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Marshall Robbins Kills Self After Murdering Wife and Burning Home

Also Said to Have Threatened Son—Said to Have Been Angry at Wife Because She Took Sides with Son in Dispute Over Tobacco.

Marshall Robbins, 65-year-old tobacco farmer and well known resident of Micro township, Johnston county, Monday shot and fatally injured his wife, threatened the life of his son; set fire to his home, and three hours later shot and killed himself in one of the worst tragedies ever recorded in this county.

The tragedy was thought to have been the outcome of an argument over a supply of tobacco which was stored in his home and claimed by one of Robbins' sons, which rights were said to have been disputed by Robbins. Mrs. Robbins was thought to have taken the side with her son, which angered Robbins, who then started the shooting.

The shooting occurred at the Robbins farm, four miles north of Selma, about 11 o'clock in the morning. Mrs. Robbins was shot in the face with a shotgun while hanging out some clothes in the back yard. The son, upon hearing the report of the gun, ran to the scene of the shooting, but his father threatened his life, telling him to leave the place or he would be shot, too, according to reports.

Spreading the alarm of the wife-shooting to the neighbors of the community, the son ran to the nearby home of Jasper Pittman, deputy sheriff, and Officer Pittman in turn notified sheriff's headquarters at Smithfield, asking for several additional officers to investigate the case.

Meanwhile, after instantly killing his wife, Robbins is said to have set fire to the home and ran down through a patch of woods nearby. He was away from the scene when the officers arrived, and the buildings, household furnishings, two automobiles and other farm equipment were in flames, being destroyed.

Robbins carried along his shotgun, which would make his capture harder for the officers, and soon after a search was inaugurated, bloodhounds were secured from Will Stevens, of Smithfield, and placed on the trail of the aged man. The officers, together with a number of citizens of the community, started scouring through the swamp and woods soon after noon, and after a search lasting for more than an hour they heard the discharge of a shotgun about 30 yards away.

Upon reaching the scene of the firing, the officers found Robbins dead. He had unlaced and removed his shoes, using his toes to pull the trigger of the shotgun, the end of the barrel being placed besides his face. Part of his face had been decapitated as the result of the shot. This happened about 2 o'clock, or three hours after he had shot and killed his wife.

The home, all outhouses, two automobiles and all house furnishings in addition to a large supply of tobacco were destroyed by the fire originating from the home set afire by Robbins. Efforts to have the property wrenched in vain.

Robbins was thought to have shot his wife because she had taken the side with her son, a young married man who had been residing with them until recently when he and his wife moved into another house in the community.

The shooting was the climax of an argument over a supply of tobacco stored in the old man's home, which the son claimed was his, according to reports.

County Coroner G. E. Parker was called to the farm during the afternoon and after an inquest said that it was a case of murder and suicide.

The bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Robbins were removed to the Bailey Funeral parlor in Selma.

Robbins was well known in the community and was considered a hard working farmer, honest and sincere. He was said to have been a man of rather erratic mind and at times became desperate. His wife, who was 55 years old, was also

BOLL WEEVIL DAMAGE MAY YET BE HEAVY

While the boll weevil scare in Johnston County seems to have subsided to a considerable extent for the past few weeks, reports are now beginning to trickle in to the effect that untold damage is in prospect by this pest which is now beginning to trickle in to the effect that untold damage is in prospect by this pest which is now beginning to make his work on the green boll very noticeable in many fields. Some farmers have been heard to say that the weevil is now doing more real damage to cotton fields than at any time this year and that they fear the destruction of bolls will entail a greater loss than that suffered a year ago.

SELMA DRUGGIST MOST POPULAR FIGURE AT STATE ASSOCIATION

According to competent judges, Star Harper, Selma's well known druggist and bachelor, was the best known and most popular figure attending the North Carolina Pharmaceutical Association in Raleigh this week. There were over five hundred druggists in attendance. Mr. Harper is a former president of the association.

TELLS OF DISASTROUS HAIL IN VIRGINIA

Elder H. F. Hutchens returned Monday from attending an association in the vicinity of Danville, Va. Mr. Hutchens says that the drouth in that section is something serious, but that the section of country in which the association was held had been visited recently by one of the worst hail storms that he has ever seen any sign of. He says that the crops were almost ruined by the drouth prior to the storm, but that there is absolutely no crop left in the path of the storm which covered a scope of country for several miles.

HYMN BOOK OPENS AT AN APPROPRIATE PLACE

What came very near being a serious accident took place here last Monday morning when one of White's ice cream trucks ran into a Ford sedan just on the south edge of Selma.

L. H. Hill, a local citizen, was driving the Ford sedan and just as he was entering State Highway 22 from a side street the ice cream truck struck the left front wheel and fender and after carrying the car for several feet turned it over on the side, crashing the windshield, breaking practically all the windows and completely wrecking it. Mr. Hill escaped with minor injuries, but it seems almost a miracle that the accident did not prove more serious. Some damage was done to the ice cream truck but the driver was unhurt.

A very singular incident in connection with the wreck was the finding of a hymn book which had been thrown from the wrecked car and which opened at the song: "Nearer My God To Thee."

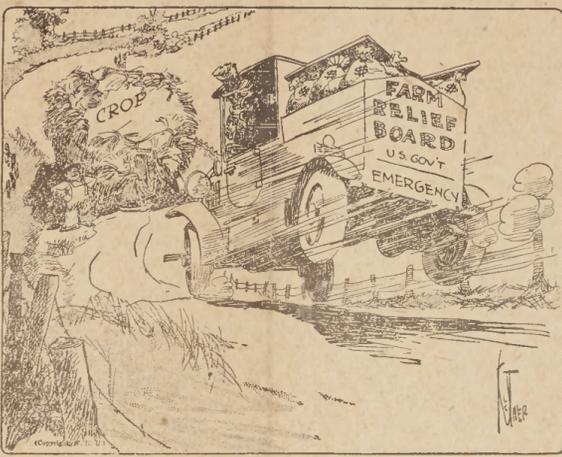
The couple are survived by four sons, Jesse, Herschel, Ralph and Manuel Robbins, and one daughter, Mrs. Edna Morris, all of Johnston County.

An estimate of the farm damage as a result of the fire could not be obtained tonight. Hundreds of persons from all sections of eastern North Carolina visited the scene of the tragedy during the afternoon.

The remains of Mr. and Mrs. Robbins were taken to Holly Springs Tuesday afternoon where the funeral services were conducted from the Free Will Baptist church by its pastor, Rev. W. M. Ferrell, after which they were interred in the church cemetery.

Hundreds of people from Selma and the surrounding country view the remains of this aged couple at the Bailey Undertaking parlors Monday evening and Tuesday morning.

A Hurry Call



A Live Sunday School At Selma Mill Village

About 15 years ago Mr. Geo. F. Brietz organized a Sunday School at the Chapel on Selma Mill Hill with a total of 51 members. This was indeed a fine beginning and no doubt gave much encouragement to Mr. Brietz at that time, but it is very evident that Mr. Brietz did not let this splendid beginning cause him to become over confident and then leave the school to take care of itself; instead of doing that he has kept constantly at work with the people in the vicinity of the mill and today this has become one of the liveliest Sunday schools around Selma, none excepted. On last Sunday afternoon there were 149 present.

Mr. Brietz has been Superintendent from its first organization up to the present time and has been a tireless worker in an effort to help on Sunday the same people with whom he has to work during the week as superintendent of the Selma Cotton Mill.

Last Sunday afternoon Rev. D. M. Sharpe taught a class of 21; Mrs. G. F. Brietz taught a class of 24; Stanley Armitage taught an interesting class of boys; Mrs. Katherine Kemp taught a class of 21.

On next Friday night this school will be entertained at a Brunswick Stew and games will be played on the lawn. This entertainment is being sponsored by the officers of the school.

Mr. Vance Sewell is secretary; Mr. Tew has charge of the singing and Mrs. Kemp is pianist.

Tonsil and Adnoid Clinic Here Sept. 1

Dr. Wade H. Atkinson, of Washington, D. C. to be in charge—Will be assisted by Other Prominent Physicians.

On the invitation of the Selma Parent-Teacher Association and with the complete endorsement of local physicians, Dr. Wade H. Atkinson, of Washington, D. C., has consented to operate a tonsil and adnoid clinic in Selma. Active operating will start on Monday, September 1 and continue throughout the week. The clinic will be conducted in the high school building. Dr. Atkinson will be assisted by Dr. Warring, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Dr. Elyson, of Washington, D. C., in addition to the help of local physicians.

School children throughout the northern end of the country will receive preference. Parents desiring to take advantage of the clinic should consult any of the local doctors, all of whom have offered to give their services free in this work.

The same general plan as prevailed in the clinic of two years ago will be continued. Any person desiring further information can consult the local physicians, Mrs. E. V. Woodard, president Parent-Teacher Association, or any of the school officials.

This work is undertaken with the singular purpose of promoting the general health of the school pupils in the immediate territory. Every doctor connected with the clinic in any way is giving his services absolutely free of any charge.

FROST IN NEW ENGLAND

Floyd Gibbons, noted headliner for the Literary Digest, in his news flashes over the radio Tuesday night said that there had been frost in some of the New England states this week.

Deputies Take Big Still in Wilders

Said to Be the Largest Distillery Ever Captured in Johnston County. Much Beer Destroyed.

Last Saturday about noon Deputy Sheriffs E. A. Johnson, L. D. Parker, of Smithfield; Hannibal Godwin and Brad McLamb, of Benson, and Jim Ellis, of Clayton, went up into Wilders Township and captured one of the largest whiskey stills ever captured in Johnston County. The still was a copper outfit and of about 200 gallon capacity. They captured the entire still complete, which, although not in operation at the time, showed signs that it had been in operation not long since. There was destroyed about 32 barrels of beer. No one was at the still and no arrests have been made as yet. The still was in the Pineville section where previous captures have been made within the last few months.

LAND AT AUCTION

We are calling attention to an advertisement in this paper in which 416 acres of land has been subdivided and will be offered at public auction on Wednesday, August 20th, 1930 at 10:00 A. M. This land is known as the F. K. Broadhurst farm about six miles west of Smithfield. Read the ad for full particulars.

Christian Adventists To Hold Meetings

The Advent Christian churches will soon start a series of revival meetings to be distributed among a number of their churches in this part of the state, giving one week to each church. They are as follows: Beginning at Hickory Grove on the third Sunday in August, Four Oaks, N. C., Route 4.

At Stone's Creek church on the fourth Sunday in August, in Benson, N. C., Route 2.

At Holly Grove church, Benson, N. C., Route 2, on first Sunday in September.

At Banner's Chapel, Benson, N. C., Route 2, on the Second Sunday in September.

We have been asked by a number of people when these revival meetings will be held and the dates and places above will answer that question to all concerned. We hope that each of these meetings will be well attended, and I am sure that the public will receive a most hearty welcome at each one of the meetings. Elder N. W. Harrison, of Durham, N. C., is expected to assist in these meetings. Everybody welcome.

ELDER W. Y. MOORE, Pastor.

Selma's First Born Son Subscribes To Johnstonian-Sun

Mr. Ira T. Rains, the first white boy born in the town of Selma, and the oldest citizen of the town, subscribed to the Johnstonian-Sun Tuesday morning.

Mr. Rains thinks this is the best paper that is published in Johnston County, as it gives more information pertaining to taxes, courts, etc., than any other paper.

He is very sorry that he has not been a subscriber years ago. Mr. Rains has been an employe of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Co. for the past 30 years or longer.

Tobacco Is Expected To Average Around 15 Cents Per Pound

The Average in This Belt Last Year Was 19 Cents—Quality of Greater Part Sold This Year Was Very Poor.

Smithfield, Aug. 11.—The tobacco markets in South Carolina, and in the border counties of North Carolina opened last week and like the Georgia markets they started off somewhat lower on the average than last year. The Georgia markets are said to have improved since the opening.

Mr. N. L. Perkins who is one of the proprietors of the new Peoples Warehouse here, and who is also interested in a warehouse in Lumberton, spent last Sunday at his home here, after having been on the Lumberton market all of last week.

Mr. Perkins who knows tobacco like a book, and who is a close observer, says he made a special effort last week to get from the buyers, circuit-riders, and others connected with the tobacco trade, some idea as to what might be expected after the opening of the markets in Smithfield, Wilson and other eastern North Carolina towns.

After talking with several of the "higher-ups," and watching the actions of the Lumberton market, Mr. Perkins says he has reached the conclusion that under existing conditions the average for all tobacco sold in this belt should not be under 15 cents per pound. The average in this belt last year was 19 cents per pound. If the average for the same grades this year should be 15 cents that would mean that the prices this year would average about 20 percent off from last year prices. The average of the crop of course will include all grades, good, bad, and indifferent, some of which will probably sell for 50 to 75 cents while some of the trashy grades will probably sell for one or two cents.

There is of course nothing certain about the prices as there are so many things that might come to pass that could bring about complete changes in the outlook and thus effect the prices; and cause them to change. Mr. Perkins says that the quality of the greater part of the tobacco sold in Lumberton last week was very poor. Some of it he says was hardly fit for anything except fertilizer, while there were a few lots of fairly good tobacco, but very little of it was properly graded. He says he sold tobacco last week all the way from two cents up to above thirty cents per pound. The average of all sold on the floor of his warehouse was \$8.84 per 100 pounds, while the average for all the four Lumberton Warehouses last week was \$8.75 per 100 pounds.

Mr. Perkins says that the prices for the lowest are equally as good or better than last year, but that the better grades seem inclined to lag behind. It is not expected that the buyers will be willing to pay their full limit in prices for the better grades until later in the season when the weather is cooler.

The latest estimate by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture as announced over the radio Monday was for an increase of 9,000,000 pounds in the crop as a whole in this state, notwithstanding the shortage in the Western part of the state. The reason given for the predicted increase is the increase in the acreage planted.

It is said that there are several things that are at present hurting our tobacco market in the bright belts. First of all there are now large stocks of tobacco on hand which had to be brought over from the big crop last year.

Then there are two countries, India and China which are numbered among our very best customers, that are at present doing very little buying. In India there is an uprising bordering on revolutionary war, and in China they have both civil war and famine.

Another thing that is liable to have some effect is the great drouth that now effects a large part of our own country. This drouth, the worst ever known, has already ruined the crops over large portions of several

Men Tell Fish Stories But Selma Woman Gets A Real Fish

It is the delight of many men to go fishing and then come home and review their experiences with alluring fish tales that are seldom warranted by bringing with them the fish as evidence of their catch, but not so with Mrs. W. P. Sellers, a 60-year-old Selma lady who spent a short while on the banks of the Neuse last Tuesday afternoon at the Southern Railroad bridge about two miles west of Selma. Mrs. Sellers, after casting her hook in the waters of the Neuse and patiently waiting for some time, had decided that about all there was to fishing was the name, and when she had decided to pull in her line and call it a day minus any fish, something suddenly swiped her hook and carried it away as though a shark had grabbed it, almost pulling her over into the river. She called to parties nearby to come to her assistance and after much effort the fish was landed high on the bank. He was such a large one that she decided that she had all the fish she needed at one time, so she returned to Selma and had the scaly monster weighed and to the astonishment of her friends she had caught a fish out of Neuse River that tipped the scales at twelve pounds.

Mrs. Sellers says that she goes fishing almost every day and likes the sport, but her greatest regrets now are that she will not be able to persuade President Hoover to desert his fishing camp up in the dry hills of Virginia and move it down here on the banks of the old Neuse where he could find some real sport.

SELMA PEOPLE ATTEND BANQUET AND BALL IN RALEIGH TUESDAY

The following from Selma attended the banquet and ball given in honor of the North Carolina druggists at the Sir Walter hotel in Raleigh Tuesday evening: Dr. E. N. Booker, Dr. C. P. Harper, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Woodard and daughter, Miss Lillian Louise, Miss Dorothy Gardner, Miss Fannie Howell, Mr. A. J. Holliday, Mr. Leslie White, Mr. E. G. Hobbs and Mr. Billie Blackman.

ANTHONY-GEORGE.

Mr. A. E. Anthony, prominent business man of Laurinburg, and Miss Mary George, popular young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. George, were married on last Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock in Raleigh. They will make their home in Laurinburg.

states in the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys, including Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

It has badly damaged the crops in the Western portion of our own state and the end is not yet.

These people who have no crops and who are now selling their live stock because they have no feed and in many cases not even drinking water except that which is hauled or shipped in from distant points, can not hope to be able to buy much of anything for at least another year, and this will cause less to be consumed.

In some of these drouth-stricken states large quantities of both burley, and dark tobacco, are usually grown, and the crop failures there will probably cause higher prices for these grades. But as they are not used for the same purposes as our bright flue-cured tobaccos it is not expected that their crop failures will cause any greater demand for the grades grown here.

A traveling man who passed through Smithfield a few days ago is reported to have said that in his home county in Kentucky which had usually been one of the leading tobacco counties of that state there had been no rain since last March, and that not a pound of tobacco would be produced in that county this year.