

"HAD TO KILL HIM" FATHER SAYS OF SLAYING OF SON

Homer Martin Charges He Fired Only After Being Shot 4 Times

"It was his life or mine. He was drunk. He threw a flash light on me, and fired six shots. He hit me four times. Then I shot him."

Thus spoke 72 year old Homer Martin, farmer from East Buffalo, Graham County, held in jail in Murphy charged with the murder of his 35 year old son, Otis at their home last Saturday night.

The aged farmer, straight as a ramrod, and as active as a man half his years, is held in the Cherokee County jail for his own safety. He says another son, Oliver, has threatened to kill him on sight, in revenge for the death of Otis.

The fatal shooting took place on the road in front of the elder Mr. Martin's farm house, inside which the mother lay, stricken with paralysis. The father says Otis had previously beaten him, and ordered him to leave his own home. He shows bruises and a black eye to back up his story.

He was shot four times. One bullet pierced the left arm just above the wrist and came out at the elbow. Another bullet went into his right arm, near the shoulder. A third pierced his stomach and came out of his left side, while a fourth entered his right side and came out his back. Strangely, neither of the last two wounds hit any vital organs.

A fifth bullet from his son's six-shooter 44 calibre revolver went through the older man's trousers, but barely grazed the skin.

Of the two shots fired by the father, one missed, but the other pierced the son's chest, and he died before medical assistance could be summoned.

The father fled, following the shooting, and despite his agonizing and bleeding wounds, spent the night in the mountains. Sunday morning, however, he surrendered and was brought to Petrie hospital in Murphy, where his wounds were treated and his entire left arm placed in a plaster cast. When he told of the alleged threats made against his life by his other son, it was decided to hold him in the Murphy jail for his own protection. This was against his will, the 72 year old farmer declaring he feared no man.

"I can take care of myself" he said grimly.

Meanwhile, funeral services for the slain son were held Wednesday afternoon, from the home on West Buffalo Creek. His mother, his widow, a daughter, Ramona, his brother, Oliver, and four sisters; Mrs. Kate Steward and Mrs. May Hoffman, of West Buffalo, and Mrs. Beatrice Holly and Mrs. Essie Randall, of Florida, followed the body to its last resting place. None of his family has called on the prisoner, and all are reported to be bitter against him.

But the aging prisoner defies them all. He charges that they want to get rid of him so they can get possession of his farm, said to be one of the best in Graham County, and stocked with a big flock of sheep.

Violent death, by the gun is not new

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Reese Steals Away To Georgia; Weds Miss Bertha Killian

A dozen times in the past two weeks, a reporter for the Scout has asked Dallas M. Reese, attorney and Magistrate who conducts a goodly percentage of Murphy's minor trials, if he "had any news". Every time Reese has answered "no".

But he wasn't being quite truthful. For it develops he was hiding the news of his own marriage.

The wedding bells rang on April 30, when Magistrate Reese and Miss Bertha Killian, a pretty brunette drove over to Blairsville, Ga., and were married in the office of Mr. Frank Allison. They drove back to Murphy, accompanied by Mrs. William Rich, of Blairsville, for a wedding feast.

The newlyweds have been making a temporary home in quarters adjoining Magistrate Reese's offices, and taking their meals at cafes. Meanwhile, they are "shopping" for a small home or apartment. Mr. Reese said they may build.

Road To Asheville Closed Once More: Surface Being Laid

The highway East of Andrews in the Nantahala Gorge region was to be closed while employees of the State Highway Commission place the surface coat on the section which since last spring.

It is anticipated that the route will be closed to travel only a few days, and that traffic will be permitted to pass over it during the week end. This is the last step in the completion of the road which will be a vast improvement over the crooked, narrow, and rough Gorge route traveled last year.

The road has been open to travel more than a week, providing bus service to Murphy and enabling the mail truck to travel on schedule. Travel was permitted over the heavily slugged surface of loose chips to assist in packing the base before placing the surface and binding layer of chips and tar.

Mrs. Carl McClure, 63, Dead, In Hayesville

Mrs. Carl McClure, aged 63, died May 12 in Hayesville. Funeral services were at Myers Chapel at 4:30 on May 12 with Prof. Adafs of Young Harris College, assisted by the Rev. D. H. Dennis, officiating.

Mrs. McClure is survived by her husband, one daughter, Mrs. Garland White of Ebberton, Ga.; one son, Hoke, of Hayesville; two sisters, Mrs. J. D. Penland and Mrs. H. O. Waldroup and two brothers, G. C. Johnson of Eaton, California and J. P. Johnson of Rawling, California.

Pallbearers were Cline McClure, Max Waldroup, Perry McClure, Kenneth Barnett, Charles Moore and Wayne Penland.

Townson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

JOHN JORDAN HONORED

John Jordan, Murphy high school graduate, now a student at Cullowhee has been elected president of the college dramatics club.

DRIVE PLANNED FOR \$200 TO AID WAR SUFFERERS

Red Cross is in Charge: Other Groups All To Lend Helping Hand

Acting under the general supervision of the local Red Cross chapter,

workers from all the civic and social organizations of Murphy are preparing a drive to raise \$200. That is the town's quota in a ten million dollar campaign for the women and children of the invaded countries.

Marshalling of forces for the drive is being done by Mrs. C. W. Savage, secretary of the Murphy Red Cross unit, in response to an urgent plea from National headquarters in Washington D. C. Mrs. Savage has never yet failed to reach or pass the quota set for the local unit. She believes the forth-coming drive will be over-subscribed.

"We have succeeded in our aims before, solely because of the fine cooperation of Murphy's various organizations," she said. "I am sure we will succeed this time for the same reason. The help given the Red Cross by volunteer workers from the various clubs and groups cannot be measured in words."

The telegram outlining the proposed drive was as follows:

"With the invasion of Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg the war has entered a phase which will inevitably, and at once, bring widespread and appalling suffering to millions of helpless men, women and children. In order to inaugurate widespread relief measures the American Red Cross is at once launching a campaign for minimum war relief fund of \$10,000,000.

"Please at once mobilize the entire leadership of your chapter and community in order that your quota may be reached and exceeded without delay. Chapters may retain fifteen percent of collections to cover their local war relief expenses. A letter of instructions will follow."

The telegram was signed by Norman H. Davis.

Murphy women already are doing their bit to alleviate the suffering of innocent victims of the European conflict. They have been making woolen sweaters, flannel dresses, and underwear.

Mrs. Thelma Dickey has finished one sweater and is planning to start on another. Other knitters are Mrs. Dale Lee, Margaret Bailey and J. H. Wilson, and Miss Mennice Payne.

Mrs. Ellen Crawford is making one of fifteen dresses that have been asked for; five for women and ten for children, and Mrs. Willabelle Posey's NYA girls are making children's underthings.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to knit a sweater will be supplied with the wool, a pattern, and printed instructions by Mrs. Savage. Goods and patterns for the dresses, also will be supplied.

Revival Services Opened In Murphy By Ex-Switchman

A revival meeting began Sunday night, May 12, in the big gospel tent located on West Tennessee street, near the Southern railway underpass, in Murphy. Services are being held nightly, beginning at 7 o'clock, conducted by the Rev. J. J. Johnson, the railway switchman evangelist.

The Rev. Johnson has been a successful evangelist for seven years, during which time he has conducted revivals in a number of States. Last fall he held a series of meetings in Andrews, Robbinsville and Sylva, and he has just closed a revival at the Scott's Creek Baptist church, in Jackson county, where 50 converts were added to the congregation last Sunday night.

The meeting in Murphy is non-sectarian.

County Democrats Demand Third Term

6-TEAM LEAGUE ORGANIZED HERE: PITZER ITS HEAD

Tri-State Group Bars Hiring of 'Hot Shots' For Special Games

A six team Tri-State baseball league was organized Monday, May 8, at a meeting in the Dickey Hotel. J. H. Pitzer all round athlete noted for his "square shooting" was elected president of the league, and the following teams "signed up".

Murphy, Hayesville, Robbinsville, Blue Ridge, Hiwassee and Morganton. Franklin and Isabella were represented at the meeting, but were unable to join.

The season opens Saturday, May 18, with all the teams in action. During the season each team will play a 30 game schedule; 15 at home, and the other half "on the road". The first team matched against the fourth, and the second against the third in an elimination of series. The winners will meet in the finals, to be decided three out of five.

Rules adopted by the League limit teams to 16 players, and specify that new player must be signed at least seven days before being allowed to take part in a game, and no new player may be signed after July 15.

The seven day rule will put a stop to importing "hot shot" pitchers for important games.

An All-Star game between picked teams from North Carolina and Georgia has been scheduled for July 14. The place has not yet been decided.

The season schedule follows:

May 18, June 23, August 3
Hayesville vs Hiwassee; Murphy at Robbinsville; Blue Ridge at Morganton.

May 19, June 22, August 4
Hiwassee at Hayesville; Robbinsville at Murphy; Morganton at Blue Ridge.

May 25, June 30, August 17
Robbinsville at Hayesville; Blue Ridge at Murphy; Hiwassee at Morganton.

May 26, June 28, August 18
Hayesville at Robbinsville; Murphy at Blue Ridge; Morganton at Hiwassee.

June 1, Open date for all teams.

June 2, July 6, August 25
Hayesville at Murphy; Blue Ridge at Hiwassee; Robbinsville at Morganton.

June 8, July 21, August 11
Blue Ridge at Hayesville; Morganton at Murphy; Robbinsville at Hiwassee.

June 9, July 20, August 10
Hayesville at Blue Ridge; Murphy at Morganton; Hiwassee at Robbinsville.

June 15, July 28, September 1
Hayesville at Morganton; Hiwassee at Murphy; Blue Ridge at Robbinsville.

Resolution Passed By Convention; Mattox Is Named Chairman

Democrats of Cherokee County have formally endorsed President Roosevelt for a third term. A formal resolution calling for his re-nomination was passed by the Cherokee County Democratic Convention, in session in the Court House, at Murphy on Saturday, May 11.

The resolution, passage of which was urged in an eloquent address by J. D. Mallonee, follows:

WHEREAS, seven years ago the Democratic Party brought to the leadership of this Nation a President whose vision, wisdom, humanity and statesmanship lifted the American people from the depths of depression and despondency to the high place of recovery and hope; and

WHEREAS, in this time of fear and amidst the horrors of war abroad, the American people look to Franklin Delano Roosevelt to protect us and to preserve our peace; and

WHEREAS, full confidence of the people is well founded in him;

NOW, THEREFORE, we the Democrats of Cherokee County in convention assembled, do hereby resolve, that:

The delegates from this county to the State Democratic convention support a resolution to instruct the casting of North Carolina's delegate vote at Chicago on every presidential ballot when and as long as his name shall be presented, for the world's greatest Humanitarian, the champion of Americanism, the greatest Democratic statesman, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Prior to passage of the third term endorsement, M. H. A. Mattox was unanimously elected Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, and Pearly Arrowood was named Secretary.

Delegates to the State Convention were chosen as follows: L. L. Mason, Mrs. Giles Cover, P. B. Ferebee, H. A. Mattox, Sara Ruth Posey, Frank Forsyth, Tom Mauney, Hayes Leatherwood, Tom King, John Tatham, Felix Hill, Ralph Moody, Clarence Hendrix, Bruce King, John Crow and J. D. Mallonee.

The meeting was called to order by Col. M. W. Bell, substituting for the chairman, who was absent. A roll call by precincts, by Secretary Pearly Arrowood, showed 20 present, which constituted a quorum. George H. Hendrix was then chosen temporary chairman to preside over the session.

Pritchard To Speak Here Monday Night

George M. Pritchard, former Congressman from this district and now a candidate for Governor in the Republican primary will speak at the Court House in Murphy next Monday night at 7:30 o'clock, Central time.

Republicans from all over the county are expected to gather to hear him.

Wanted: Pair of 'Sea Legs' Don Gentry Offers Cash

George Washington may have been first in war, first in peace, etc. but Don Gentry was the first resident of the county to fall into Hiwassee Lake. He got plenty wet, but Don is a good swimmer, and suffered no other inconvenience—until he got home. Then Mrs. Gentry wanted to know "how come".

"After that session" said Don, I felt that I was "all wet" in just about every way there is.

It happened last Sunday, while Gentry was helping Preston Henn launch his big new speed boat. Some-

thing was wrong and the boat's powerful motor was still while Henn and Gentry investigated the trouble. The boat was rocking idly. A sailor would call it absolutely safe; but Gentry is NOT a sailor.

At any rate, one minute Gentry was standing on the rail; and the next minute he was doing an Australian crawl for shore. Henn continued his "cruise".

Usually reliable information reaching the Scout is that Henn's boat consumed 20 gallons of gas and two quarts of oil, and travelled about 30 miles.

League Season Opens Here Sunday, With Robbinsville

Murphy's entry in the Tri-State Baseball League will pry the lid off the local season Sunday at the fair grounds when Robbinsville nine invades Murphy for a league tussle. Murphy plays its initial game at Robbinsville on Saturday.

The local field is rapidly being put into shape. The locations of the infield have been radically changed. Home plate is now directly opposite its usual location, being near the river bank be seen the exhibit hall and the new foot-bridge across Valley River.

A grandstand is being erected to care for the fans who will be able to park their cars in two places. One is across the road from the exhibit hall.

For the first time in several years, the Murphy team will be composed, in the main, of young Cherokee County boys. Listed among the candidates are Jack Akin, Arthur Greene, Leon McDonald, Eugene Mallonee, Rull Parker, Harley Barton, Floyd Tate, Fonz Beavers, Roy Tatham, Morris Piercy, Oid Davis, Olen McDonald and Doug Parker.