

Dr. Mike Roberson Is Held On Murder Charge

Durham Physician and Mrs. E. E. Forsyth Charged With Capital Crime On Miss Myrtle Gardner Four Oaks School Teacher.

(News and Observer, Dec. 28.)

Charged with first degree murder, Dr. Mike Roberson, 45, Durham physician, was lodged in Wake county jail yesterday afternoon in connection with the death of Miss Myrtle Gardner, 29-year-old school teacher, who died in Mary Elizabeth Hospital Monday night of blood poisoning induced by a criminal operation.

Prior to his arrest the charge against Mrs. E. E. Forsyth, of Raleigh, who was arrested shortly after midnight Tuesday, was changed to first degree murder, and George D. Clifton, of Coats, brother-in-law of the dead woman, was charged with being an accessory before and after the fact. Both, upon their arrest, were charged with being accessories before the fact.

Clifton's bond was hoisted from \$5,000 to \$10,000. The other two are not allowed the privilege of bail.

Miss Gardner, who taught in a four Oaks school, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Everett H. Gardner, of Angier. In an oral statement made shortly before her death, she charged "Dr. Roberson, of Durham" with performing the criminal operation and named Mrs. Forsyth as an accomplice.

Clifton, who married Miss Gardner's sister, told officers that he met the school teacher here and accompanied her to Mrs. Forsyth's house, on the corner of South and Person Streets, last Saturday. There they took lodging, he said, as "Mr. and Mrs. George D. Clifton," and Miss Gardner was entered in Mary Elizabeth Hospital as "Mrs. Clifton."

The brother-in-law said his purpose was to help the young woman in her predicament.

Miss Gardner, who was carried to the hospital Monday afternoon about 1 o'clock, succumbed at 8:30, several hours after an emergency operation was performed on her by Dr. P. G. Fox, on whose advice she was removed from the Forsyth house.

The warrants against Dr. Roberson and Mrs. Forsyth charge that they "did kill and murder one Myrtle Gardner, causing her death by unlawfully and feloniously committing an abortion on the said Myrtle Gardner, from which she died."

Both have been implicated in previous alleged criminal operations, the present case being the third in which they have been involved together during the past several years. Mrs. Forsyth now is under \$1,000 bond, awaiting trial in Wake Superior Court for allegedly aiding and abetting in a criminal operation reputedly performed last spring on Miss Daphne Conn, a former school girl, by Dr. Roberson, who also is awaiting trial in the case.

Several years ago they were charged with performing a criminal operation upon Miss Irma Louise Robinson, of Goldsboro, teacher in the Boylan Heights School here. In this action Dr. Roberson was convicted by a Durham County jury and sentenced to prison for five to seven years. He appealed to the Supreme Court, which granted him a new trial on a technicality. The charge was not pressed with leave when the principal witness, a man charged with procuring the abortion, disappeared.

In another action the jury hearing of Dr. Roberson's case couldn't agree on a verdict and the principal witnesses couldn't be located for the new trial. The alleged operation was performed on a Harnett county girl. Mrs. Forsyth wasn't involved in this case.

It was said last night was the first that Dr. Roberson had spent in jail despite the several actions which have been brought against him.

R. O. Everett of Durham, Dr. Roberson's attorney, held a conference with members of his client's family last night. He said he would seek a writ of habeas corpus to secure Dr. Roberson's release on bond, possibly today.

The charge of murder was brought against Dr. Roberson and Mrs. Forsyth at the suggestion of Solicitor J. C. Little, who testified the first degree murder charge was based on the testimony of a witness expressing the belief

that the death, if it was the result of a criminal operation, could be construed as "murder in an attempt to commit a felony."

Miss Gardner made her deathbed statement in the presence of Dr. Fox, Dr. Harold Glascock and Miss Gladys Lambert, a nurse. She was told of the seriousness of her condition and advised to tell all immediately after being brought to the hospital.

Shortly afterward she received treatment in the operating room in an effort to save her life. She succumbed several hours afterward, carrying into death the secret of the name of the man responsible for the predicament which led her to the fatal resort.

Her body was taken home yesterday.

Clifton, who kept in touch with his sister-in-law Sunday, went to her home Monday afternoon, returning to Raleigh with two of her sisters. They arrived two hours after Miss Gardner died, as did her parents. It was then that Clifton was arrested.

Dr. Roberson was arrested in his Durham office by Wake County Deputies W. G. Maddy and Clyde Whitaker, who were accompanied by Sergeant Leary of the Durham police department. The physician was incarcerated here at 3:45 p. m. Exceeding reticent, he said he knew nothing about the case.

Mrs. Forsyth was taken in custody after a half-mile chase by Deputy Maddy and city officers. They were waiting for her at her house when the woman drove up, spied them and sped away.

The sheriff's office, which has been in complete charge of the case, reported yesterday that other information concerning it was in their hands but that they couldn't divulge it at the present. However, Sheriff Turner declared there would be no further arrests in the case.

Warrants for arrest of the trio were sworn out by Coroner L. M. Waring, who is ill at his home. Sheriff Turner is acting coroner. Last night he was unable to say when a preliminary hearing would be held.

William D. Avera Died Monday Night

Smithfield, Dec. 28.—William David Avera, prominent farmer of Smithfield Township, died in Rex Hospital at Raleigh Monday night at 7:30 o'clock in his 63rd year.

Mr. Avera married Miss Carrie Allen, November 5, 1895. She survives him with the following children: John W., and David S. Avera, Winston-Salem; Nick Allen Avera, Patterson, N. J.; W. D. Avera, Jr., Smithfield; Waitstill Avera, Norfolk, Va.; Thomas Avera, Smithfield; Mrs. R. Keith Compton, Jr., Richmond, Va.; Mrs. Franklin L. Davis, Auburn, Ala.; Mrs. J. Roy Pearson, Raleigh; Miss Caroline Avera, of Smithfield. He also leaves one sister, Mrs. W. A. Wynn, Raleigh.

Mr. Avera was born in Johnston county and spent his boyhood in Raleigh. He was educated at Davis School in Raleigh. He was prominent in the Masonic fraternity and a member of the Methodist church. He was master of the Masonic lodge at Smithfield and was a member of the Scottish and York Rite bodies. The funeral was conducted at 3:30 p. m., Tuesday from the home of his sister, Mrs. W. A. Wynn, 1302 Hillsboro Street, Raleigh, by Rev. Mr. Brown, Mr. Avera's pastor, assisted by Rev. Eugene C. Few, pastor of Edenton Street Methodist church, Raleigh. Interment was in Oakwood cemetery at Raleigh.

Mr. Avera had served as Justice of the peace for several years, spending much time in the courthouse at Smithfield, and was one of the most active justices in the entire county.

Quinn Anderson Dies in Tampa Fla.

Friends in Selma will regret to learn of the death of Quinn Anderson which occurred in Tampa, Fla., Monday from double pneumonia. His family lived in Selma at one time. He is survived by his widow who was Miss Bertha Creech of Selma and a seven year-old son, his parents and several brothers and sisters.

Promises Must Be Fulfilled To Hold

Democrats Have Taken On A Large Sized Order But It Must Be Accomplished If The Party Is To Retain Control.

By FRANK P. LITSCHERT

Word comes from Albany to the effect that the Democrats will lose no time in starting to rebuild an effective party organization. Shortly after the New Year, it is said, Chairman Farley will journey to Washington to make plans and extend the work of the Democratic National Committee. The dispatches continue that both President-elect Roosevelt and Farley are convinced that with the proper sort of organization the Democratic party can hold much of the sweeping gains it made in the recent election, mostly, of course, in Republican states like Iowa and Michigan.

This once more brings to mind the popular fallacy that it is political machinery which wins political campaigns. Yet the truth is that such machinery plays a minor part in the result, especially in a campaign like the one through which we have just passed. It is necessary of course to have political organization and well supplemented political publicity. But at the same time it must be admitted that Farley's organization played a minor part in bringing about the election of Roosevelt in November. The result was due neither to any of the Democratic bosses nor to any possible mistakes on the part of the Republican organization during the campaign. The Democratic landslide was due almost solely to economic conditions—in short to the depression. The Democrats would have won without a national chairman, and even if Governor Roosevelt had not stirred outside Albany during the campaign. The Republicans would have lost had they possessed a dozen national organizations with a corresponding number of national chairmen. Anyone who took the trouble to go out into the country during the campaign and to talk to the people, to get their mental reactions, knows that this is true.

There was no special enthusiasm for Roosevelt among the mass of voters. The people were distressed. They knew that they had lost money, that their business or their income was depleted or that they lacked jobs. They were not sure whether a change would do any good or not, but they were willing to try anything in an effort to get things running better—just as the superstitious gambler will cut the cards or walk around his chair to change the run of luck.

If the Democrats under Roosevelt want to retain the sweeping gains they have made in Republican territory there is only one way they can do it, and that is to restore prosperity to the American people. If they do this and can convince the people that their policies brought about the return of normalcy then they have a chance to retain power until such time as factional differences disrupt the party again. But if the promises they made in the last campaign are not fulfilled, if they do not restore prosperity, then a dozen chairmen in Washington and an equal number of efficient Charlie Michelsons sending out publicity will not be availing.

A great many political observers are giving credit for the Democratic victory to the organization which Raskob built up at Washington immediately after the election of 1928 with Jouett Shouse in charge and Charles Michelson handling the publicity. Credit is due these two gentlemen for their effective work. Perhaps none could have done it better. But if there had been no depression, or if we had pulled out of the slump as it looked like we were going to early in 1931 before the fresh series of European disasters descended upon us, President Hoover would have been hailed as a great and successful leader and would in all likelihood have been re-elected in spite of the barbed shafts released against him by his adversaries.

So while it is right and proper for the Democrats to revamp their organization at Washington and start their publicity all over again as they did after the 1928 election, let them not forget that the only way to keep on winning is to do what they promised to do in the 1932 campaign. It is a large sized order but it must be accomplished if the party is to retain control. If they do so their machine may run smoothly and their publicity run true. But if they don't, the engine

Protest Address of Mrs. Roosevelt

Talk From Next First Lady Of The Land Has Put Severe Strain Upon Loyalty Of Countless American Women.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt's reputed assertion that "the average girl of today faces the problem of learning very young how much she can drink of such things as whisky and gin and sticking to the proper quantity" has brought a "shocked protest" from a group of women leaders at Topeka, Kansas.

Fifty of them from many of the leading women's organizations in the city instructed a committee to inform the wife of President-elect Roosevelt her recent address on the subject "has put a severe strain upon the loyalty of countless American women."

"Lest your astonishing statement," said a letter of protest by the group, "should pass unquestioned in America and Europe as representing the opinion of American womanhood, we wish in the name of the hundreds of thousands of American women of all political parties to register a shocked protest against this statement."

"To advocate that an open door to the use of intoxicants may be safely entered by a judicious knowledge of the amounts so young girl may imbibe with impunity is the most astonishing statement yet made by a woman whose husband has been elected to the highest office in the gift of the people. The plea that this education is necessary among girls of our country in order that they may escape being classed as 'prigs' is an insult to the American girl."

"The majority of the young women of our country are so individual and personal in character that the fear of being called a pig has no terror for them. The statement that they need to be protected from ridicule if they abstain from intoxicants does not apply to the present generation."

"It is our sincere wish always to respect and honor the First Lady of the Land, but your address has put a severe strain upon the loyalty of countless American women."

"We believe that ours is only one of a vast avalanche of protests that your task has choked in the hearts of your countrywomen. We shall welcome heartily a future address from you which we can applaud and honor."

The committee named to forward the protest to Mrs. Roosevelt was composed of Mrs. S. S. Estey, Mrs. Margaret Hill McCarter, Mrs. Benson M. Powell and Mrs. Charles M. Sheldon.

Game Warden Falls From Grace Himself

The tables were turned on Game Warden, I. M. Earp, when he appeared in the recorder's court at Wendell, Wake County, the past week to prosecute nine young men for hunting without license.

Evidence was produced in court that the game warden himself hunted without license prior to his appointment as game warden and further evidence introduced tended to detract from the credibility of the game warden's evidence. Following this evidence County Game Warden Young, who was present officially, personally swore out a warrant for Earp, and he was tried and convicted for a violation of the very laws he was sworn to enforce. Judge Brame followed the custom in taxing him with the cost of the case, but treated in a very caustic manner to the official conduct of the warden. He made it plain that he expected the officers of the law to come into court with clean hands. At last account Earp was still holding down his job: He is probably a local Democratic worker and the powers that be are afraid to fire him.

Mr. Easom In Hospital

Mr. Jim Easom of near Selma, who has been suffering with an attack of influenza, became suddenly worse Monday when complications set in, and it was deemed best to take him to Duke hospital. He was accompanied by his son, Dr. Herman Easom, who is a member of the medical staff at the State Sanatorium.

will start knocking and the news releases will sound like wails of anguish by the time the next election rolls around.

Selma's Trade Campaign Proves A Big Success

Jonas Is Thanked By the President

Hoover Writes Personal Letter To Former Ninth District Representative And Extols Party Principles.

Former Representative Charles A. Jonas, of Lincolnton, has received a fine personal letter from the President which reads as follows:

My Dear Mr. Jonas:
I wish to convey to you my appreciation of your effective leadership in the campaign—a campaign against great odds. The election result should, I believe, be taken not as a discouragement to the Republican Party but rather as a challenge to continued zealous and aggressive work in behalf of its sound and enduring principles. I wish to thank you personally for your able and unselfish work in behalf of the Party and myself.

Yours faithfully,
HERBERT HOOVER.

Mr. Jonas dispatched the following reply to the President's letter:

My Dear Mr. President:
I thank you sincerely for your fine personal letter. I shall preserve it as one of my prized possessions. Your uniform kindness to me during your administration and the many evidences of your personal friendship will always be held in grateful remembrance.

The people in the last election voted not against you nor against the Republican Party, nor for the Democratic Party or its candidate for President. They voted against the depression and for a change, without and special reason. Your magnificent leadership and demonstrated lofty statesmanship in the Nation's most severe peacetime crisis is an inspiration to every intelligent, patriotic American citizen, and is the most stabilizing influence in the world today.

The unseemly haste on the part of the sponsors of the "new deal" to drown the troubles of the people in an unrestricted supply of legalized beer and whiskey at the expense of proper regard for the fundamental law of the land, should receive no encouragement from an administration which has contentedly encouraged respect for the Constitution and our American traditions. I believe this program of demoralization will not receive your encouragement or approval.

You have my most sincere good wishes in all your future undertakings and I earnestly hope for an opportunity again to be of service to you.

Cordially and faithfully yours,
CHARLES A. JONAS.

Auto Thieves Active In Town of Smithfield

Smithfield, Dec. 28.—Last Saturday night Mr. Clarence Langdon, of the Hopewell section, parked his car near the Methodist church here and walked across Market Street to speak with some one at the Sanders Theatre, and when he returned a few minutes later his car had been stolen. The car was later found in a ditch near Princeton.

Last night, the Ford sedan of Mr. J. L. Dupree was taken from the garage at his home 6 miles west of Smithfield, and so far, all efforts to locate it have failed. The theft was discovered early this morning, and they were able to follow the tire tracks for several miles, but lost the trail in Elevation Township, owing to the increase in traffic.

Mr. Rufus Johnson, a near neighbor of Mr. Dupree, says that his dog aroused him at 1:00 o'clock this morning, and he thinks that was the time that the car was stolen.

Tonight about 3:30 o'clock some one stole Mr. D. U. Thompson's car, which was parked in front of the Smithfield Hardware store, and so far he has no clue as to who got it or which way it went.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. David Liles announce the birth of a son, Charles Clemmens Liles, on Saturday, Dec. 24th, 1932.

Thousands of People Throng Selma Streets For Hours Waiting For Announcement of Prize Winners—Austin Car Won by Miss Linda Cobb.

The big trade campaign, put on by the various merchants and professional men of Selma a few weeks ago, came to a successful close here last Saturday afternoon when one of the largest crowds ever seen in Selma thronged the streets for hours waiting to learn who would be awarded the various prizes as a Christmas gift by the merchants and professional men of Selma.

A loud speaker apparatus was procured from the head office of WPTF at Raleigh, and by the use of these powerful magaphones the people were enabled to understand the various announcements as the program proceeded. As Selma people were permitted to speak into the receiver to the magaphones they were made to feel that they could for once speak with great volume of voice as they heard each word go resounding throughout Selma's great trade center.

The crowd has been variously estimated at from 5,000 to 7,000 people. At any rate, there were lots of people in Selma Saturday.

The prizes which were awarded are as follows:

Austin car—Miss Linda Cobb.
Jersey Milk Cow—W. T. Daugherty, mill village.

Two Rugs, given by Smith & Cameron—William Batten and Mr. Moseley.

The Lee Store gave five prizes: 1st—Estelle Godwin; 2—Raymond Rose; 3—No. 110639; 4—Stella Curtis; 5—Charlie Campbell.

The Curtis Airplane, given by Wood's Drug Store, was awarded to Sam Edwards.

The prize given by Clean-M-Right was awarded to Miss Rena Grant.

Ronnie Davis, 9-year-old colored boy, was awarded a 42-piece china set by the Selma Drug Company.

Mr. Charlie Jacobs was given a Stetson Hat by the Selma Clothing & Shoe Company.

The Home Pride Tea Company gave Mr. Robert L. McRae a bushel box of apples.

The Sanitary Grocery Company gave Jos. Lassiter, M. C. Tuck, and Mr. Maulesley and Mr. H. E. Bass \$5 in cash each.

The Dun Furniture Co gave H. J. Brantley a nice felt mattress.

Geo. N. Siler gave Mrs. Stanley Armitage a barrel of fancy flour.

The Hardware Store gave Miss Thelma Ward an Aladdin lamp.

Kiwanians Attend Christmas Party

President C. L. Richardson, Rev. L. T. Singleton, Dr. R. M. Blackman, George F. Briez and John Jeffereys of the local Kiwanis club, attended a "Christmas Party" given by the 6th and 7th Kiwanis Divisions to the boys at Eastern Carolina Training School for Boys at Rocky Mount Tuesday night. Upon arrival each Kiwanian was given a slip showing the dormitory where they were to be served. The meals were prepared and served by the boys of the institution. At each Kiwanian's plate was a souvenir of a rolling pin or high-back chair carved by the boys. After the dinner was served the guests were entertained in the main building which was attractively decorated with a large Christmas tree. On this tree there were gifts for each boy in the institution. The school orchestra rendered several very enjoyable selections.

Interesting talks were made by Lieutenant Governors Owen H. Page and Bill Montgomery of the 6th and 7th districts respectively.

Talks on education, punishment, play, etc., were made by the boys. Samuel Leonard, superintendent of the school, married Miss Julia Etheredge, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Etheredge, of Selma.

NOTICE TO FARMERS OF PLEASANT GROVE TOWNSHIP
I will be at M. B. Pleasant's Store, Pleasant Grove Township, on Friday afternoon, January 6th, to clean tobacco seed for farmers in that section. This service is free to the farmers of the county.
J. B. SLACK, County