

CHIEF TAYLOR, OF THOMASVILLE, SLAIN BY DR. J. W. PEACOCK

Prominent Physician Fires Six Shots Into Body of Officer—Fired from Concealment With Shotgun and Followed Up Wounded Officer and Shot Him Four Times With Big German Pistol.

Chief of Police J. E. Taylor, of Thomasville, was shot and almost instantly killed Saturday morning, about nine-thirty o'clock, by Dr. J. W. Peacock, prominent and widely known physician and business man of the same city.

Immediately following the shooting Dr. Peacock submitted to arrest at the hands of Policeman D. J. Lamb and was brought to Lexington jail by Officers Lamb and Youngs, where he is being held pending the preliminary hearing.

According to several bystanders Chief Taylor was standing on the east side of North Salem Street, almost in front of the North State Telephone building, and was in conversation with Hodges Varner, who was leaning against a telephone pole.

According to Officer Lamb, Dr. Peacock made no denial of using the shotgun or the pistol.

Miss Bertha Horsett, who is assistant to Dr. Peacock in his office, is quoted as saying that Dr. Peacock seemed to be in a very nervous state when he arrived at his office Saturday morning.

As he felt that he was practically in range of the shots he hastened southward a few steps and then looked and saw Dr. Peacock approaching the sidewalk on the east side.

Examination of the front of the North State Telephone Company building showed where perhaps as many as fifty shots had struck the brick facing and a number of these, battered out of shape, were picked up by those who arrived early on the scene.

of the shots from the Lueger entered his abdomen and plowed its way through his body. He was immediately given aid by Dr. C. A. Julian and rushed to the High Point Hospital, from whence came word shortly after his arrival that the wound would in all likelihood prove fatal.

PEACOCK BARN BURNED. About two-thirty o'clock Saturday morning Dr. Peacock's barn, located at the rear of his home, which is near the corner of North Salem and Leonard Streets, was destroyed by fire, together with a Franklin touring car, a Ford coupe, some surgical instruments and medicine cases.

When he was brought to Lexington to jail, Dr. Peacock is said to have requested Officer D. J. Lamb to return to Thomasville and measure the tracks in the field near the barn and compare them with the shoes worn by the dead chief, expressing a suspicion or belief that the dead man had set fire to the barn.

It is alleged that this suspicion is partially based on the fact that Chief Taylor was observed about 6 o'clock Friday evening to walk slowly by the Peacock home, which is located two doors from the corner of Leonard Street and then turn east on Leonard street past the barn, all the time keeping a watch toward the Peacock premises.

Several weeks ago the town was very much agitated by a physical encounter between Chief Taylor and City Attorney E. B. Vinson, during which Taylor struck Vinson several times.

Mayor J. C. Green stated to the Dispatch Saturday morning: "Chief Taylor was the best officer I ever saw. He sought diligently to do his duty without fear or favor, yet he was as courteous and kindly a man as I have ever known."

Dr. Peacock came to Thomasville about a year ago from Winston-Salem, where he had been a traffic officer on the Twin City force for about a year. Prior to that time he had served in the navy for eight years.

Henry Shaver, a young man of about thirty years, has four small daughters, the eldest of whom is said to be only about eight years old. He was an

CANSLER MAY PROSECUTE DR. PEACOCK

It is reported here that E. T. Cansler, Sr., of the Charlotte bar, has been requested by the city authorities of Thomasville to assist in the prosecution of Dr. J. W. Peacock for the murder of Chief of Police John E. Taylor of that city, on Saturday.

One report was that Mr. Cansler had actually been retained in the case, while another was to the effect that he had wired the Thomasville authorities that he would come there to investigate the case before giving his answer.

Solicitor John C. Bower is ill in Baltimore but is expected to return in a comparatively short time to begin work on the case.

News of the shooting spread quickly and within two hours after it happened newspaper men were on the scene from Greensboro, High Point and Lexington, in addition to those of Thomasville.

THE CORNER'S INQUEST. Coroner Frank Hull impelled a jury Saturday afternoon and conducted an inquest at the undertaking establishment.

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Dr. C. A. Julian, of Thomasville, and Dr. Burrus, of High Point, stated here late Saturday that some of Shaver's organs were injured, one of the intestines being perforated by the Lueger bullet.

Work on the Smith Grove road in Davie county is progressing rapidly. When completed this new road will be the most traveled road in the county.

MAYOR T. HEDRICK IS GIVEN RENOMINATION

No Opposition Candidate—Many Changes in Two Boards

Mayor J. Thiden Hedrick was renominated by acclamation at Thursday night's mass meeting at the courthouse to succeed himself as mayor of Lexington for two more years.

While there had been considerable talk about town for some time in regard to placing the name of other candidates before the mass meeting, no steps to this end were taken and the matter of renominating the mayor was confined to nomination, second and motion that nomination be by acclamation.

North Ward showed a complete turnover in the matter of town commissioners, Dr. J. A. Smith and R. O. Kirkman, present members of the board, losing to P. R. Raper and E. A. Rothrock.

From the South Ward W. Lee Harbin, present member of the board of town commissioners, was renominated for the board along with the nomination of J. L. Gallimore to succeed H. B. Varner.

There has just come from the press the seventh anniversary edition of The Erlanger Community, that splendid publication devoted to the interest of the State's most up-to-date industrial community.

Invitations have been sent out announcing the annual commencement exercises of Churchland High School, which begin on May 1 and continue through May 5.

Dr. A. B. Hawkins, age 95, for years the oldest living alumnus of the University of North Carolina and probably the oldest active bank director in the United States died at his home in Raleigh Thursday following an illness of six weeks.

Dr. Hawkins graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1845. He had been a member of the board of directors of the Citizens' National bank for about thirty years and took an active interest in the direction of the policies of this institution until he was taken ill.

MAJOR JAS. A. LEONARD IN MAYORALTY CONTEST

World War Veteran Is To Make an Active Campaign

Major James A. Leonard, veteran of the Mexican border campaign and the World War, who was cited for bravery and promoted from captain to major for gallantry in action while leading the men of Company A in the immortal Hindenburg Line battle, this morning formally announced himself as an independent candidate for mayor of Lexington in the election to be held on Monday, May 2.

Major Leonard pledges himself to a clean and progressive government for Lexington and says that if elected he will exercise the duties and privileges of the office for the interest of the whole people so far as may lie within his power.

Major Leonard is known to everybody in Lexington and he comes about as near knowing everybody in the city as any other citizen.

Just at this time there is more actual street construction under way in Lexington than at any time during the more than a year and a half since work was first begun.

Grading has also been done on the block on First Street West between Main and State streets.

It is understood that the command to go ahead has not yet been given for Fifth Avenue West from State Street to the Yarbrough residence.

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E. WADE HILL DROWNS AFTER BOAT OVERTURNS

Denton Merchant Loses Life on Badin Lake Thursday

E. Wade Hill, prominent and popular young business man of Denton, manager and buyer of the W. E. Hill & Son mercantile establishment, one of the leading stores of the town, was drowned Thursday afternoon in the Badin Lake, at the Cloero Budgett old place near Chandler, when he attempted to swim to shore after a boat had capsized with him while fishing.

Mr. Hill, Whit Morris, Baxter Morris, his brother-in-law, and Will Reid had gone fishing on the edge of the Badin Lake at a favorite fishing grounds. In some manner the boat in which Mr. Hill was fishing turned over but he managed to catch on something and appeared to be in a safe position.

The deceased was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Edward Hill, of Denton, and had been associated with his father for a number of years in the conduct of a splendid mercantile business in Denton.

Funeral exercises were conducted at Denton Saturday afternoon at two o'clock.

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HOBART RAKER NAMED SOUTHERN AGENT HERE

Succeeds Late Mr. Barr—Shippers Here Urged Appointment

Hobart Raker, of this city, has been appointed agent of the Southern Railway at Lexington and is today being checked into the position by an auditor of the Southern.

Shortly after the death of Mr. Barr a movement was put on foot here to have Mr. Raker appointed to the vacancy. All of his associates in the employ of the Southern office here petitioned for his appointment and the business men of Lexington practically to a man eagerly signed a petition addressed to the divisional superintendent asking for Mr. Raker's appointment.

The new agent entered to service of the Southern in the station here as a clerk some five or six years ago and received careful training under Agent Barr, who was recognized as one of the most efficient agents on the Southern.

Specific bequests in the will are as follows: Presbyterian hospital, Charlotte, \$1,000; Piedmont Industrial school, Charlotte, \$1,500; Barium Springs orphanage, \$2,000; Western North Carolina conference, M. E. church, for home missions, \$1,000; North Carolina synod, Presbyterian church, for home missions, \$2,000; Bonds Grove Methodist church near Waxhaw, \$300; Marvin Methodist church, \$300; Banks Asbury church, \$1,000; and \$1,000 as a trust fund for maintenance of cemetery.

When this will, which was made in 1917, was filed for probate shortly after the death of Miss Maggie Ross in May of last year a caveat was filed by a number of relatives, which number had increased to 109 when the case came to trial.

On Tuesday, April 25, at eight p. m., the primary and grammar grades will entertain.

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