

Needleman Is Seeking Damages of \$100,000 From Alleged Mutilators

Brings Suit As a Pauper in Federal Court for Alleged Crime of Martin and Lenoir County Men

SERVING TERMS

Number of Accused Men Already in Prison; Needleman Was Freed on Charge of Attacking Girl

Raleigh, July 27.—(AP)—The Needleman mutilation case of 1925 returned to the public spotlight today when a copy of petition of Joseph H. Needleman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, asking \$100,000 damages for mutilation of his person by a masked mob, was received at the office of U. S. Marshal Ward here.

The petition has just been filed in United States District Court at Washington, N. C., under jurisdiction of the Eastern Federal District of North Carolina.

Needleman is suing for \$75,000 compensatory damages and \$25,000 punitive damages against 22 persons of Martin County, three of Lenoir, and two of Wayne County.

Prison punishment and fines were meted out to 28 persons, following trial for mutilation and conviction at the May special term of Martin County in 1925.

The petition just filed calls for answer from those against whom warrants are being issued by the district court clerk at Washington where the trial will be held. The answers are due within 20 days.

Needleman two years ago was freed of a charge of attacking Ethel Griffin of Martin County. He was arrested March 26, 1925, and later was taken from the Williamson jail and his person mutilated.

Needleman brings suit as a pauper and brings it in Federal court by reason of being a non-resident, and by reason of the diversity of citizenship of the 28 defendants. These defendants are:

Martin County—H. P. Griffin, J. G. Corey, L. A. Croom, Lester Edmondson, J. T. Harrell, Lester Crofton, Edgar Johnson, Sherwood Robinson, James H. Gray, Johnnie Gurkin, Clarence Gurkin, J. H. Coltrain, Wilson Griffin, Ben Lilly, John A. Griffin, Grand Smith, Julian Bullock, Dennis Griffin, A. T. Lilly, John T. Smithwick, Luther Peele, H. T. Robertson.

Lenoir County—F. W. Sparrow, Sr., F. W. Sparrow, Jr., Clara Heath, Wayne County—Hubert and Allen Griffin.

When Needleman was arrested in Edenton, March 26, 1925, Sheriff H. T. Robertson of Martin County took him to Williamson, the next day, Needleman sets forth in his petition. Needleman wished to remain in Edenton until the trial but Sheriff Robertson refused, he alleges. Trial was set for Saturday, March 28, but postponed and many persons, among them some of the defendants came to his cell, and accused him of raping the girls of Williamson and said he should be hung, he alleges.

In the small hours of Sunday, March 29, at 2:30 a. m., exact masked men came to his Williamson jail cell, clipped the locks and bolts, tore down the jail doors and seized him, he maintains, adding in his petition that he recognized Dennis Griffin, F. W. Sparrow, Jr., and Clara Heath. He was driven of town a mile and a half, Mr. Sparrow, Sr. asked if he wished to be killed or mutilated, the petition recites, and the Philadelphia traveling salesman told them to do as they pleased, whereupon "occurred one of the most shocking and bloodstirring crimes in the history of the State."

He was refused a light to town, he recites, but later was rushed to a Washington, N. C., hospital and recovered within eight or nine weeks.

Those convicted in Martin County court in 1925 of mutilating Needleman were: A. W. Griffin, Hubert Griffin, Allen Griffin, Clarence Gurkin, J. G. Corey, L. A. Croom, Lester Edmondson, J. T. Harrell, Johnnie and Albert Gurkin, Rob Gray, E. C. Stone, Alfred Griffin, J. H. Coltrain, Wilson Griffin, Ben Lilly, John A. Griffin, Grand Smith, Julian Bullock, Dennis Griffin, A. T. Lilly, F. W. Sparrow, Sr., and J. R. Heath and John T. Smithwick, the petition reviews.

JOHN "FLOATING UNIVERSITY" Ann Arbor, Mich., July 27.—(AP)—Carlton Wells of the University of Michigan, who has played regularly in the United States amateur golf championship since 1923, has joined the faculty of a "floating university."

His duties will prevent his taking part in the event at Minneapolis this year.

TOUR NEW ENGLAND BY LINDBERGH ENDS Springfield, Vt., July 27.—(AP)—Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh completed his tour of New England today and hopped off from here for Albany, New York, at 10:20 a. m., Eastern Standard time. He flew over Plymouth, Vermont, President Coolidge's home town, before crossing the New York State line.

The weather was perfect for flying.

WIFE OF MINISTER DIES BY OWN HAND Memphis, Tenn., July 27.—(AP)—Mrs. Ella Armstrong, wife of the Rev. W. W. Armstrong, pastor of the Galloway Memorial Methodist Church, was found dead in the gas filled bathroom of her home early today and the Rev. Mr. Armstrong, who was found beside her, was taken to a hospital in a serious condition.

The police report listed Mrs. Armstrong's death as suicide and said the minister was overcome in trying to drag her from the room. She was 55 years old and her husband 56.

Mrs. Armstrong's fear of an impending surgical operation was blamed by Mrs. H. M. Wilson, a daughter, for the tragedy.

P. C. Creechmore, Route Three, Hertford, is visiting relatives at Norfolk and is there for medical treatment.

FOUR DEPUTIES BUMPING INTO HARD SLEDDING

Federal Agents Claim Credit for Destruction of Seven Stills Reported Destroyed by County Squad

ONE DEPUTY RESIGNS

Others Rumored to Have Been Deprived of Authority; Pythian Official Is Stopped by "Dry Agent"

Four newly appointed deputy sheriffs in South Mills township, Camden County, sworn into office last week mainly for the purpose of helping to break up the flourishing in moonshine liquor that has flourished for several years in that vicinity, are finding the sledding exceedingly hard, according to reports from South Mills.

The new deputies were "Bum" Cartwright, George McCoy, Judson Pritchard and Rudolph Jacobs. News from South Mills today was that Jacobs, subjected to much kidding from his erstwhile cronies, had surrendered his credentials and quit. It was rumored that he had been deprived of authority; Pythian Official Is Stopped by "Dry Agent"

Efforts to verify this report by long distance telephone to Sheriff Forbes at his home at Shiloh, Camden County, were unavailing Wednesday from the fact that the line was out of order.

Meanwhile, from another quarter has come a vigorous contradiction of the new deputies' claim that they had destroyed seven stills in a section in the vicinity of South Mills, recently explored by Federal prohibition agents.

Federal Agent C. T. Griffin, out of the Federal dry office in Norfolk, and at present engaged in work in Northeastern Carolina, declared today that the seven stills claimed as trophies by the deputies as the fruits of a series of raids Monday, actually had been destroyed that day by the Federal squad working in that territory.

Griffin also made partial contradiction of the deputies' claim that they had searched the automobile of the Federal agents a few days ago in quest of liquor. His version is that several of the deputy sheriffs came upon the Federal agents after they had stopped another car. The county officers, he said, got out and rammed about aimlessly, but did not search the car. "We wouldn't have let them do it, if they had tried," he commented.

Meanwhile, there are vigorous protests over what is termed the unwarranted stopping and searching of automobiles on the George Washington Highway along the Dismal Swamp Canal, from South Mills to Deep Creek. A. A. Fishburn, of Norfolk, official of the Virginia Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, and other members of a party journeying by automobile from Norfolk to this city to attend a Pythian rally here Tuesday night reported having been stopped by a wildly gesticulating individual in the middle of the road.

The gesticulating one held a pistol in one hand, according to Mr. Fisher. When they stopped, he demanded a ride, declaring he was a Federal prohibition officer. He was thoroughly intoxicated, the Pythian official declared, and finally they rid themselves of him and proceeded to a filling station a little farther along the road.

There they were informed that the individual in question was of defective mentality, and that he had been employed to accompany Federal agents in their investigations in that section. Mr. Fisher and others in his party expressed extreme indignation over the incident.

Other respectable folk journeying to or from Norfolk over the George Washington Highway have reported having been stopped by persons purporting to be prohibition agents in recent weeks, and their cars searched. They, too, were much incensed over the proceedings.

Wife of Minister Dies By Own Hand Memphis, Tenn., July 27.—(AP)—Mrs. Ella Armstrong, wife of the Rev. W. W. Armstrong, pastor of the Galloway Memorial Methodist Church, was found dead in the gas filled bathroom of her home early today and the Rev. Mr. Armstrong, who was found beside her, was taken to a hospital in a serious condition.

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P. C. Creechmore, Route Three, Hertford, is visiting relatives at Norfolk and is there for medical treatment.

The Leaders of New York Carmen's Strike



These three men direct union labor forces in the threatened strike of New York subway, elevated, and surface car trainmen. Left to right they are Patrick J. Shea, J. H. Coleman, and Hugh Frayne. Shea and Coleman are organizers for the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees. Frayne represents the American Federation of Labor.

Twelve Watermelons and Five More Pecks Spuds Bring Perry's Yield Up

ROAST BEAR AT HOTEL HERTFORD

Sportsmen Bring in One for Table and Live One to Be Shipped

Hertford, July 27.—The Hotel Hertford, already famed for its excellent cuisine, scored another point on its menu Monday evening when its guests were regaled with "roast bear" as the piece de resistance of the meal.

Whether the greater thrill was from partaking of the novel dish or from the entertainment afforded by a live bear that was being crated for shipment Tuesday at the hotel garage, is hard to say.

The two bears were brought in Tuesday by Piedmont sportsmen who have been waiting in this section—W. I. Monday and H. L. Boyd, of Mt. Airy, and W. E. Teele of Charlotte, accompanied by E. G. Myers of Washington, N. C., and Jim Carver and others of the Nicanor section of this county. The hunters killed one bear but the other one, a sporty half-grown bear-sheik, was shipped to the home of one of the sportsmen. He seemed to like civilization, and was particularly fond of pop as he waited for the crate to be made in which he was to make his journey.

The bears were captured in the Dismal Swamp near the Nicanor section.

City Folk Breathe More Easily As They Ride

New York, July 27.—(AP)—Freed of immediate menace of a transit strike, New York's traveling millions breathed more freely as they rode to work today.

The threatened strike which last night was to have tied up all New York's subway and elevated systems was called off last evening after conferences attended by Mayor Walker and officials of the union and the companies.

A difference of opinion in the terms of settlement was seen today as tending to cause further possible trouble and the finding of a bomb in a subway tunnel under the East River caused some concern.

Fifteen hundred men hired by the Interborough from cities as far west as Chicago are being sent home today.

A thorough search of all subways and elevated tracks was being made by police today following the finding of the bomb.

After being soaked in water at police headquarters it was opened by a detective, who said it contained sufficient powder to wreck a train, besides causing serious damage to the tunnel.

The bomb was constructed of an 18 inch section of three inch galvanized iron pipe. A piece of lead attached to one of two copper wires that protruded from one end of the closed end of the bomb had been flattened, apparently by the wheels of a train.

Junior Order Has A Lively Evening

A talk by Walter L. Cohoon featured Tuesday night's session of North Bagley Council Number 69, Junior O. U. A. M. at their hall in the Savings Bank Building, and "members who were absent certainly missed a great treat," according to those who attended the meeting.

Refreshments were served and an excellent program continued to the evening. "I got the big laugh of the night when I told a joke that I had read in Monday's Advance," declared one speaker.

McNIDER HEADS PEANUT GROWERS

Field Director H. J. Vann Urges Perquimans Farmers to Go Forward

Hertford, July 27.—J. C. McNider was re-nominated director for Perquimans County to the Peanut Growers' Association at the primary meeting of the association for Perquimans held in the Masonic lodge rooms of the county courthouse Tuesday afternoon. J. T. Brinn was chosen chairman of the county unit and F. J. Triplett, secretary.

Aside from the business of nominating a director and choosing the county officers, the meeting was featured by a talk by field director H. J. Vann, the keynote of which was that the association must go forward or cease to function.

The unanimous vote of those who heard him was that it should go forward.

Obliging Bondsman Faces Dilemma In Court

If ever there was a fellow who found himself between the devil and the deep blue sea, in the hands of the ancient saying, that fellow was C. H. Robinson, colored, who was called upon to make a weighty decision in recorder's court Wednesday morning.

Robinson was bondsman for James Moore, colored, who had been arrested Tuesday on a charge of beating. Moore had been directed to appear in court Wednesday morning, and had been put under \$15 bond to assure that appearance.

To cover the bond, Robinson had put up a Government money order for \$32. Robinson was on hand in recorder's court Wednesday morning—but Moore wasn't. Nor was there any explanation for his failure to appear.

Attorney Robert Lowry, engaged as counsel for Moore, requested that the case be continued to Thursday morning. Prosecuting Attorney LeRoy offered no objection, and did not insist upon forfeiture of the bond Wednesday.

However, there was the matter of the bondsman to be reckoned with. "Do you want to stay on Moore's bond?" Trial Justice Sawyer inquired of Robinson. The bondsman replied with an emphatic negative.

"Well, I'll give you your choice of putting up the whole \$32 for Moore's appearance tomorrow, or forfeiting the \$15 you've already put up," the trial justice tendered.

The bondsman squirmed. Sweat broke out copiously on his brow. He wriggled again.

"Jedge, I guess yo' better take dat \$15," he said, uncomfortably. The court smilingly relented. Moore's bond remained at \$15 for his presence Thursday morning, with the remaining \$17 of the money order out of jeopardy. A greatly relieved bondsman left the courthouse.

Takes First Mail On Atlanta Air Route

New Orleans, July 27.—(AP)—Major Sumter Smith took off from Alvin Cullender Flying Field at 10:27 today for Mobile, bearing the first consignment of mail to be handled over the New Orleans air route.

Forfeits His License Practice In State

Winston-Salem, July 27.—(AP)—J. W. Hollingsworth, local attorney has volunteered to forfeit his license to practice law in the State of North Carolina upon condition that he be suspended for one-half of the State, would accept a plea of polo contendere in a case in which the attorney was charged with false pretense.

THOUSANDS ARE AT CONVENTION FROM THE FARM

Farmers and Their Wives From All Over State Gather at Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting

DOWN TO BUSINESS

Visitors Study Better Farming and Home Making Methods Seriously; But Enjoy Recreation

State Hotel, Raleigh, July 27.—The high school of the farm in the State as a result of the increased size of the equalization fund, is causing a number of counties to consider the establishment of the eight months school term, in the opinion of Dr. A. T. Allen, State superintendent of public instruction.

This was undoubtedly the principal consideration that influenced Northampton county to vote favorably on the eight months term, a few weeks ago, this bringing the number of counties that now have the eight months school term on a county-wide basis to twelve. These counties are now Hatteras, Pamlico, Edgecombe, Gates, Currituck, Wilson, Guilford, Henderson, Transylvania, Vance, Carteret and Northampton. It is interesting to note that with the exception of two counties, all of these counties with eight months terms are in the eastern part of the State, considered by many as being "pauper" counties. Yet they are taking the lead for the longer school term.

Within the next few weeks two more counties will vote on increasing the school term to eight months. These are Hoke and Jones counties. No definite information as to the trend of sentiment in these counties has been received by State department of public instruction as yet, but it is hopeful that the longer term will carry in these counties.

The longer term lost recently in two county elections, in Buncombe and Chatham counties, there never has been much chance for the longer term in Chatham county, where sentiment is still against it, and in Buncombe the longer term lost because the city of Asheville, and a number of districts in the county already have the eight months term, and the property owners in these districts were opposed to increasing their own taxes to give a few more remote sections something they themselves already had.

"And that is the crux of the whole eight months school situation," said Dr. Allen, for instead of looking at the longer school term in terms of increased educational opportunity ahead of the greater cost, and are willing to pay a little more taxes themselves, so that others less fortunate may have better school advantages, we will not get very far toward a longer term.

"However, the attitude is rapidly changing, and more and more people are coming to realize the economic value—the dollars and cents value—of the longer school term. So we do not think it will require until more and more counties will adopt the eight months term on a county-wide basis, instead of by the district plan, as has been the prevailing system until now."

The fact that twenty counties, already have an eight months term in more than 75 per cent of the schools in those counties, in addition to the two counties that have the longer term on a county-wide basis, indicates the rapidity of the growth of the longer term idea. In Durham county, the eight months term is 99.2 per cent complete, there being but one one-teacher school in the county that is on less than eight months basis. In Mecklenburg county, the eight months term is 96.1 per cent complete; Camden 94.8 per cent complete; Scotland, 94.8 per cent; Halifax, 92.4; Warren, 88.1; Avery, 87.5; Craven, 86.7; Gaston, 85.9; Cumberland, 85.3; Hyde, 84.8; Runcombe, 81.4; Pamlico, 78.3; Bladen, 77.6; Richmond, 76.7; Bertie, 76.6; Granville, 76.5; and Wayne 75.

These figures are for the year 1925-26, and it is believed that when the figures for the year 1926-27 are compiled, that the number of counties with 75 per cent or more of their schools on an eight months basis will be even greater.

"There is no doubt that the people are thinking more and more along the lines of the longer term, and this thought eventually will be reflected in the adoption of the longer term in the various counties, especially as they realize the degree of tax reduction, or tax saving that will result from the larger equalization fund," said Dr. Allen.

Mrs. J. W. Randolph was taken to Sarah Leigh Hospital for treatment Tuesday.

EAST LEADS IN EIGHT MONTHS SCHOOL TERMS

Of Twelve Counties Adopting Eight Months County-Wide Plan All But Two Are in "Pauper" Section

MORE TO COME

Lightening of School Tax Load by Equalization Fund Will Hasten Eight Months Term, Says Allen

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Mrs. J. W. Randolph was taken to Sarah Leigh Hospital for treatment Tuesday.

Asheville Woman Is Hold-Up Victim Near Chicago

Chicago, Ill., July 27.—(AP)—With the remark "All you women need any way is a little rouge," three bandits held up and robbed Miss Eva Barton of Asheville, and Palm Beach, and Mrs. Betty McReynolds of Orlando, Florida, as they drove along the Joliet Road toward Chicago, they reported to police today.

The quick wit of the women saved their jewelry, valued at \$1,250 which they wrapped in a handkerchief and tossed out of the floor of the car when the bandits swung their machine across the road and forced them to stop. The robbers took \$380 in money from their victims.

Miss Barton is a student at the Castle Finishing School, Tarrytown, New York.

Dreyfus To Plead For Sacco-Vanzetti

Paris, July 27.—(AP)—Alfred Dreyfus, who was the central figure in one of the world's most famous criminal prosecutions in history, has accepted an invitation to go to America to plead the cause of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, under sentence of death for murder in Massachusetts.

Major Dreyfus served four years in the French penal colony of Devils Island on conviction of treason of which he was exonerated later.

Queen Marie Wants To Come U. S. Again

Rucharest, Rumania, July 27.—(AP)—Queen Marie has decided to visit the United States again. She hopes to start soon after her period of mourning for King Ferdinand is over, she told the correspondent for the Associated Press today.