon at 3:45 o'clock in the school auditorium.

Mrs. Henderson's address will make up the program, following which there will be a social hour. The Wilkesboro P.-T. A. has been invited to meet with the local association.

A Founder's Day offering will be taken. Mrs. E. G. Finley, president of the local P.-T. A. announced this morning.

#### Wreck Victim Buried Sunday

Raymond Grinton, Colored, Dies of Injuries Sustained In Accident

Funeral rites for Raymond L. Grinton, colored, who died Wednesday from injuries sustained in an automobile accident, were conducted yesterday from Damascus Baptist church in the presence of one of the largest crowds ever to attend a service at the church. Rev. G. L. Carlton was in charge of the service.

Grinton was injured in an automobile accident a week ago this morning about nine miles from Winston-Salem. He was an employee of the Reynolds Tobacco company, having been in their employ for seven years. He died at City Memorial Hospital, Winston-Salem.

Grinton was 24 years of age. He was the son of Robert and Ida Grinton, of Wilkesboro, who with the following brothers and sisters survive: Nevada, Willie, Grace, Brack and Selma.

A number of Winston-Salem people attended the funeral.

#### Wilkesboro Boy In Boxing Match

Tom Dula Goes To Quarter Finals Of Observer's Golden Gloves Tournament

Tom Dula, a student at Presbyterian junior college at Maxton, boxed his way to the quarter finals of the Charlotte Observer's Golden Gloves tournament before being eliminated Saturday. He made an excellent showing.

Young Dula is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Dula, of Wilkesboro.

#### Wilkesboro P.-T. A. To Meet Wednesday

The Wilkesboro Parent-Teacher Association will hold its regular monthly business and program meeting in the school auditorium Wednesday afternoon at 3:15. The association has been invited to meet with the North Wilkesboro association Thursday afternoon and hear the address of Mrs. J. L. Henderson, state president, and it is hoped that many members will attend.

#### National Scout Week Observance Starts Thursday

Local Troops To Present Excellent Program On Thursday Evening

BE HELD AT 7:30 O'CLOCK

Scout Troops To Decorate Windows Saturday and Hear Broadcast

Boy Scouts of Wilkes will begin their observance of National Scout Week on Thursday, February 8, the 24th anniversary of the founding of the organization, with a program at the Presbyterian church at 7:30 p. m.

The program Thursday evening will be only one feature of the observance here. The next step in the program will be the decoration by each troop of a window in some local store Saturday. All troops will assemble at the Baptist Scout hut on "B" Street at 11 o'clock Saturday morning and will march in a body to the Legion-Auxiliary Club House where they will listen to a radio broadcast including an address by President Roosevelt.

All troops in the county are expected to participate in the program Thursday evening. Girl Scouts have been invited to join the Boy Scouts in the exercises.

Following is the program as outlined:

Song—"America."  
Prayer—Rev. Eugene Olive.  
Salute to colors—Scouts.  
Announcements and introduction of speaker—chairman of meeting.  
Address—Dr. W. A. Jenkins.  
Program—Girl Scouts.  
Program—Boy Scouts.  
Song.  
Benediction—Rev. C. W. Robinson.

Scout leaders plan some excellent features for next week which has been officially designated as National Boy Scout Week.

#### Teacher Named At Wilkesboro

John R. Bumgarner Succeeds Mrs. Charles Elledge, Who Recently Resigned

The central committee of Wilkesboro school district met Friday evening and elected John R. Bumgarner to fill the vacancy in Wilkesboro high school created by the resignation of Mrs. Charles C. Elledge, who before marriage was Miss Grace Greath. Mrs. Elledge tendered her resignation several days ago.

Mr. Bumgarner is the son of Rev. and Mrs. J. L. A. Bumgarner, of Wilkesboro, Route 1. He is an A.B. graduate of Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn., and a B.S. graduate of State College. He has completed the course for an M.S. degree with the exception of his thesis on which he is now working.

Mr. Bumgarner will fill out the remainder of Mrs. Elledge's term as teacher.

#### Reins Confirmed For Postmaster

He Will Succeed Jimmie Anderson About Middle of This Month

The appointment of J. C. Reins as North Wilkesboro postmaster was confirmed by the United States Senate Saturday.

Mr. Reins stated this morning that he had not received his commission, but expected to take office about the middle of the month.

He will succeed James M. Anderson, who has served as acting postmaster since Captain R. E. Walters left office.

#### Eugene Reavis Taking Pasteur Treatment

Mr. Eugene Reavis, citizen of Brushy Mountain township, is taking the Pasteur treatment as a result of being bitten by his dog Saturday, January 27th. Report from Raleigh stated that the dog had rabies.

### Story of Escape Through Blazes Of Burning Building Told By Sister of Dead Girl At Inquest

New Evidence Is Brought To Light At Fourth Coroner's Hearing In Wilkesboro; State Endeavors To Link Tilley With House Burning Near This City

#### MURDER CONSPIRACY WARRANT RECOMMENDED

Nath Tharpe, State's Star Witness, Testifies He Saw Luther Tilley Running From Tilley Home When He Answered Cries For Help; Experts Say Mrs. Luther Tilley Wrote Note

Five members of the Tilley family are held in the county jail at Wilkesboro without bond for the alleged murder of Miss Letoa Childress, whose lifeless body was found in the home of her foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Tilley, near Benham, between Ronda and Elkin, on Saturday afternoon, December 30.

The five held are Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Tilley, their sons, Luther and Clyde, and Luther Tilley's wife, Minerva Tilley.

The warrants charging all five with a conspiracy to murder the girl were sworn out Saturday afternoon following the adjournment of the fourth coroner's hearing which was held at the county courthouse in Wilkesboro. The action was taken at the recommendation of the coroner's jury which Saturday heard considerable additional evidence which tended to further implicate members of the Tilley family in the mysterious death of the Childress girl.

All of the five, except Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Tilley, were already in jail. Luther was already in jail for the alleged murder of Andrew Eldridge in June of 1927. Mrs. Luther Tilley was held on a warrant sworn out by Hill Cox, brother-in-law of Letoa, on a charge of killing the Childress girl, and Clyde Tilley, 18-year-old youth, was being held as a material witness. The foster parents of the dead girl, gave themselves up to Sheriff W. B. Somers soon after the hearing Saturday and were not formally arrested.

The fourth coroner's hearing Saturday was convened about 10 o'clock. Long before the hour of the hearing every available foot of space in the spacious courtroom had been appropriated to himself by some interested spectator. The balcony was filled and hundreds were unable to gain admission. The crowd was estimated at more than 1,000 people.

#### William Gambill Killed In Auto Wreck Saturday

Don, Dick and Joe Joines Held In Jail; To Be Given Hearing February 10

William W. Gambill, 28, an employee of the Grier Cotton Mills, was fatally injured Saturday afternoon on the Taylorsville road near Pores Knob when the driver of the automobile in which he was riding lost control and the car turned over in the road.

The injured man was rushed to the Wilkes Hospital where he died 30 minutes later of internal injuries.

Don Joines, Dick Joines and Joe Joines, who were said to have been in the wreck, were only slightly injured. Don was arrested by Patrolman S. D. Moore Saturday afternoon and placed in jail. The other Joines boys surrendered to county officers this morning.

An investigation of the wreck is now being made and the Joines boys will be given a preliminary hearing February 10.

Gambill was the son of Mrs. Vick Gambill, of Cricket. He is survived by his mother, two brothers, Charlie and John, and one sister, Mrs. Verna Crysel.

At the time the accident occurred, the boys were traveling north. The accident took place at the bridge at the foot of the mountain.

Funeral service for Gambill was scheduled to be held at Union Methodist church this afternoon at 2 o'clock with Rev. Seymour Taylor, pastor, and Rev. Hubert Bullis in charge.

To Study Aviation  
Washington, Feb. 2.—President Roosevelt today authorized Secretary Roper to conduct an inter-departmental study of aviation for the purpose of establishing a uniform federal aviation policy.

A direct connection with the finding of the note, the death of the girl and the burning of the Cox home was seen by Solicitor Jones. Mrs. Cox said she went to the county jail on Friday and identified Luther Tilley as one of the men she saw near her home a few days before her house was burned.

#### Fruit Growers Meet Thursday

Niswonger To Speak At County Courthouse In Wilkesboro At 2 P. M.

The Brushy Mountain Fruit Growers Association and others interested in fruit growing will meet at the courthouse in Wilkesboro Thursday afternoon to hear an address by H. R. Niswonger, state horticulturist. Mr. Niswonger will speak at 2 o'clock.

At the meeting Thursday, plans will be made for a field meeting Thursday. The fruit growers are now interested in a spray schedule and this together with general orchard problems will be discussed.

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