

# The Cherokee Scout

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## MACON OFFICERS TAKE BRYSONS FROM JAIL WITHOUT AUTHORITY, FAKE MOB STORY, OFFICERS SAY

Declare Prisoners Spirited Away Without Knowledge of Court or Officer in Whose Custody The Prisoners Were

The Macon County officers took Walter and Casey Bryson, Cherokee county prisoners, from the Macon County jail Sunday, November 23rd, and spirited them away without reason, the knowledge of the court, or any authority whatsoever, and had the defense attorneys to fake the mob story before Judge Cameron F. McRae in order to cover up their tracks, declared Cherokee county officers in an interview this week.

Walter and Casey Bryson, brothers were convicted of a Macon county jury of second degree murder Sunday morning, November 23rd, in connection with the slaying of Mack Carringer, Murphy chief of police, on October 7th, and were sentenced to 30 years for Walter and 15 years for Casey. The trial had been ordered transferred to Franklin by Judge McRae at the November term of Cherokee Superior Court.

The story of the sensational dash of officers and prisoners from Franklin was carried over a screaming headline on the front page of the Asheville Citizen, and copied last week in the Cherokee Scout. Following the appearance of the story, citizens in general from Cherokee county have denied that there was any mob thinking of taking the law into their own hands and denounced the story as untrue.

Sheriff Abernathy, in the interview, said that Deputy Sheriff Lee Crisp was left at Franklin in charge of the prisoners, and all Cherokee county citizens and witnesses returned to Murphy Saturday.

When the court sentenced the men Sunday morning, according to Mr. Abernathy, Judge McRae placed the prisoners in the custody of Deputy Sheriff Crisp, ordering that Walter Bryson's healing wounds be dressed.

Deputy Crisp carried the younger Bryson back to jail and Waker to the doctor. While Walter's arm was being dressed, Mr. Crisp said he called Sheriff Abernathy at Murphy and told him of the sentence, and Mr. Abernathy immediately set out for Franklin with another deputy to carry the prisoners down to Raleigh and the State's prison.

Deputy Crisp carried Walter and committed him to jail to await the arrival of Sheriff Abernathy. He then went out and got his dinner.

Deputy Crisp stated that he was later told by Judge McRae that, upon plea of the defense attorneys that they had wind of a mob approaching from Murphy, he had decided to let the Macon county officers accompany him and take the prisoners on to Raleigh immediately.

Mr. Crisp said when the court issued the order, it was discovered that the Macon county officers had already taken the prisoners from the jail and had been on the road two hours and forty-five minutes before he knew anything about it, or before the court order was issued.

Upon learning this, Judge McRae ordered the prisoners placed in custody of the Buncombe county sheriff. A later order directed the Buncombe Sheriff to take the prisoners on to Raleigh.

In the meantime, all of the papers of commitment, etc., were in the hands of Cherokee county officers, while the prisoners were being frisked away to Raleigh.

"It looks like to me a case of inventing a blunder to cover a blunder," Sheriff Abernathy stated. "Maybe the Macon county officers just wanted a trip to Raleigh and the fee for carrying the prisoners down there," the Sheriff continued. "As far as I could see, Lee Crisp was the only Cherokee county citizen there when I reached Franklin Sunday afternoon."

"In the first place, the Macon jailer had no authority to commit the prisoners to Macon County officers when they had been placed in the custody of a Cherokee county officer and lodged in the Macon jail for safe keeping, with Cherokee county footing the bill, and without the knowledge of Cherokee county authorities or the knowledge of the court. He might as well have turned the prisoners over to Graham or Clay county officers or anyone else, as far as authority and responsibility is concerned.

"After the Macon authorities discovered their blunder," Sheriff Abernathy continued, "and it was too

late to correct the mistake, they had defense attorneys to go before Judge McRae and secure an order for their immediate removal, and they used as their plea the mob story. However, the prisoners had been out of the Macon county jail and on the road more than two hours before the court order was issued or the Cherokee county officer, in whose custody the men had been placed by the court, knew of their removal.

"There is nothing to the story of a mob from Cherokee seeking to take or get possession of the prisoners—except that it was faked in order to cover a blunder," Sheriff Abernathy concluded.

### NORVELL'S LETTER

Col. E. B. Norvell wrote a letter to the Asheville Citizen following the appearance of the story, which is self-explanatory, and is carried here:

Murphy, N. C. Nov. 24, 1930.

Editor of the Asheville Citizen:

I have just read in your issue of this date account of wingup of trial of Walter Bryson and Casey Bryson, in Franklin, Macon County, and note it is stated that mob violence was brewing against the brothers, and that, "the removal of the Brysons to the Buncombe jail was upon authority of Judge McRae, who acted after he had received numerous reports that Cherokee County citizens, angered because the brothers had not been ordered to the electric chair, were discussing plans to take the law into their own hands." I have just talked with Mr. R. L. Crisp, a deputy sheriff of Cherokee County, who was in attendance upon the trial of the Brysons from Wednesday, Nov. 19 until 12:30 o'clock Sunday night Nov. 23, and he tells me he never heard of any suggestion that violence be resorted to. Whoever told Judge McRae that violence was threatened imposed upon his honor and did the citizens of Cherokee County who may have been in Franklin or elsewhere a great injustice. It must be said to the credit of Mr. J. B. Carringer, the father of Chief Mack Carringer who was killed, that when he heard of the death of his son he expressed himself as wishing the law to take its course. In justice to the citizens of Cherokee County will you kindly publish this letter.

Yours truly,  
EDMUND B. NORVELL.

## STILL AND MAN TAKEN MONDAY

Deputy Sheriff Lee Crisp brought in a still and a man by the name of Foister, taken in the Franklin Mountain section of the county down next to the Tennessee Line.

Mr. Crisp said Foister was building a fire under the furnace when the raid was made, and he came along without offering resistance. Another man got away. The outfit was about fifty gallon capacity, and about 500 gallons of beer were destroyed together with the equipment about the place. The still was brought to town.

It later developed that Foister was an escaped prisoner from Benton, Tenn., and Tennessee officers came for him later in the week.

## Have We Got Your "Tag"?

On the night of December 13th, every man, woman, boy and girl in Murphy will answer, "Yes." By your tags we shall know you. Dec. 12 and 13 are "Tag Days" for the Murphy Public School. On those days school children will approach you and you may wear a tag for 10c. One of the objectives of the faculty of Murphy Graded School is to make this a standard school and to do this we must have 300 books in the library. Come on and do your bit for the library of Murphy Public Schools.

## "Children of Old Carolina" Is Postponed

The pageant will be given Friday night, December 12 at 7:30. Due to the fact that satisfactory arrangements could not be made with the Costuming company the pageant has had to be postponed until that time.

## EVIDENCE IN TRIAL OF BRYSONS

Following is the evidence reported by the court stenographer in the trial of the State vs. Walter Bryson and Casey Bryson, brothers, charged with murder in connection with the slaying of Chief of Police Mack Carringer on October 7th, 1930. The case was tried in Macon County, November term.

After the jury was chosen, sworn and empaneled, the following proceedings were had:

GEORGE LEATHERWOOD, after first being duly sworn, testified on behalf of the State as follows:

Questions by Mr. Davis:

Q. What is your name?

A. George Leatherwood.

Q. Where do you live?

A. Murphy, North Carolina, Cherokee County.

Q. Did you know Mack Carringer?

A. I did.

Q. Is he dead or living?

A. He is dead.

Q. Do you know the date of his death?

A. I do. The 7th day of October, 1930. On the night of the 7th at 9:30 o'clock central time.

Q. Do you know what position Mack Carringer held in Murphy at the time of his death?

Defendants object. Overruled. Exception.

A. I do.

Q. What was it?

A. Chief of police.

Defendants move to strike the answer from the record. Motion denied and defendants except.

Q. Anything else?

Defendants object. Overruled. Exception.

A. Deputy sheriff.

Motion to strike the answer from the record. Motion denied and defendants except.

Q. Were you with Mack Carringer at the time he lost his life?

A. I was.

Q. Where was it?

A. It was on the road known as Hangingdog or Beaverdam road leading out of Murphy on the Hiwassee river.

Q. Outside or inside the corporation of the town of Murphy?

A. Inside the corporation.

Q. Had you gone to the scene where he lost his life with him?

A. Yes.

Q. Who else was in the party?

A. Burt Savage, Toby Fain, Mack and myself.

Q. Explain why you went to this place?

Defendants object. Overruled. Exception.

A. On information that Carringer had gotten from—

Defendants object. Sustained.

Q. Why did you go there?

A. I was deputized by the officer to go with him.

Q. Who deputized you?

A. Carringer, the chief of police.

Q. After you were deputized to go, why did you go, what reason?

A. He had a telephone call—

Defendants object. Sustained.

Q. Pursuant to any information you had, is that the reason you went?

A. Yes, the information we had was the reason we went.

Q. How did you go to the place?

A. In an automobile, Chevrolet.

Q. Begin and tell just what took place from the time you went down the highway and where you stopped?

A. We drove down, Fain and Savage and Carringer and myself, drove down a little better than half a mile below the town from the public square and stopped on the side of the road making plans to meet a party that was coming in there that we were looking for.

Defendants move to strike out the answer. Overruled. Exception.

Q. Go ahead?

A. Mack and myself were out of the car and Fain wasn't. Don't recall about Savage, and Fain was sitting under the wheel, and we stopped in front of an old rock quarry.

By the Court: Fain was in the car, who else?

A. I don't recall whether Savage was or not. The lights of a car came in sight 290 steps from where we

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## NEW OFFICERS TAKE OVER CO. GOVERNMENT

Oath Administered To New Board By Chairman of Retiring Board

The new officers, elected in the November election were inducted into office Monday and took over the reins of county government.

The retiring board of county commissioners, composed of J. W. S. Davis, chairman; W. J. Martin and T. D. Hickey, were in session until nearly noon Monday, transacting business and getting things in shape to turn over to the incoming board.

Chairman Davis, of the retiring board, administered the oath of office to the incoming board, composed of J. M. Lovingood, Lee Shields and E. L. Townson. Following this the new board organized by electing J. M. Lovingood chairman, and it being noon, adjournment was taken until after dinner.

Among the other county officers submitting bonds and taking the oath of office were J. E. Keener, Clerk of the court, Frank J. Bristol, Sheriff, B. L. Padgett, Register of Deeds, Constables submitting bonds and taking oaths were: A. W. Padgett, W. J. Sneed, and Jack McMillan. All these officers were administered the oath of office by the new county Board of Commissioners.

The following important business was transacted, and the board adjourned to meet Monday, December 8th.

Hereafter the fee paid officers for capturing stills and making arrests will be \$5.00 for taking the still, and \$5 for making arrests of operators. The old fee was \$10.00 in each instance.

Lon Raper was named Tax Supervisor for the county, and instructed to meet with the State Tax Supervisors in Raleigh on December 10th.

The Cherokee Bank was named treasurer for the county funds and required to put up \$25,000.00 bond.

Will Cook was named janitor of the court house with salary at \$50.00 a month, to take over the job on December 6, relieving A. J. Ramsey.

Miss Hattie Axley was reappointed court stenographer for the county.

T. W. Axley, reappointed County Auditor at one-hird less salary.

Don Witherspoon reappointed county Attorney at salary of \$25.00 a month.

Sheriff Frank Bristol was instructed to use the grand jury room as his office until N. W. Abernathy, tax collector, completed his term.

J. A. Hampton was named Superintendent of the County Home at a salary of \$60.00 a month, relieving A. L. Johnson.

Action on the retention of the County Supervisor of Schools was taken up and deferred to the next meeting pending further investigation.

Investigation of the County Health Department revealed that the health officers had a contract with the state and County which expires July 1, 1931.

R. W. Gray was continued as county agent at a salary reduction of \$25. a month.

The work was so heavy that the Board could not finish it and adjourned to meet next Monday, December 8th.

Miss Mae Keener will assist her father, J. E. Keener, in the Clerk's office, and Mrs. Dean Wakefield will assist her father, B. L. Padgett, in the Register of Deeds office.

### COOPER-MATTOX

\* Miss Rosemond Cooper and Mr. H. A. Mattox were married Tuesday, Nov. 25th, at Blairsville, Ga., by the Ordinary of Union County, Ga. Mrs. Mattox is the daughter of Col. and Mrs. Harry P. Cooper.

After graduating from the Murphy High School, Mrs. Mattox attended North Carolina College for Women, Greensboro, later taking a course at the Teacher Training Class here, and is at present a popular teacher in the Mattox school.

Mr. Mattox is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Mattox, and is in the Murphy Hardware Company. He graduated from the Murphy High school and later attended the University of Tennessee.

After a short wedding trip to Knoxville, Tenn., the young couple returned Sunday and are at home to their many friends at the residence of the bride's parents on Dillard Street.

The wedding of this young couple came quite as a surprise to their many friends, who extend to them their best wishes for a long and happy life.

## A TRIP TO PALESTINE

By Rev. Howard P. Powell

On this beautiful spring morning in April, as we made our way toward the city of Jerusalem, we saw enroute many things to bring to our minds the Bible facts as we had read them. We saw the wheat and the tares, the shepherds watching over their flocks, the three-floored, the one-handed plow drawn by two oxen, and the travelers from Jaffa to Jerusalem by foot.

The distance between Jerusalem and Jaffa is forty six miles by the motor road, which distance is made in about one hour and thirty minutes. The traffic over this road almost equals that of our own state highways. One of the first things one notices apart from the scenes already mentioned, is the scarcity of trees and vegetation in general. The country of Palestine is a very rocky one and in many places very small patches are cultivated. Little spots no larger than a small flower bed are used to cultivate vegetables for the market. With the exception of an olive orchard here and there it is almost impossible to find a tree. In some sections the olive orchards are very numerous and offer a very welcome scene for the traveler.

For those who have studied the Bible, and the books written about the Book of books, Jerusalem, more than any other city of the world, holds for them a peculiar charm. It is the purpose of the writer to have you share with him something of the thrill that came when the Arab, who was driving the car, announced to us that after turning the next corner we would be able to see the city of Jerusalem. It greeted us with unusual solemnity and stillness of heart and soul, which words do not provide a means of expression. With hardly a spoken word we came into the city of our Lord to try as best we could to live over with Him those days which have meant so much to the world.

In Jerusalem we were entertained at the "American Colony," which is an organization for the accommodation of the tourists. This "colony" was established in 1881 by a Chicago lawyer, Horatio Spafford, and his wife, and at that time had a membership of only fourteen; it has now increased to ninety, and is drawn from ten different nationalities, American and Swedes preponderating. Its aims are religious, and are based on non-

dogmatic Christianity. It is financially self-supporting and maintains an orphanage and an industrial school. Here we were very comfortable, with all the modern conveniences that one would expect to find in an American city, save the absence of an elevator. The food, with a few exceptions, was very much like our American dishes. The vegetables were not altogether the same as our vegetables, but the taste was very much the same. The string beans were much smaller and greener, but they were "good for food." For our dessert in the evening we had ice cream, which was very delicious and served very plentifully. Many of us regretted that those responsible for the menu did not repeat for the twelve days we were there.

In the afternoon a group of us enjoyed a walk to the city, where we found every imaginable opportunity to spend one's money, from a street peddler to the most attractively arranged souvenir shop. In a later chapter the business methods of Jerusalem will be discussed.

On Thursday morning, which was the Thursday before Easter, we went to the city to witness the activities of the Moslems. On this day they had one of their festivals, in which there were more than five thousand participating. They started their parade near the village of Bethany and marched, dancing, singing, and clapping hands, to and through the city of Jerusalem. From the hill by the city walls we viewed the scene. In the midst of the festival our attention was directed toward a young boy of about fourteen years of age lashing a woman. Some of us investigated and found that the woman was the mother of the boy and that he had asked her for money with which to buy candy, and because she refused him he was lashing her. When we were permitted to see the face of his mother, we saw that in several places he brought blood with his lash. This little illustration will bring to you the conditions to be found in Jerusalem where the Christ "Who was bruised for our iniquities," was not accepted and is not accepted today. Where Jesus Christ is denied His place, womanhood and all that is right and good does not come in for that which it deserves.

(To Be Continued)