

NEGRO ON TRIAL AT DOBSON FOR MURDER OF MAN AND WIFE.

Napoleon Spencer Charged With Murder of Mrs. and Mrs. Hester near Winston.

A mile east of the city of Winston-Salem there is located what is known as the Byerly Dairy. Mr. Harvey Hester a young man had charge of the Dairy and lived in a cottage house of three rooms with his wife and two children aged one and three years. The house is not right near any other residence. On the first day of March 1918 Mr. Hester was working on a spot of ground a hundred and fifty yards from his home late in the afternoon preparing the land for a garden. Mrs. Hester was busy about her house work and was in her cook room preparing supper, being alone in the house with her two little children. In another month she would have become the mother of a third child. About the hour of 5:30 in the afternoon of the above mentioned day Mr. James Stanley, a substantial citizen of that neighborhood, was delivering to Mr. Hester a load of posts and was in the act of unloading them at a point 20 yards from the residence, but in plain view of the same. While unloading the posts he heard the repeated sound of a gun at the home of Mr. Hester. Looking up he saw Mr. Hester running towards the house from his work and also heard screams as if someone were in terror. He saw Mr. Hester run to the house and up on the little front porch. He saw him run to the front door and then hesitate and run to the window at the end of the porch. He saw him fall at the window and heard another shot at the time of the fall.

Mr. Stanley quickly began to unhitch his team and while doing this he saw a man dressed in dark clothes run from the rear of the house and disappear in the distance. By this time another neighbor, Mr. J. B. Roberts, came up and together they rushed to the home where they had seen Mr. Hester fall. In a minute they were there and saw Mr. Hester lying on the porch with a bullet in his head and yet breathing, but unable to speak. They found the front door locked and burst it open and rushed into the room. There they found Mrs. Hester lying in the front room with two bullet wounds in her chest and one in her head. The warm blood was oozing from the wounds and the little year-old child had crawled up on its mother's breast and its little hands were red with the life blood of its dead mother. The other little child was standing by crying as if its heart would break.

Such is the story in brief of what took place in that home on the first day of March. Mr. Hester was carried to the hospital and died in a few hours without ever regaining consciousness.

Officers were on the ground in a few minutes and a chain of circumstantial evidence developed that pointed to the guilt of a young negro Napoleon Spencer of that section so strong that his guilt was almost beyond question. So strong was public sentiment against him that his attorneys were able to get the case tried in Surry county. This case is now being heard at Dobson and the negro is represented by Jones and Clement and the Solicitor is being assisted by J. H. Folger. The trial began at noon Wednesday and may take two or three days of the term.

Napoleon Spencer who is charged with the crime is a young man of bad reputation. He has an innocent look and one would not take him for the hardened criminal that he gets credit for being. He has served two terms in the reformatory and has been known in police circles about his town for years. Once he stole a horse and came near ruining it while just a boy. He has a bad scar on the side of his face that appears to be a burn. This scar is so prominent as to aid in identifying him.

The jury that is hearing the case is made up of Messrs. R. A. Doss, N. L. Marion, J. A. Gentry, A. C. Chaney, J. R. Edmonds, W. T. Crissman, W. M. Marsh, W. C. Hall, J. S. Hollingsworth, Luther Cockerham, J. M. Todd and James Briggs.

There is no positive proof that Spencer is the man who committed this crime but there is a string of circumstantial evidence that is strong and points to his guilt so positively that most people who know of the facts think the right man in being tried.

The Editor of The News heard the evidence that had been before the court up to the noon hour on Thursday and yet not half the witnesses for the state had been examined. The state was developing a string of facts something like this: On the afternoon of the murder a man passed the home of Prof. Daniels a mile or more from the Hester home and fired his pistol at a dog. Prof. Daniels hailed him and asked why he shot at the dog. The fellow at this time was some distance away, but drew his pistol and flourished it in a threatening manner and went on up the hill. He was dressed in a dark coat and wore a cap. An old negro woman passed the home about this time and identified the man who shot at the dog as Napoleon Spencer. This was about 2:00 in the afternoon of the crime. A little later several neighbors testified to seeing a young man pass their homes further along the road, each one telling about the dark suit and the cap he wore. A little negro-boy told how Spencer had come by the Reformatory and fired off his pistol several times and reloaded it in his presence. Later a young man John Ford saw Spencer as he crossed the path in front of him. At that time Spencer was running and had his pistol in his hand going in the direction of the Hester home, but yet some distance away. Further along he passed where Mrs. McCullis lives and shot off his pistol and frightened her. Again he wore the dark suit and cap. He was not following the roads but seemed to be going the paths and near cuts often going through the woods and fields.

By the noon hour the evidence had followed his trail to the Hester home

and we are not able to give the testimony further in this issue of The News. It is the purpose of the State to show that Spencer went on to the Hester home and went in the back way and was most probably bent on robbery. He may have been half drunk, for the testimony shows that he fired off his pistol a number of times that afternoon and several times had it out in his hands as he passed along where others saw him.

It appears that the state will be able to show that his tracks went to the Hester home from the rear and that he entered by the way of the back door. There he found Mrs. Hester in the cook room and frightened her. She grabbed an old pistol that was in the cook room and fired it at him, the ball taking effect in the door facing. Then it was that he shot her in the breast, for the blood was on the floor in the cook room. She screamed and retreated into the front room and as she retreated he shot her twice again. The wounds were of such a nature that she died instantly. Hearing the screams Mr. Hester ran to the house, and finding the front door locked, ran to the window and the murderer being yet in the room with the dead woman, shot him through the window making a dead shot as the little bullet hole in the glass shows. Then the murderer ran from the back way and escaped. Now the tracks that Spencer is known to have made at points where he was seen a number of times during the afternoon correspond exactly with the tracks that go into and come out of the Hester home in the rear. Later when Spencer was arrested he had on him a pistol, blood was on his handkerchief and on his clothes. Everything points to the fact that he entered that home and shot that woman being so near her that her blood spouted on his hands and clothes.

Report has it that Spencer will try to prove an alibi and thus make his escape. Mr. and Mrs. Hester were both highly respected young people and the officials of Forsyth county are doing all they can to bring the guilty man to justice. A number of the Forsyth officials and Town officers are attending court. The witnesses, twenty or more, are people of good standing in their county, and the defense is not able to attack their character or to in any way discount their testimony.

Red Cross Work.

One gross of bed shirts have been made by the Surry County chapter and were shipped on April the 18th, with four hundred many tail bandages and twenty four triangular bandages. The work room is open every afternoon in the week and additional workers will be welcome. A generous citizen contributed one hundred dollars a few days ago and the chairman has ordered material to the value of that amount, two gross of bed shirts have been ordered. Those in charge of the room are Mrs. Cullen Merritt, Monday; Mrs. E. H. Wrenn, Tuesday; Mrs. Frank Baldrige, Wednesday; Mrs. Mary Armfield, Thursday; Mrs. W. E. Merritt, Friday; Miss Mary Franklin Graves Saturday.

Why Constipation Injuries.

The bowels are the natural sewerage system of the body. When they become obstructed by constipation a part of the poisonous matter which they should carry off is absorbed into the system, making you feel dull and stupid, and interfering with the digestion and assimilation of food. This condition is quickly relieved by Chamberlain's Tablets. Obtainable everywhere.

BUSINESS BUILDERS

APRIL 29, 30 and May 1st we will have with us a lady corsetiere to give special fittings without extra charge in Madame Grace Corsets "The best corset in the world". Don't fail to come and have yourself fitted. W. E. Jackson.

HATCHING EGGS at reduced price. Balance of season, you can buy 15 pure bred hatching eggs for \$1.00 f. o. b. Mount Airy. White Wyandotte, Buff Rock, White Lagoon. I keep only the best pure blood stock. Good layers, good payers. E. J. Mathews, 3 in 1 Poultry Yards.

FOR SALE OR RENT.

My two story eight room house 192 Orchard street. Large basement. Good barn, large garden. Terms reasonable apply to W. E. Barnard of the Surry Mercantile Company, or write to me at 25 West Buffalo street, Concord, N. C. R. M. Taylor.

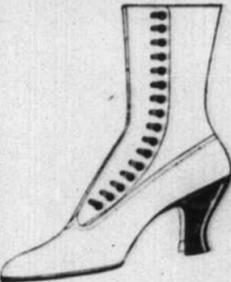
MEN WANTED—\$2.50 per day.

About twenty good men are now needed at our mines near Round Peak postoffice in the northwestern part of the county. Apply at mine or at office in First National Bank building, Mount Airy. Tar Heel Manganese Company. tf.

MADAME GRACE Corsets fitted by graduate corsetiere April 29, 30 and May 1st. No extra charge for special fitting we want you to know the "best corset in the world." W. E. Jackson.

POTATO PLANTS delivered in Mt. Airy at \$2.25 per thousand, and 25 cents per hundred. Postpaid \$2.50 per thousand and 25c per hundred. I am booking orders for May and June deliveries. Mrs. M. E. V. Hines, Mt. Airy, N. C., Route 5 box 46. 2t.

ALL YOU ladies who want perfect fitting corsets must not fail to attend our special demonstration conducted by Miss Sadie McClary, April 29, 30 and May 1st. You will have the great advantage of being fitted perfectly with what you should wear without extra charge on your corsets. W. E. Jackson.



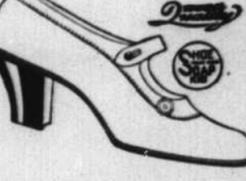
This Store Will Save You Money On Your Shoe Bills

We have a store full of dependable Shoes to suit the needs of every member of the family.

Hundreds of pairs of these shoes were bought at old prices and we guarantee to give you better quality and at lower prices than you will find elsewhere.

When You Buy Shoes Here You Get Complete Satisfaction

Burke's
DEPENDABLE STORE, MOUNT AIRY, N. C.
"THE STORE THAT SAVES YOU MONEY"



CALL AT Mount Airy Feed Store for seed corn.

FOR RENT—nice five room cottage on Wilson street with all modern conveniences. Also a five room cottage on Taylor street, near South street, nearly new, water and lights. E. C. Foy. tf.

A LARGE supply of seed corn at Mount Airy Feed Store.

LADIES COME to our store April 29, 30 and May 1st and have our demonstrator to fit you with a Madame Grace corset. No extra charge for this service and you will have perfect satisfaction in your corset or we will refund your money. W. E. Jackson.

NOTICE I will sell for cash to the highest bidder in front of The Motor Co., on Saturday, the 27th day of April 1918, at 2 P. M. the following personal property to-wit: One Automobile Truck belonging to J. H. East. Sale made to satisfy debt of \$88.10 and cost to be added. This April 13, 1918. Harrison Motor Co., By J. L. Harrison.

SPECIAL DEMONSTRATION in Madame Grace Corsets given at our store April 29, 30 and May 1st by Miss Sadie McClary, a graduated Corsetiere. All fittings free and satisfaction guaranteed on your corsets. W. E. Jackson.

NOTICE By virtue of the power contained in a certain deed of trust given by Charlie Potts to me as trustee, default having been made in the payments of the notes thereby secured I will offer for sale on the premises on Saturday May 25 1918 at one o'clock the following described land:

Beginning on a stake in Dr. Jos. Hollingsworth line and runs west to a forked poplar; thence north to post oak in Worth Line; thence with said line West to a stake; South to a chestnut, Susan Shropshires corner, South on same line to a stake and her corner South to Bettie Sturants line; thence East to James Eavens corner; thence of said Eavens line East to F. M. Cornwell corner; thence North to said Cornell line to the beginning containing 150 acres more or less. For further reference see deed to G. H. Wright and Sallie T. Wright from R. L. E. Wright and wife Mary J. Wright dated Feb. 15th 1896. Book 44 page 340. Also deed from C. H. Haynes, sheriff of date June 17 1814 book 65 page 379. Also see deed Sallie T. Wright et al to Charlie T. Potts. Sale made to satisfy said notes. C. E. Hutchens, Trustee. E. C. Bivens, Attorney.

To Our Customers

For reasons, which really, there is no need to go into, but which we will tell you the main one, we are compelled to ask every one ordering coal to arrange to leave cash at the house as we must positively insist upon the driver bringing back settlement for the bill in each case, when order is filled.

We all know that when some deliveries are paid for and some are not that it leaves a loop hole for the driver to spend the money and tell us that you did not pay. When it is cash every time he cannot do this without having the amount of the bill charged to him.

The main reason though that I started to tell you is the fact that the coal shippers are as independent as can be and only ship coal nowadays on a bank's certified check of C. O. D. bill lading attached to draft, which the buyer has to take up and pay for before he can even pay the freight on the coal.

If you do not wish to buy from us on cash basis, we are sorry, but is something we cannot help and we trust that no one will ask us to extend credit as we can only say no to such requests.

C. A. SHELTON - Phone 272