

MEN RELEASED FROM JAIL IN 'KIDNAP' CASE

Reported Later Arrested, Placed Under Bond In Georgia

Three men who were held for a week in the Cherokee county jail at Murphy for the alleged kidnap-beating of Baxter Conrad, alias Jonas Williams, about 27, on January 15, were released by Sheriff Carl Townson Friday following investigation of the case by federal officers. Five other men had been sought but were never apprehended.

Sunday it was reported that the federal officers had issued warrants from their Atlanta, Ga., office for six of the eight men named by Conrad as his abductors, and that four of them were under \$1,000 bond each. They were said to have been arrested by Georgia officers.

Conrad, too, was placed in the jail after he told officers the story of his alleged abduction and beating. Officers held him for questioning by Haywood county officers, but they reported Friday they did not want him.

Conrad was turned out of jail 30 minutes before the three apprehended men were turned "in order to give him plenty of starting distance" as one officer put it.

Those held in the Murphy jail from the night of the alleged crime until Friday were: Luke and Abe Puett and Lucas Sparks. Those named as accomplices were: Frank Puett, Theodore King, Clyde Messer, Jack McClure and Henry Brown. All are from the Warne section which is situated on the North Carolina-Georgia state line.

The men were arrested the night Conrad raced breathlessly up to Night Policeman Neil Sneed in Murphy and told him that the men had kidnaped him in Georgia. Had beat him, had threatened to kill him and were planning to put him on a bus and later kill him when he got off at Waynesville.

Officer Sneed, Policeman Ezra Price and Sheriff Townson arrested three of the men, but the other five escaped, presumably to Georgia.

Conrad said he broke away from the men as they stopped at a cafe in Murphy. He stated they once "planned to tie me to the end of their car and drag me to death."

Sheriff Townson said Sparks was carrying a .38 calibre Colt pistol and Luke Puett had a .45 calibre gun in his car.

Because Conrad had been allegedly forced across a state line the case was turned over to federal authorities at Charlotte who investigated.

Friday afternoon the release was ordered. Sunday it was reported Luke and Abe Puett, Sparks and another man had been placed under \$1,000 bond each. Sparks was placed under \$500 bond in Murphy for appearance in Superior court for carrying a pistol, and it was added that warrants had already been issued for several of the other men.

Conrad, a former resident of Waynesville, had been working in the

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Roosevelt Ball To Be Held Saturday Night

Plans for the Cherokee County President's Ball at Hiwassee Dam are practically completed. The auditorium will be decorated with flags, bunting, balloons, and pictures of the President. At the front of the stage will be the huge birthday cake in honor of President Roosevelt.

To accommodate the large crowd which is expected, arrangements are being made for dancing in the lounge as well as in the auditorium, and the library will be used for those who prefer games or cards.

Music will be by George Van Arsdale's Orchestra, and dancing will be from 8:30 to 12. The grand march will start at 9 o'clock.

All funds cleared at this ball will be divided equally between the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and Cherokee County for local needs. The sale of tickets in Murphy is being sponsored by the Woman's Club, the Junior Womans Club, and by members of the Murphy man's Club, and by members of the Lions Club.

Suit For \$50,000 Is Begun In Court Here

The \$50,000 damage suit against the Southern States Power company by the heirs of Earl White who was killed at the Cherokee county Fair grounds the night before they opened here last September was begun in Cherokee County Superior court Thursday morning.

The Cherokee County Fair association was named in the indictment as co-defendant in the case, but Judge Zeb V. Nettles, of Asheville, declared a non-suit for the Fair association.

Decision in the case is expected sometime Friday evening. Most of Thursday morning was utilized selecting a jury from a large list of special veniremen.

The current session of Superior court is for the trial of civil cases only and is expected to be completed this week.

Lions Lay Plans For Dinner Here

Discussion of plans for the annual Cherokee County Dinner sponsored here by the Murphy Lions club was heard at the regular bi-weekly meeting Tuesday night.

President Harve Elkins said he would appoint committees to handle all phases of the affair, which will be held in February, at an early date.

For the second consecutive year, the Lions will choose Murphy's "Outstanding Citizen" at the next meeting and present the award at the dinner. Last year the trophy was won by W. M. Fain, local wholesale merchant.

Lion Park W. Fisher gave a report of the first anniversary meeting of the Robbinsville club held last Wednesday.

W. B. Collins, farm management specialist with the extension division, of Boone, was a visitor. Mr. Collins, former Watauga county agent, is a member of the Boone Lions club.

HOMER LEDFORD BOUND TO COURT ON THEFT CHARGE

Homer Ledford, about 17, of Murphy, was bound over to Superior court in Mayor's court here Wednesday morning on a charge of entering the establishment of E. C. Moore Sunday night.

Mr. Moore, his son, Rac, and other employees at the Moore garage and jewelry store found someone in the store late Sunday night but the person escaped taking several watches with him. Chief of Police Fred Johnson arrested Ledford Monday and charged him with the theft.

Bond was set at \$500. It was said that Ledford also attempted to enter the Lay five and ten cent store the same night. He was questioned in connection with several other robberies which have taken place here lately.

Officer Johnson also reported that someone attempted to enter a store in the Bealtown section of Murphy on Monday and Tuesday nights.

"WINTERS HERE AIN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE", OLDER CITIZENS DECLARE

With one of the sharpest drops in temperature of the winter so far going to only 14 degrees, many of the old citizens of the county were reminded of the severe winters that swept through this section many years ago.

They all agree on one thing: "Winters ain't what they used to be." Back before and during the turn of the century freezing weather lasted throughout the winter season and below zero temperatures were not at all uncommon.

A heavy blanket of snow generally covered the valleys as well as the mountain-sides throughout the winter.

As Mayor P. M. Reagan, of Andrews stated this week: "Why I can recall 30 years ago, when there wasn't anything but farm work to be done, that a person had to get their work done early.

"Snow came about November and stayed with us until early spring. Why it kept us busy digging paths so we could get around. It was really cold in those days. A man would have to get in a pile

LEGION HEADS OF DISTRICT HOLD MEETING

Judge Zeb V. Nettles Principal Speaker At Banquet

Judge Zeb V. Nettles, of Asheville, who is presiding over a civil session of Superior court here, was the main speaker at a banquet-business meeting of the officers of the American Legion posts of the 20th district held in the Dickey hotel Wednesday night.

The meeting was sponsored by the local Joe Miller Elkins post of the American Legion and is one of a series to be held over the district which composes the five western-most counties of the state.

Judge Nettles, a member of the Kiffin Rockwell Post No. 2 at Asheville, spoke briefly on the work and growth of the legion posts in Western North Carolina and paid high tribute to the work being done in this section.

Gilmer A. Jones, commander of the 20th district and member of the Franklin post, also gave a short talk on the work of the posts of the district and urged closer cooperation of the units through attendance at the series of officer conferences.

Other speakers on the program: Col. A. W. Freeman, of Murphy; Capt. Frank W. Swan, of Andrews; the Rev. J. A. Flanagan, of Franklin; John Waslick, of Franklin; J. A. Morgan, of Andrews; Fred Bauer, of Cherokee and Sam Carr, a visitor of Murphy.

Entertainment was furnished by Mrs. Tom Mauney who rendered two vocal solos with Miss Marinell Williamson at the piano, and Mrs. Ed Studstil who gave a reading, "Lasca".

Axley Truck, Cargo Destroyed By Fire

A truck belonging to the Axley Freight lines of Murphy, carrying a large cargo, was completely destroyed by fire on the out-skirts of Atlanta, Ga., Sunday night.

The truck which operates between here and Atlanta was returning from Atlanta when an officer stopped the driver and informed him the bottom of the truck was on fire. Immediately the flames enveloped the vehicle and the truck and cargo were destroyed.

It is believed that the fire started from a leaking gas tank.

Judge Frank S. Hill Is Reported Improving

Although still seriously ill, Judge Frank S. Hill, of the North Carolina Superior court bench, is reported to be slowly improving at Johns Hopkins hospital, Baltimore, Md.

Judge Hill, a native of Murphy, became suddenly ill about ten days ago. He was appointed to the Superior court bench by Governor Max O. Gardner in 1932 and has been reappointed bi-annually since.

TWO LIQUOR RAIDS MADE BY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT HERE

Two raids by the sheriff's department last week brought two cases of liquor.

A still was captured in the River Hill section of the county. A 55-gallon oil drum was being used to make the whiskey. It was located about 3 miles from Appalachia.

Those making the raids were: Sheriff Carl Townson, Deputies Patton Coleman and Zack Ramsey, and Constable Sheridan Stiles.

Todd Howell waived preliminary hearing and was bound over to Superior court and preliminary hearing will be held Saturday morning for Leonard Jackson as the result of a raid at "Dick's Playhouse" on the TVA access road last Saturday night, officers reported.

Officers taking part in the raid were: Townson, Johnson, Stiles, Sandlin, Quinn and Coleman.

County's 100th Birthday Observed With Exercises In Murphy Last Monday

Moose Lodge Roster Nears 100 Members

With meetings being held regularly every Friday night at 7 p. m., much progress is being made in the local Loyal Order of Moose lodge which was organized here recently.

Nearly 100 local men are now enrolled in Murphy's newest fraternal organization.

Members have stated that plans are being made for a number of social functions at a future date.

Officers of the lodge are: H. Ralph Jacobs, past dictator; Everett White, dictator; Ralph Hamby, vice-dictator; Cyrus White, prelate; Bill Hembree, secretary; Dick Mauney, treasurer; Loren Davis, sergeant-at-arms; Henry Hyatt, enter guard; Arden Davis, outer guard.

WOOTEN RESIGNS AS ASSISTANT TO COUNTY AGENT

R. B. Wooten has resigned as assistant Cherokee county agent, he announced Wednesday. He will vacate the office he has held since 1935 on February 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Wooten plan to leave for Chester, S. C., the original home of Mr. Wooten, where they will reside.

No successor has been named to take Mr. Wooten's place.

OFFICE SUPPLIES ARE NOW CARRIED AT SCOUT OFFICE

A complete stock of office supplies and equipment has been added as a department to the Cherokee Scout office.

A full supply of all office necessities such as typewriter ribbons, ledgers, ledgers sheets, ink, pencils, carbon paper, file folders, mimeograph equipment or anything else used in the office is carried at all times.

This new department is the only one of its kind in this tri-county section and is filling a long-felt need here.

Sites On Access Road Are Purchased Tuesday

Lee Shields of Murphy and Pat and Buel Proffit, of Hiwassee Dam, were purchasers of two store buildings and tracts of land sold at auction on the access road near the dam site Tuesday.

Mr. Shields is reported to have bought the property and store of G. F. Messer, while the Proffit brothers are reported to have purchased the property and store of Glen F. and M. F. Raper.

Doyle Burch, Age 9, Is Struck By Auto

Doyle Burch, 9-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Burch, of Murphy, is confined to the Petrie hospital with a broken leg and other painful injuries suffered when he was struck by an automobile driven by a Mr. Hedden, of Hiwassee, Ga., here Tuesday afternoon.

Policeman Ezra Price, who investigated reported that the accident was unavoidable.

Mr. Spencer Reported To Be Improving

Mr. Thomas Spencer, Murphy resident who was badly injured in an automobile crash that took the life of Mrs. Spencer near Delaware, Ohio January 13, was reported this week to be improving.

At late reports Sunday, the remains of Mrs. Spencer, were still at an undertaking establishment in Delaware and no funeral arrangements had been made.

Mr. Spencer, who was formerly connected in a high position with the British navy, and Mrs. Spencer had lived near here for the past 10 years. They have no children.

Prominent Attornies Are Speakers On Program In Murphy Courthouse

By Kathleen Roberts

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Cherokee County, a special program was held at the Cherokee County Courthouse Monday at noon. Before the majority of the leading citizens of the county, Mr. D. H. Tillitt, of Andrews, opened the meeting with a welcome to all who were present and a small speech about the topic of the program, "The Growth and Development of Cherokee County."

The first speaker on this subject was Mr. Edmund B. Norvell, who talked on "A Historic Sketch Of Cherokee County". On January 4, 1839, the legislature of North Carolina established the county the original boundaries for the Cherokee Indian Reservations. These boundaries extended through part of South Carolina, to Marietta, Ga., and Marion, N. C. covering approximately 40,000 square miles of land. The Indians later ceded this land back to the government.

Fine Courthouse Constructed

Murphy was chosen the county seat and the plans for building the town was laid off by James Whitaker. About 400 miles of land was left for the town and was laid off in a square. Four main streets leading out of Murphy are Tennessee, Hiwassee, Peachtree and Valley River Avenue. In 1851 the town of Murphy was incorporated, followed by Andrews in 1905, and Marble in 1911. Three courthouses in the town of Murphy have been destroyed by fire. In 1865 the first courthouse was burned. Another courthouse was constructed in 1892 but was destroyed by fire in 1895. In 1923 another courthouse was burned down. This courthouse was built back in 1927 and is still standing today. This is the only courthouse in the United States that is built of solid marble. The marble was obtained about four miles from the place where it is standing.

White settlers were found in Cherokee County as early as 1834. After that the white settlers came rapidly to this section from the surrounding states. Public roads were built as far back as 1813. In 1891 the first train came through Murphy from Asheville.

Schools and Churches were established in Murphy as far back as 1840. Twenty-four school districts were found in Cherokee County at this time.

Norvell Gives Tribute

In closing his speech Mr. Norvell said "We must never forget the effort of those who have built up our county."

Mr. W. A. Adams was to be the next speaker on the program but due

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Date	1939		1938	
	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.
18	44	35	65	42
19	44	21	55	39
20	57	20	60	39
21	61	22	58	48
22	58	37	62	50
23	45	14	66	42
24	44	33	69	51
RAINFALL INCHES		1939	1938	
Since January 1		4.39	2.76	