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MRS. JOEL HILL MURDERED.

Terrible Crime Committed at Jamestown—No Clue to the Murderers Has Been Found.

The people of Lexington were greatly shocked Thursday morning to learn of the death of Mrs. Joel Hill, which occurred at Jamestown Wednesday night. At first it was reported that Mrs. Hill had committed suicide, but later reports confirmed the rumor that she had been murdered by burglars. The suicide story found ready credence here, because it was known that Mrs. Hill has been very ill since the death of her husband a few months ago and that she has been despondent and close to nervous prostration for many weeks.

For several months Mrs. Hill had been undergoing treatment in a sanitarium in Jamestown. Dr. Joel Hill, her husband, died last November, after a long illness. After his death her health failed and she was carried to Philadelphia for treatment. Her sister, Miss Jennie Ragdale, of Jamestown, who is a member of the faculty of Bryn Mawr College, at that time looked after her while she was in the sanitarium. Dr. David J. Hill, her brother-in-law, had also made frequent visits to Philadelphia to see her and only the most encouraging reports came from her. The people of Lexington were delighted to know that she was improving, rapidly and that she would soon be home again, for there were few in the community who were so popular with all classes as she.

Mrs. Hill left Philadelphia June 2, in company with her sister, Miss Ragdale, and started homeward. She stopped at Jamestown to spend a few days with her mother, brother and other relatives and members of her family met her there. They found her much improved in health, taking a decidedly more healthy interest in life, and delighted to get back to North Carolina and her friends and loved ones.

The details of the crime are almost too horrible to chronicle. Thursday morning when Mrs. Ragdale arose, she found that the house had been entered by burglars. The silver and other valuables had been gathered up in bundles, as if some one had been preparing to carry it off. She called her son, Mr. Will Ragdale, and together they went over the house. They missed nothing and Mrs. Ragdale thought that the burglars had been frightened away when she called the farm hands at four o'clock. They inspected every room except Mrs. Hill's, passing by that in order to not disturb her. She had been a poor sleeper for some time and no one slept in the room with her for fear of disturbing her.

The family went ahead with the ordinary preparations for the day's work and activities and it was not until 7:30 that the crime was discovered. Mrs. Ragdale and Miss Jennie Ragdale, carrying fresh linen for her bed, went to Mrs. Hill's room and there found her lying partly out of the bed, her face purple and blood trickling from one ear. Her hands were bound together in front of her and a leather strap was buckled tight around her neck and fastened to the bed post. A stocking was also tied around her neck and in her mouth was stuffed a black mask. Over the mask was tied her other stocking. From appearances, her feet had also been tied to the bed, but in her struggles she had freed her feet and fallen out of the bed. Life was extinct, but the body was still warm.

It is thought that the burglar, or burglars, in entering her room, awakened her and that they at once assaulted her, stifling her cries and binding her so that she could not move. There were none other persons in the house, but none of these heard the slightest sound. The door to the children's room across the hall had been left open, the night before, but this was found closed and adds mystery to the case.

With Mrs. Hill out of the way the burglars proceeded with their work, ransacking the drawers of the dresser in her room and then proceeding to the dining room. Before they were through with their work here something happened, to frighten them and they dropped their wares and fled. Mrs. Hill's room was up-stairs and access to it was gained by climbing up the porch columns. A chair was taken from the porch and placed against the post and there were several vines broken around her window on the outside. On the ground around the porch were found a number of burnt matches and on the porch roof around her window were found others. A box of matches were also found under her window. The thieves got out by opening a window of the dining room.

Up to the present there is not the slightest clue to the murderer or murderers. The Ragdale home is situated near the railroad, a narrow footpath running directly from the back door to the railroad tracks and the deed might have been committed by professional hoboes. Three or four persons are positive that train No. 23 or 31, southbound, which passed Jamestown between twelve and two o'clock, stopped there on the night of the murder. Shortly after No. 29 passed Dr. Focous, of Jamestown, heard footsteps on his front porch and prepared to answer a call, but whoever it was passed on. He looked out at the window and saw a man going in the direction of the Ragdale home.

Mrs. Hill's body was prepared for burial by a High Point undertaker and the internment took place here Friday afternoon at three o'clock. She was laid to rest beside her husband, underneath a great mass of beautiful flowers. She leaves seven children, four sons and three daughters. (Continued on Page Four.)

MANY WOMEN HERE.

Woman's Missionary Society Meeting Brings Scores of Good Women to Lexington.

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Western North Carolina Conference of the M. E. church South held a very interesting and helpful convention with the First Methodist church of this city beginning Thursday and ending Monday afternoon. There were 237 authorized delegates and visitors present and the occasion was one of importance to the Western North Carolina Conference of the M. E. church south.

Probably the most interesting visitor of the week was Miss Daisy Davies, of Georgia. She is the representative of the Woman's Board of Missions of the Southern Methodist church and she knows her business. Never in the history of the town has any woman so completely captivated all of the people and there was genuine regret when she left. Sunday night she addressed an open meeting on the subject of Foreign Missions. The big First Methodist church was crowded to the front steps with interested people. Every available inch of space in the auditorium was taken up by the delegates and school rooms were packed to their utmost capacity. Out in the vestibule the people stood around the windows and listened to her wonderful address.

She handled her subject with the skill of a master. She reviewed rapidly conditions in the various missions taken up, sketching the work of the laborers already in the field, outlining their difficulties and impressing deeply on the minds of her hearers their own responsibility for the work. Miss Davies was called on at every session to make talks and she responded readily every time, with something illuminating and helpful. She never failed to set the society right when any knotty question arose and her influence will be felt in North Carolina for many days through the consecrated women who went home Monday filled with the zeal and energy imparted to them.

Mrs. J. F. Ward, president of the Woman's Missionary Society of the First Methodist church, is to be congratulated on the very satisfactory manner in which the details were looked after and the work of the convention expedited. Every delegate was taken care of in some hospitable Lexington home and every one of them went away pleased with their entertainment. Mrs. Ward had a faithful and devoted corps of assistants and there is "glory" enough around about them to reflect credit on their society, their church and their town and have every reason to be proud of it.

Miss Lucy Robertson, president of Greensboro Female College, is president of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Western North Carolina Conference, and she presided at all of the meetings. She is a fine presiding officer and has been an ideal president. She was always ready with words of wise counsel. She has been president for many years and has done much to make the society a great working, moving force in the Western North Carolina Conference.

At the meeting Saturday Gastonia was chosen as the next place of meeting. A number of other cities wanted the gathering, but Gastonia pulled the hardest and won. According to the reports of the officers the members of the society last year contributed \$16,082.33 to the cause of foreign missions. In the Western Conference there are 5311 members, including the juvenile bands, which are known as Junior and Senior Light Bearers. There are 112 of these juvenile societies in the conference and 94 adult societies.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

The meeting closed Monday afternoon and the following things done to elect officers for the coming year. The following were chosen: President, Mrs. Lucy H. Robertson, Greensboro.

Honorary Vice-President, Mrs. J. E. Ray, Asheville.

First vice-president and superintendent of juvenile work, Mrs. G. G. Hearley, Asheville.

Second vice-president and superintendent of young people's work, Mrs. L. H. Martin, Greensboro.

Third vice-president and superintendent of Christian stewardship, Mrs. R. Alley, Greensboro.

Fourth vice-president and superintendent of social service, Mrs. D. B. Coltrane, Concord.

Corresponding secretary, Mrs. L. W. Crawford, Winston-Salem.

Recording secretary, Mrs. W. B. Stewart, Charlotte.

Treasurer, Mrs. P. N. Peacock, Salisbury.

Auditor, A. L. Smooth, Salisbury.

Superintendent of supplies, Miss Alice Smith, Asheville.

Editorial secretary, Mrs. D. M. Litzaker, Greensboro.

CENTRAL HIGHWAY MEETING.

Scouts Will be Here Tomorrow—If You Want the Central Highway Come Out and Say So.

The Central Highway scouting party will reach Lexington tomorrow. They will come from Winston-Salem, where they have been attending the North Carolina Good Roads Association, and will reach here in time for the meeting to begin promptly at ten o'clock.

Chairman Sprull, of the entertainment committee, has been working hard to get everything in line for a really brilliant reception. A good band has been secured and will be on hand to furnish the music. All of the automobiles in the county have been pressed into service and the scouts will be met several miles out on the Salem road and escorted to the city in fine style. The cars will be decorated with Lexington flags and pennants and banners bearing such inscriptions as "Welcome to Lexington," "Lexington Leads," "Davidson For Good Roads," "Lexington Has \$100,000 for Good Roads," etc., will be carried on the cars.

The scouts have met with the greatest enthusiasm throughout the entire trip. The people of the west have shown even more interest in securing the line than the people of the east and at every point, hundreds of good citizens came out to hear the speeches and cheer the highway scouts. It is to be hoped that Davidson county will do equally well. The Central Highway will mean a great deal to the county and every man should do what he can to help the cause along. Winston-Salem and Forsyth county are leaving no stone unturned to have the road diverted at Mooresville and brought by way of the Twin City and Joseph Hyde Pratt, Col. R. M. Phillips, and others, will make speeches and the occasion will be one well worth while.

No Strike of Southern Firemen. Washington, June 10.—A general strike of 2,400 firemen of the Southern railway was avoided today by the success of the mediation which has been in progress for two weeks. No statement has been made regarding the terms agreed upon except the statement from the mediators that the controversy had been settled on a basis satisfactory to each party. Each side made concessions in order to come to a basis of settlement.

The representatives of the firemen left this afternoon for the south. When they arrive on their divisions they will explain to the men they represented the points of agreement, which will probably then be made public.

After the firemen's demands had been disposed of the officials of the Southern held a conference with the representatives of the engineers, who are asking a wage increase of approximately 25 per cent. The settlement with the engineers is not expected within several days. The delegates of the trainmen and conductors are awaiting the settlement with the engineers.

A Good Aim.

The chamber of commerce is taking active and intelligent interest in the development of the town and among other things propose to make it easy for some good school man to build up a fine school in the old Thomasville Female College building. It is an ideal place for a high school, and we hope the chamber will have no difficulty in finding his man.—Thomasville Davidsonian.

those who aided us with carriages and automobiles, to the members of other denominations who helped us by entertaining our delegates and to the public in general for their kindly assistance in all things. We all feel that we have been greatly benefited by having the conference here and we feel especially grateful to Miss Daisy Davies, of Atlanta, who helped more than any one else to make the meeting a success.

HEARING BEFORE CORPORATION.

Both Parties Concede That Crossing is Partly Dangerous—Decision Expected Soon.

Chairman Franklin McNeill of the North Carolina Corporation Commission, Hon. W. T. Lee, another member and three representatives of the Southern Railway Company were here Monday for the purpose of going to the meeting at the overhead crossing for the Southern in the western end of the city—the Cotton Grove and Linwood crossing. Messrs. J. A. Lindsay and Walter S. Anderson, of the county board of commissioners, were present and the city of Lexington was represented by Mayor John H. Moyer, and Aldermen Herick, Harbin, Conrad, Lamb, McCrary and Young. Mr. E. E. Raper, city attorney, conducted the hearing for the city and Capt. S. E. Williams represented the Southern railway.

Mr. J. A. Lindsay was called as the first witness and in answer to questions described the dangerous crossing. He said that the cut at the crossing was about 10 feet deep. On the south side there is a very steep grade and it is impossible for a man to see the track on either side until he is well on it. There are three tracks here and the traffic that crosses the tracks is very heavy. He said that he would say that fully one third of the country people that come to Lexington come over this crossing. He then went on to tell that the crossing in this condition only since the line was double tracked a few years ago. Prior to that time it was dangerous, but not extremely so, as at present. At that time it was possible for a man approaching the track to see it for several hundred yards on each side.

As to the place for the overhead crossing, Mr. Lindsay mentioned two places, one to the east of the present crossing and the other to the west. Aldermen Harbin and McCrary were also placed on the stand and they told of the many dangers confronting the city that tries to cross there and Mr. McCrary said that the Southern had

COURT LAST WEEK.

Ludlow Case Resulted in Mistrial—Jury Could Not Agree—Other Details of the Week.

Superior Court last week was tiresome and tedious. There were but few cases that raised even a ripple of interest. The Ludlow case was probably the most important tried and this resulted in a mistrial. It was the first case taken up and went to the jury Tuesday afternoon. The jury was out on the case for about 39 hours before it finally gave up and announced that it was hopelessly divided. A juror was withdrawn and a mistrial ordered.

Mr. Ludlow's suit was based on a claim that he was contracted with to take charge of and construct all of the public improvements planned for the city a few years ago. The town claimed that he was to build only the sidewalks, water and sewerage systems and here was the bone of contention. Mr. Ludlow claimed \$4,000 in commissions that went to Mr. Gilbert C. White in laying off and building the macadam streets. It is said that the jury stood 11 to 1 in favor of the town, but this is only "hearsay."

The famous case of Lane vs. the Railroad which was transferred to Davidson from Rowan county several years ago, the trial of which has cost the county two lives, much cash and a lot of worry, was ordered back to Rowan for trial. The case has been to the Supreme court twice and has had two trials here. Mr. William Crawford Douglas was sworn in before Judge Lyon as an attorney and will be entitled to practice in all of the courts of the state.

The case of J. A. Gallimore vs. H. K. Grabb and A. J. Beck resulted in a verdict in favor of Gallimore, awarding him \$136 for damages to land by cutting timber and in other ways. In the case of E. H. Dorsett vs. Irene Williams there was a judgment for the plaintiff and defendant appealed. Judgment was entered in the case

MR. J. L. BURGESS SPEAKS.

He Offers Some Striking Examples of Fertilization—Different Plants as Fertilizers.

The Davidson County Agricultural Association met Saturday at 11:30 o'clock in the rooms of the Iriquois Club. Superior court was in session and that put the court room out of commission. The tax listers had usurped the grand jury room and there was no place for the meeting but the temple of justice. Consequently, the farmers were forced to call on the club, which very generously offered the use of its rooms for the meeting.

The big feature of the meeting was the address of Mr. J. L. Burgess, state agronomist. He had come on the invitation of President Wilson, of the association, and it was hoped that a large crowd would hear him. As it was about forty of the very best farmers in the county were present and there is no getting round the fact that his speech was a winner and that it will bear fruit for a long time to come. Mr. Burgess is the man that is conducting the experimental work. This season he has had his experimenters working on wheat. Last year they worked on corn. The state furnishes the fertilizers, seed, etc., and requires the experimenter to follow the instructions of the experts. Davidson county is fortunate enough to have six of these experimental farms. They are located on all of the principal roads leading out of the city of Lexington. The experimental acres are by the roadside in each case and the experiments are properly labeled, so that people passing by may be able to get lessons from the condition of the crop.

This year the experimenters have been experimenting with wheat. In each experiment acre drill rows were marked showing just what sort of fertilizer was used in each row. Phosphate, nitrogen and complete fertilizer were used and one part of the field had no fertilizer. Samples of the wheat from all of the farms were on exhibition and there was a great deal of difference shown in the va-

IN AND ABOUT LEXINGTON.

Personal Mention—Movements of the People—Small Items of Interest.

Mr. Harold Shoaf is visiting relatives in Christianburg, Va.

Mrs. B. F. Lee has been seriously ill during the past week of rheumatism.

Mrs. Eugenia C. Watlington, of Greensboro, spent Monday with Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Shoaf.

Mrs. H. Wood Dorsett and little son, Wood, Jr., are visiting relatives in Baltimore, Md.

Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Isior, of Kinston, spent several days of last week with Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Shoaf.

Mrs. Earl Holmes and children, have been visiting friends in Winston-Salem during the past week.

Masters Chas. Montcastle and Zeb Walsler, Jr., returned Monday night from a visit to Washington, N. C.

President Geo. W. Montcastle, of the Bank of Lexington, was in Columbia, S. C., yesterday on business.

Miss Mattie Mock, of Winston-Salem, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. C. A. Little, returned home Monday.

Miss Margaret Whitaker and brother, Clifton, of Edfield, arrived last week on a visit to their aunt, Mrs. Jno. C. Hunt.

Mr. and Mrs. Z. I. Walsler and their guest, Mrs. Dr. Sanders of Norfolk, Va., went to Washington Monday. They will return home to-day.

Rev. L. E. Thompson and wife, of Fayetteville, spent last week in the city as guests of Mrs. Thompson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. McCrary.

Deputy Sheriff Fred C. Sink went to Morganton Sunday to carry Mrs. Artis Sink, of Arcadia township, to the state hospital for the insane. He returned to the city Monday.

Mrs. R. L. Burkhead returned from Asheville Monday evening, being called home by the illness of her daughter, Miss Mary Noble, who has been quite unwell for several days.

Mr. E. A. Timberlake, who is traveling salesman for the Home Tailoring Co., returned Friday from an extended trip through South Carolina and a number of the southern counties of this state.

Mr. Eccles Hedrick, of Lexington, who has been spending some time at Mooresville, spent Sunday in the city as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. C. Dunham on his way home—Salisbury Post.

Mrs. Elizabeth Garner, mother of Mrs. Henry Sheets, left for Randolph county a few days ago to spend the summer with her son, Mr. Wm. R. Garner. Mrs. Garner is in her 93rd year and made the trip of 20 miles in a buggy.

Mr. W. N. Kinney left yesterday for Asheville to attend the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias of North Carolina which is now in session at Battery Park Hotel. Mr. Kinney goes as representative of the Lexington Lodge No. 21 K. of P. The local lodge has been making fine progress of late.

Mr. Thomas Hinkle went to Philadelphia Monday to carry to a hospital in that city a son of Mr. Henry Hinkle. The young man has been suffering for a long time with a malady that baffled the skill of his physicians and he was sent to Philadelphia to undergo an operation at the hands of a great surgeon. It is to be hoped that the operation will be successful and that he will return entirely cured.

Miss Roxie Sheets and niece, little Miss Hilda Sheets, leave Friday for Norfolk, Va., on Monday they go with Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Smith to Philadelphia to attend the Baptist World's Alliance, which meets in that city. From there they go to Washington, D. C., for a few days, and then to Myradsale, Va., to visit Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Hamill, who lived here several years ago. They will be gone for several weeks.

Major Samuel H. Smith, of Winston-Salem, his wife and daughters, Misses Anna and Helen, are at the Hotel March and expect to spend the summer there. Mr. Smith has been connected with the Norfolk & Western Railway Company for many years and has a wide circle of acquaintances. It is to be hoped that he and his charming family will be delighted with Lexington and that their stay here will be very pleasant.

Mr. Raymond Hinkle, who graduated from the A. & M. College at Raleigh this year with high honors, winning the highly coveted medal of the National Cotton Manufacturers Association, has accepted a position with the Inverness Mills at Winston-Salem, the new mill recently built by Mr. P. H. Hanes. The best wishes of a host of friends follow the young man. He is well equipped for the work and may be counted on to make good.

Badgett-Lowe.

Mr. S. B. Badgett, of Jackson Hill, and his bride, who was Miss Mabel Lowe, were in the city Thursday en route to Jackson Hill, where they will make their home. They were married Wednesday evening at the home of the bride's uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Greene, in Thomasville. Rev. E. M. Aratt, of Jackson Hill officiating. Miss Lowe taught school at Jackson Hill last year and is very popular with all classes in that section. Mr. Badgett is a prosperous young farmer and has many friends.

Apparently tripped to death by his runaway team, the body of Alexander Oxendine, a Croatan Indian, was found lying by the road, west of Fayetteville late Saturday afternoon. The team, which was recovered by a negro, evidently became unmanageable and, from a blow on his head it is supposed that Oxendine was prostrated beneath the mule's feet, his neck broken. The verdict of the coroner's jury was that his death was accidental.



The Central Highway's Case Good Roads Scout Car and Members of Party Who Will Reach Lexington Tomorrow Morning.

already paid \$4800 for smashing up one man at that place.

Chairman McNeill asked the witnesses if the town would agree to pay for the approaches to the bridge if the road would build it, but none of them was prepared to speak for the town. From the questioning it is apparent that the corporation commissioners are of the opinion that the Southern will have done its part when it builds the bridge and will not require the road to build the approaches that will be necessary.

Captain S. E. Williams, for the Southern, announced that the road was not attempting to controvert the contention that the crossing was a dangerous one and here the hearing came to an abrupt end. He submitted for his client a blue print showing the crossing, the proposed new crossings, and other features and the meeting was over.

Here for the Southern were Mr. A. D. Shelton, superintendent; Mr. T. Bernard, engineer of maintenance of way; Mr. T. B. Summers, roadmaster. These gentlemen did not go on the stand and took no part in the hearing, except to prompt their attorney at times.

After the hearing Chairman McNeill and the railroad men were carried in automobiles to inspect the crossing. Mr. Lee saw the road earlier in the day. It is believed here the corporation commission will order the overhead bridge built, provided that the town will build the necessary approaches and that a decision may be expected soon.

Strange Freak of Lightning.

Statesville, June 9.—There was a freak of lightning at the home of Isaac Speaks in South Statesville Wednesday evening. The bolt entered the house through the chimney and struck the feet of Mr. Speaks' mother, slightly burning them. Mrs. Speaks was lying on a couch and a little child was lying under the couch. The child was lying under the couch, but the bolt continued its strange work by burning off the top of a baby carriage, tearing a picture and mirror and knocking a hole through the floor, and then ran down into the basement and lit a lamp.

Not So Hot in Forty Years.

Chicago, Ill., June 9.—There has never before been a June day in Chicago as hot as today in the forty years during which a temperature record has been kept. The hot wave arrived about ten o'clock today, after a cool night, and the temperature rose steadily, until 4:30, when 95.5 degrees were registered by the official thermometer on the tower of the local weather bureau.

The government street thermometer registered three degrees higher, making the street temperature well over 100 degrees. The mercury boiled at its high point for half an hour and then began to drop.

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