

# The Mount Airy News.

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\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

## DR. PEACOCK LOCATED IN FLORIDA.

**Now Looking For Place to Begin Practicing Medicine—May Bring Him Back.**

Lakeland, Fla., Jan. 15.—Court records show that Dr. J. W. Peacock, who escaped last year from the criminal insane department of the North Carolina state penitentiary, was declared sane at Arcadia, Florida, last Thursday before Judge George W. Whitehurst after an examination by Dr. H. M. Richards and Dr. R. R. Sullivan of Lakeland.

Dr. Peacock was stopping here at the home of his sister, Mrs. R. E. Luffey, but left last night for St. Petersburg, where it was said he intends to practice medicine.

According to information received here, he was examined to frustrate any attempt to extradite him to North Carolina.

Thomasville, Jan. 15.—A letter from Dr. J. W. Peacock, from Lakeland, Fla., telling of his having been set free by a judge in Florida and by alienists who pronounced him sane, was received here today by his wife, Mrs. J. W. Peacock, also an order for his office and medical fixtures to be sent to him came in the same letter with the information he was intending to begin the practice of medicine at some point in Florida.

Dr. Peacock is spending today and probably tomorrow at St. Petersburg, Fla., according to information, with a view to deciding on a location for the practice of his profession.

The question is already being agitated here as to the proper course to pursue in regard to bringing the doctor back to North Carolina, from whose criminal insane department he escaped sometime last summer. Former Solicitor Bower, it is learned, states that he can be brought back. Solicitor Bower was prosecutor in the case for the state during his trial for murder in Davidson county last summer a year ago.

Dr. Peacock was tried in Lexington in June, 1921, on a charge of murdering James E. Taylor, chief of police of Thomasville. After one of the most sensational trials in the annals of the state, a jury from Rowan county returned a verdict of not guilty on the ground that the physician had slain Chief Taylor while in an irresponsible mental state.

Judge T. B. Finley, presiding, under the laws of the state, ordered Peacock held for investigation. A hearing was held in Greensboro the latter part of June, 1921, which resulted in Peacock going to the state's criminal insane asylum.

Last summer Peacock made his escape from the insane asylum and the information from Florida today was the first heard of him since his sensational escape.

Peacock on April 16, 1921, killed Chief Taylor on the streets of Thomasville. He fired with a shot gun from his office window upon the chief, wounding Taylor severely. Peacock then rushed from his office and emptied several shots from his automatic pistol into the head of the helpless officer. The killing of Taylor was said to be one of the most brutal ever recorded in Davidson county.

The trial of Peacock was one that held the attention of North Carolina for over a week. Both sides, the state and defense, were represented by some of the ablest legal talent in the state. The defense fought the case on the ground of insanity, contending that the defendant was suffering from paranoia. Several able alienists testified that Peacock was a paranoiac and that while he appeared rational most of the time the disease would probably take hold of him at any time.

The killing of Taylor followed the burning of Peacock's barn. However, the defense never contended that Chief Taylor was in any way responsible for the destruction of the barn.

## Women Not Ready for Public Office.

New York, Jan. 13.—"There are very few women who by training and opportunity have become fitted for any public office," Miss Alice Robertson, of Oklahoma, member of Congress, declared in a lecture at Town Hall last night. "There is none who is qualified to be governor of a state or member of the cabinet. I don't believe women should seek office today. When they are fitted for such responsibility the office will seek them."

## MASTER MIND OF BIG HOLDUP IS DEAD

**Body Found in Garage Is Identified As That of J. C. Sloan, Wyoming.**

Denver, Colo., Jan. 15.—The slain mint bandit, whose frozen body was found last night seated in an automobile in a private garage, and regarded by police as the master mind of a desperate gang of criminals was identified today as J. C. Sloan, of Casper, Wyoming. Rugg Williams, chief of Denver police, said he was one of the men the police have sought since December 18 last, when robbers made away with \$200,000 in currency from a federal reserve bank truck in front of the mint, killing Charles T. Linton, a guard.

Sloan it was, police say, who offered himself as a target, standing upon the running board of the bandit car as it sped away and desperately firing at mint guards.

Sloan's body was found with a bullet in the heart, and police declare he was instantly killed by a bullet from the revolver of Pete Keidinger, a guard employed at the mint.

Police believe that after placing Sloan's body in the automobile, the rest of the gang drove to the garage, near 17th and Gilpin streets, locked the automobile inside and escaped. None of the loot was found in the bandit's car.

The identification of Sloan, according to Chief Williams, is the forerunner of the early capture of the rest of the gang.

Sloan, according to the police, was the leader of one of the most daring gangs of desperadoes in the country. This gang went out only for "big money," said the officers, and one of the admission requirements was deadly marksmanship with either a revolver, rifle or shotgun. The reckless daring of Sloan's gunmen was demonstrated in the mint robbery, when Sloan, pumping a hail of buckshot at the main door of the mint, offered himself as a target for the bullets of the government guards, while his pals transferred the \$200,000 in currency to their stolen automobile.

Keidinger declared today he had positively identified the bandit's body as that of the man who took part in the robbery of December 18 and stood with a pump shotgun and fired at the government guards until he fell and was dragged into the robber car.

## Edgar Welch Manager Mount Airy Branch of Motor Club.

G. Edgar Welch, of this city, has been appointed manager of the Mt. Airy branch of the Carolina Motor Club, with headquarters at Greensboro, N. C.

The Carolina Motor Club is an organization of motor car owners not carried on for profit, and devoting its entire efforts to bettering the conditions for motorists in the Carolinas. It was founded by Carolina business men at Greensboro, September 15.

In addition to benefits derived from legislative and good roads work, members receive definite services including:

- Free road maps and information.
- Free legal assistance.
- Membership in American Automobile Association.

Membership card which serves as bond up to \$50.

Radiator emblem carrying reward of \$50 in event of stolen car.

Mr. Welch advises that three or four official garages will be named to render free emergency road services to members of the Carolina Motor Club, as well as a legal representative.

The advantage of the Carolina Motor Club over many small local clubs is the fact that the Carolina Motor Club furnishes free emergency road services and legal assistance to its members at many points in the Carolinas, and that the police officials in Carolina towns have signed an agreement to honor membership cards of the Carolina Motor Club as apparent bond up to \$50 in event of arrest for traffic violations.

As soon as the membership in Mt. Airy has developed to fifty or more, a local Advisory Committee will be elected to determine and cooperate with the Carolina Motor Club officials on the local activities.

Trichinosis, a disease caused by eating imperfectly cooked pork in which the trichina parasite is lodged, may be prevented if the pork is cooked thoroughly.

## NO OPPOSITION EXPECTED TO ROAD BOND ISSUE.

**3-Cent Tax on Gasoline—Railway Men Are Wanting Law Requiring All Automobiles to Stop at Railroad Crossings.**

Raleigh, Jan. 13.—Moore, of Martin, head of the committee on public roads and turnpikes, has cast into the House the \$15,000,000 bond bill carrying with it the 3-cent gasoline tax and sinking fund machinery, the first to be applied by the State.

This is the administration and state highway commission bill which will go into committee with less opposition than any measure of like character yet offered. It is not believed there will be any lobby against any aspect of the measure. Quite a few legislators would like to see a measure which does not lay all the revenue on automobile owners; but the gasoline tax is the only tribute which the State can get from interstate tourists and the Moore bill has so many talking points that it will not be opposed seriously.

The Farmers' Union advocates of retrenchment are here and are opposing any bonds, but they find no way to stop the road rush. It is expected that the Moore measure will be quickly ratified and from the earliest possible hour the people will be paying the extra gas tax.

Which tax Commissioner Frank Page, chairman of the organization, does not believe will raise the price of gasoline at all. He cites Virginia, the roadless state, to show that the tax means nothing. That state has no tax at all and gasoline is higher there than in North Carolina.

President R. W. H. Stone, of the Farmers' Union, is here and a lobby of railroad employees is busy. Mr. Stone is seeking to stop this thing of new registrations for every bond election. He said he had to register four times last year to cast as many votes against bond issues. He would make all bond proposals to depend on regular registrations. He is against them all.

The railroad men are here in their own interest. They tell the members of the general assembly that reckless driving of automobiles is getting on the nerves of engineers and conductors and the rail men would cause all machines to stop at crossings before trying to go over. This would give the engineers the certainty that they do not now have. They never know when they are going to dash into machines.

## Tar Heels May Pay About \$130,000,000 to U. S.

Raleigh, Jan. 13.—North Carolinians are paying taxes into the federal treasury through the office of William Grissom, collector of internal revenue, at a rate which indicates a total for the fiscal year of approximately \$130,000,000, it was announced today.

The office is receiving daily an amount in excess of \$400,000. Mr. Grissom said, despite the fact that the present is not the period in which the bulk of the quarterly remittances is paid.

"Although North Carolina pays a total to the national government which makes it about the eighth state," said Mr. Grissom, "a large part of the amount is paid ultimately by people outside the state."

"This results from an overwhelming proportion of the tax being levied on manufactured tobacco made in this state and sold over the world. Approximately four-fifths of the federal revenue from the collector's office is from the tax on tobacco," he said.

## J. B. Horton is Dead at His Elkin Home.

Elkin, Jan. 13.—The death of J. B. Horton, prominent citizen of this place, which occurred yesterday morning at 5 o'clock, at his home on Gwyn avenue, came as a shock to his friends, none of whom realized that his condition was so serious. He had been in declining health for a number of years, and for several months had been confined to his home, but hope for an improvement in his condition was held by his family and friends. Mr. Horton was 69 years of age, a member of the Baptist church, having for a number of years been a member of the board of deacons, and until his death became impaired was ever a worker in every cause of the church. He is survived by his wife and several brothers and sisters.

## KLAN MAINTAINS RALEIGH LOBBY?

**Bill to Abolish Capital Punishment Seems to Have Little Chance for Passage.**

Raleigh, Jan. 13.—Senator Charles U. Harris, of Raleigh, tonight announced that the senate committee on water commerce will meet at 2 o'clock next Thursday afternoon in a senate chamber to hear the views of experts on the governor's proposed shipping measure, and to generally consider the legislation into the upper branch of the general assembly last Wednesday.

With the general assembly adjourned until Monday night and a general exodus over the week-end of members, legislative news today was reduced to hotel lobby discussion of measures that have been introduced.

That an active Ku Klux Klan lobby exists here, directing its energies against legislation to unmask the Klan, is claimed by Senator J. R. Baggett, whose bill will come before the senate from the committee hearing, which will be held January 23. Some representatives of the Klan working here are known to him, Senator Baggett states.

Members of both houses of the general assembly express themselves freely in regard to the governor's ship line bill, which temporarily obscures other important recommendations which were incorporated in the biennial message of Governor Morrison. These expressions are easily as numerous for the bill as against it, while a still greater number are desirous of further discussion of the measure before they vote.

Activity in behalf of local measures was expected to be put under control as far as immediate passage of these bills was concerned as the result of Representative Lindsay Warren, of Beaufort, and Representative Burgwyn, of the rules committee, coming to the front for strict enforcement of the new rules, which have been laid down in the house.

Because Representative Owen, of Sampson county, who presented the act to abolish capital punishment, did not get a committee hearing before the bill was reported out as favorable, judiciary committee number one will probably hear Mr. Owen on Monday night or some time Tuesday, although free expression from house members indicates that the bill has little or no chance to get past the house, even though reported out of the committee after the Owen hearing as favorable.

## Secretary of State J. Bryan Grimes Dead.

Raleigh, Jan. 12.—J. Bryan Grimes, secretary of state since January, 1901, died at 8:30 o'clock last night at his home on East Lane street after an illness of two weeks with pneumonia and influenza.

The disease that left him a mark for complications had run its course without giving special alarm. But failure to show any improvement for days and particularly yesterday left no doubt that this reserve had all gone. He passed the crisis in both diseases without ability to rally.

The news of his death struck the city a staggering blow. He had never relinquished his Pitt county residence, but he held all but his farming interests and his voting here. Since taking the oath of office he had held the distinction of being the strong man in the state's cabinet. It will be written of him that an abler secretary of state has not served the state.

Colonel Grimes was the son of General Bryan Grimes of Confederate fame and was born in Pitt county 54 years ago.

## War on Moonshiners Will Be Progressive.

Winston-Salem, Jan. 12.—While the officers who participated in the big raid made on moonshiners Thursday declined to give out any details, further than that they captured eight stills, 30,000 gallons of beer and arrested one man, it was learned from another source today that the raid was made in the wilds of Wilkes county, and plans are being formulated for another big "drive" on blackcladers in other sections of Piedmont Carolina during the next week or two. The officers confess that there are many whiskey stills in operation, especially in the mountain counties of this state and Virginia, but, according to well founded reports, Chief Prohibition Officer Sams, who has his headquarters in High Point, will increase his raiding force so that war on moonshiners may be increased.

## DEPUTY'S WIFE WIELDS WEAPON

**Comes to Husband's Aid in a Tussle with Rum Runner.**

Lincolnton, Jan. 12.—Another bunch of bootleggers came to grief in Lincoln county late yesterday afternoon at Henry, about 13 miles northwest of Lincolnton. A Lincoln county woman vanquished the doughty leader of the gang by smashing him over the head with a quart jar of his own booze, while the other two gallant rum-runners beat it for the tall timbers.

Deputy Sheriff M. L. Leonard, who lives at Henry, was cutting strychnine in his yard when his attention was attracted by a car which stalled right in front of his house. Deputy Leonard went out to investigate and render aid, if possible, and found the car full of corn whiskey of a very recent vintage. Exhibiting his badge of office, the deputy proceeded to put the hooch-peddlers under arrest. At the sight of the officer's badge the driver of the joywagon made a leap for liberty and took to the tall timbers. Deputy Leonard marched the two remaining knights of the hooch can into his yard and proceeded to search them for firearms. While going over one for the purpose of ascertaining if he was abiding by the terms of the disarmament conference the other fellow grabbed Leonard from behind, pinning his arms behind him, and making an effort to seize the officer's pistol, which was in a scabbard on his right hip. Seeing his chance to make a quick get-away, and with the cool courage and gallant chivalry which characterizes the high-toned bootlegger, the man who was being searched also beat it, making a beeline for the nearest woods. The game hooch-runner, who held Leonard in his vise-like grip, was slowly getting the best of the struggle and was steadily bearing the officer to the ground. It began to look good for the booze artist. But wait! Hist! What is that peculiar sound approaching?

The gallant bootlegger turned his head slightly and beheld an irate woman bearing down upon him. The sound he had heard was the swish of her skirts as she hastened to the rescue of her husband, for she was the lucky wife of Deputy Leonard, who had heard the commotion and quickly sized up the situation. Mrs. Leonard dashed to the booze car, seized a nice, brand new fruit jar full of the newly made corn juice, and approaching the struggling men, brought a resounding wallop with the whiskey jar across the noble, intellectual forehead of Mr. Bootlegger. The jar broke into smithereens when it came in contact with that bone-head, his own whiskey filled his eyes instead of his mouth, and particles of broken glass lacerated the manly face and spoiled the innocent countenance of this valiant rum-runner. Blood and whiskey and broken glass obscured the vision of the poor bootlegger, and his hands also were cut and bleeding from the wanton attack of this plucky woman. With one master stroke she had compelled the powerful joy-dispenser to relinquish his strangle hold on her husband and saved the day for the Volstead act.

Deputy Leonard recovered his composure and marched the now contrite repentant bootlegger into his house, where his wounds were attended to. A neighbor who had been attracted by the row was told to watch the violator of the law while the deputy phoned a report of the incident to Sheriff Abernethy down in Lincolnton. But no sooner was the officer's back turned on the prisoner than he made a dash for the rear of the dwelling and made good his escape.

So quick was the action, and such the commotion aroused, that Deputy Leonard failed to identify the men implicated in this affair other than to hear one man say his name was Beam. One of the party, who escaped first, was a cripple.

A search of the booze car revealed 40 nice new fruit jars, well filled with corn whiskey, and carefully packed in nice fresh cartons just from the wholesaler. There was also a nice, shiny new five gallon can also loaded to the gills with the festive corn juice. The entire outfit was taken in charge by Sheriff Abernethy and is now reposing quietly and innocently in Hinson's garage at Lincolnton.

Chinamen are engaged in capturing large sea turtles which abound on the western coast of Mexico. The meat of these turtles is dried and shipped to China where it finds a ready sale.

## HIGH POINT BUSINESS MAN SEVERELY BEATEN

**Five Masked Men Take Visitor From Home of Prominent Woman.**

Thomasville, Jan. 10.—Five men, their identity hidden by masks, tonight, at the point of a pistol, carried R. E. Zimmerman, prominent stock truck dealer of High Point, from the yard at the home of Mrs. H. G. Strayhorn, on Randolph street, this town, to a vacant lot in the rear of the house, where they cruelly beat him with bludgeons and then absconded his hair very close to the scalp.

After subjecting him to painful bruises about the head, body and legs, he was marched to the outskirts of the town, where he was left with a warning that he never again visit the Strayhorn home or the town of Thomasville.

Mr. Zimmerman formerly was in business in this city, living at the home of Mrs. Strayhorn at the time. Since moving to High Point he has been a frequent visitor at the home. Tonight shortly before 7:30 o'clock he drove his car into the rear yard of the house. After stopping his car, he says, he noticed by the light of the auto lamps a man standing in a shed in the rear yard. Taking the auto crank with him, he went to investigate. When he reached the shed the man covered him with a pistol whereupon he screamed. The scream brought Mrs. Strayhorn, who was alone in the house with her two daughters, to the door. There she saw Mr. Zimmerman surrounded by five men all wearing masks and heard them as they ordered him in the direction of the vacant lot.

## Hair Closely Shaved

Arriving at the lot, some distance from the house, Mr. Zimmerman says he was first severely beaten with a club, and then held by the other members of the party while his hair was cut as close as possible with scissors. His clothes were badly torn in his struggle to free himself from his captors.

After the beating he was hurried to the outer edge of the town and told to leave at once, being specifically ordered not to return to the Strayhorn home for his car. A member of the local police department volunteered to get the car, and Mr. Zimmerman later left for High Point.

Mr. Zimmerman's Thomasville concern failed some time ago, and it is said that a number of people lost money at the time. He reports that while being beaten tonight members of the masked mob mentioned that fact, although he refused to amplify his statement in any detail.

Mrs. Strayhorn is prominently identified with the civic and club life of the town. She was naturally very nervous after the happening tonight, but asserted that in the event the officers of the law took no steps looking towards the arrest of the guilty parties, she would have a thorough investigation made, declaring that she would not cease until she knows who the guilty ones are.

Three of the masked men wore white masks, while two wore black hoods that completely covered their faces.

The chief of police had not been located at a late hour tonight, therefore it is not known what steps are being taken, or will be taken, to bring about the arrest of the criminals.

## Pilot Mountain Route 2 News.

Suggested and adopted by the school "Ridge View" instead of Cook's school as a name for a public school located on the Pilot Mountain ridge road, five miles north of Pilot Mountain, N. C. The original name of the school house was Cook's. A few years ago the name was changed to Pine Ridge, there being a Pine Ridge school house in Stewart Creek township has caused several misunderstandings to occur, therefore the name has been changed to Ridge View school house which is an appropriate name from several standpoints.

Rev. John S. Cook, of Spray, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Cook this route last week.

There was quite an old time kin-folk reunion at the home S. T. Cook last Sunday. C. F. Cain's family, E. F. Cook, Dr. Matthews and many others participated in the social affair.—Contributed.

Two men labor continually in the Pennsylvania Station in New York City to remove waste of chewing gum travelers have tossed on the floor.