

UNCLE ELOPES WITH NIECE, 17, BOTH FACE PEN

Elbert Reed and Leonie Coleman are Taken To Charlotte for Trial

Elbert Reed, aged 24, who formerly lived near Reids Chapel was taken to Charlotte, N. C. from the County Jail this week. With him went pretty 17 year old Leonie Coleman, daughter of Frank Coleman, who once lived in the Shoal Creek section.

Accompanied by the girl, Reed fled here from Charlotte, jumping a \$200 bond for alleged driving while drunk. He was taken back to answer not only that charge, but the far more serious one of marrying his own niece. The penalty for the latter is said to be five years.

His bride faces the same penalty, although it is believed that her youth will win her leniency.

Reed is said to have gone to Charlotte after serving a term in the U. S. Army. He was given a home by Frank Coleman, his brother in law, who is a construction foreman and the later also gave him a job.

"He was making good on his job" Mr. Coleman said, when he came to Murphy following the arrest of the couple. "Then he was locked up for drunken driving."

"I got the contractor for whom I work to put up \$200 bond and I myself hired an attorney for him. I assured him that he need expect nothing but loss of his driver's license, and a fine. I told him I would pay the fine, and he could repay me, a little at a time."

"The next thing I knew, he stole away, one night, and took my 17 year old daughter, Leonie—who is his own blood niece—with him. The girl has always been in delicate health and I had thought he regarded her as a little sister."

"Now that she has married her own uncle, I'm through with her."

Reed's flight with the girl brought a look-out request to Sheriff Carl Townson, who soon learned that Reed and the girl were living in a fishing shack, once owned by Reed's father, near Shoal Creek.

Reed, it seemed, had brought his niece, first to the home of his mother—and her grandmother—near Vest, where he introduced her as the former "Leonie Wilson, of Charlotte", whom he had just married. Mrs. Reed had never seen her granddaughter, and so believed him.

Later, he and Leonie went to visit one of his sisters, near Postell, where he again introduced her as the former "Miss Wilson", of Charlotte. This sister however had seen Leonie when the latter was about six years old, and recognized her. Then Reed took the girl to the old fishing shack.

At that time, he later admitted, they were not married.

Reed heard the report that Sheriff Townson was looking for him, and fearing Mann act charges, he

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Fifth Column Suspect Here; Questioned and Released

A "fifth column" suspect was questioned by Mayor Gray Monday, after Chief of Police Fred Johnson found him near the home of Hadley Dickey, sketching the water, mountains, and approaches to the town. The man spoke broken English, but denied he was German.

Examination of the suspect's sketch book revealed detailed pictures of the Hiwassee dam site, and of the plants at Copperhill, and Ducktown. The latter showed the exact location of highways and the railroad.

All Day Singing Lands 17 in Jail For Being Drunk

"Maybe they got drunk with melody" said Jailer Patton Coleman, as he pondered his list of prisoners in the County lock-up last Monday.

That list includes 22 men charged with public intoxication. And it developed that 17 of them were arrested at or near the all-day singing held at Peachtree on Sunday.

"I've always heard that 'music hath charms to soothe the savage beast' said Jailer Coleman, but that Peachtree music—or something else—seemed to make some of those men plumb wild."

Ira Coker Struck By Lightning, But Lives, Unscarred

Ira Coker, of the Brasstown section is one of the few persons who can boast of having been struck by lightning, and living to tell the tale. But he can't give any details. It all happened too quick.

Mr. Coker was one of a party cutting timber in the mountains between Martins Creek and Brasstown last Thursday when a storm drove them to a nearby home. Seven persons had sought shelter in the house, and the door was left open to get fresh air.

Suddenly there was a blinding flash which knocked Mr. Coker senseless. The others all were shocked, but not knocked out, and they hurried Mr. Coker to Petrie Hospital.

There, after three hours of arduous work by Dr. Hoover, the victim recovered consciousness, but immediately was stricken with convulsions.

After three days of treatment, however, he was entirely recovered, and returned to his home last Monday.

Mr. Coker was standing in the doorway, near an iron stove when he was felled, and it is not known whether he was struck directly, or whether the bolt struck the stove, and glanced off to him, thus lessening the full force.

An apple tree, outside the house also was found to have been struck, and the bark burned off. It is possible Dr. Hoover says, that this bolt may have glanced off into the house.

Despite his narrow escape from death, Mr. Coker bears not the slightest burn, or mark of any kind.

Funeral Held At Suit For Mrs. L. F. Chapman

Mrs. L. F. Chapman, aged 62, of Suit died at her home on Sunday afternoon after several months of illness. Funeral services were at Reids Chapel Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock with the Rev. Edgar Wilix and the Rev. Elisha Beavers officiating. Interment was in the church yard.

Mrs. Chapman is survived by her father, William Brindle of Postell; two daughters, three sons, and several sisters and brothers.

NANTAHALA DAM SHOWS NO TRACE OF ANY ACTIVITY

Site Like Wilderness, Despite Reports of "Clean Up" Program

Foreseen as the scene of vast activity within the next few months, the proposed locations of the Nantahala Dam and Power plant, present a neglected and abandoned appearance at this time.

Reports persist, however that work on the huge project, involving many millions of dollars, and meaning many jobs, and resultant prosperity to the merchants of this section, will be resumed within the very near future.

It is said that the TVA already has given its consent that the Nantahala Company, which is a part of the far-flung Mellon empire, shall complete the plan it started ten years ago. Formal authorization from the Department of the Interior, and the Federal Power Commission also is reported to be assured.

It also has been reported that clean-up work about the site of the dam and the proposed power plant already have been started. A visit to the locality failed to disclose any such evidence.

The dam site is covered with a ten year growth of trees and underbrush, which apparently, have not been touched. The old log bridge nearby has fallen apart and been washed away.

The tunnel said to have been dug for one of the six miles necessary to tap the river at the dam, seems even more neglected. The mouth is covered by slides. The railroad is neglected and in ruins. Even the town—approximately 100 feet lower, that grew with the previous operations is practically deserted although Nantahala Power and Light company employees have given some care to the shanties numbering about 25 or 30. A few are still inhabited.

The editor visited both locations Friday and talked with workmen at the old site of the plant where the abandoned Beacher Town is located. Here it had been reported, workmen had been employed to clean up the operation. This was found to be untrue.

The proposed location of the dam would be about 2 miles down the Nantahala River below the present country postoffice of Aquone. The elevation at this point is approximately 3,000 feet. The location may be plainly recognized by the smaller growth of timber where it previously had been cleared away. Here the mountains on each side of the river approach closer to each other than at other points in the vicinity. The fall in the river becomes more abrupt and there are frequent riffles and rapids below the point.

The mouth of the tunnel at Beacher Town is almost 1000 feet above the river and would give 960 feet of fall to the waters tunneled through the mountain to the plant. The volume of water available in the Nantahala River falling 960 feet would develop 63,000 horsepower of electricity, a workman said.

The location of the old tunnel started in 1930 and abandoned in 1931 is just as abandoned and overgrown as the location of the dam. Frequent slides have covered up the drift mouth, the incline railroad from the river valley below is in ruins. Even the trails to the location are blocked by bushes and weeds.

At the Nantahala River, almost 1000 feet below the tunnel mouth, is a weather report station, from which records of the condition of the river have been made and forwarded to the company's office in Pittsburg. These reports have been made twice a day for several years.

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Dog Owner Fined \$10 And Costs For Not Vaccinating

The Health Department has started to "crack down" on dog owners who refuse to have their pets vaccinated against Rabies. One of them, from the Grandview section, was fined \$10 and costs before Magistrate Fred Bates, Wednesday morning.

B. C. Walker, vaccinator of dogs, in the employ of the Health Department, was the prosecuting witness. The dog owner's excuse for not observing the law was that "a lot of neighbors hadn't done it either."

As a result of this statement, a careful check up is being made in the section, and Mr. Walker declares that every dog owner who has ignored the law will also be prosecuted, as soon as the evidence can be gathered.

Meanwhile, Mr. Walker has announced that he will hold vaccination clinics as follows:

Saturday, June 15;—Murphy School, 11 A. M. and 3 P. M.

Monday, June 17;—Peachtree, Pine Ridge Store, 9 A. M.; Will Britton store, 11 A. M.; Upper Peachtree Church, 1 P. M.; Slow Creek, Ed Howard store, 3 P. M.

Tuesday, June 18;—Marble School, 9 A. M.; Ed Wood store 11 A. M.; Andrews School, 3 P. M.

Rabies Banished In Three Counties During Past Year

Mad dogs have become extinct in this section—at least for the present—according to Health Officer M. F. Whichard, who announced Wednesday that for the past twelve months not one case of rabies has come to the attention of the health department in Cherokee, Clay or Graham county. Several heads of animals, which have been killed in the fear that they were mad, have been examined, but none were found to be mad.

This is a striking contrast to the record of 1938, when 14 people were treated for bites from mad animals, and one of these died of hydrophobia. Believe it or not, several of these patients had been bitten by rabbits. Dr. Whichard attributes the conquering of the deadly rabies to the law requiring vaccination of all dogs, which was first put into effect in 1938 and now is an annual precaution, and is compulsory.

Dr. Whichard states that reports are coming into him from his vaccinators that some dog owners refused to have their animals inoculated, on the grounds that it might cause the dogs to become sick or possibly die.

"These individuals contend that there is no law to force them to have their dogs vaccinated against rabies" Dr. Whichard said. "I am not especially interested in dogs but I am greatly interested in the welfare of human beings."

"This inoculation law was passed

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TOWNS WILL JOIN FORCES IN FIGHT FOR NEW ROADS

Petitions Planned For Better Chattanooga And Atlanta Route

Mayor Wade Reece has pledged the full support of Andrews to the Murphy Chamber of Commerce in the campaign to get a better Georgia road to Atlanta and a better North Carolina road leading to Chattanooga.

Addressing a "get-together" meeting of representatives from Murphy, Andrews, Bryson City, Sylva, Waynesville and Franklin, Mayor Reece pointed out that improvement of these roads would be of direct benefit to every town in Western North Carolina.

Good highways, he said, not only would facilitate local travel to Atlanta and Chattanooga, but would bring in thousands of tourists from those cities. The condition of the roads is such that many tourists now deliberately shun this section.

The meeting held in Bryson City Friday night was attended by Mayors, Chamber of Commerce and Rotary club officials, and newspaper editors from several towns. They voted unanimously to back up the campaigns for both the Atlanta and Chattanooga routes, 100 per cent.

All of the towns plan to draw up petitions to submit both to the Governor of Georgia, and to Commissioner McKee.

Meanwhile, the Murphy Chamber of Commerce will take immediate steps to circulate a petition through Georgia, getting the signatures of all the residents along the highway, and all the merchants in the towns on the route, including Marietta.

This petition will be sent to the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, who will see that the road is Federalized, and that speedy improvement follows.

Mayor Reece read a letter from the Andrews Rotary club to the Murphy Chamber of Commerce, praising assistance in every possible way.

The 12 mile stretch of Georgia highway, which now is one long series of ridges and holes, will have to be Federalized before Georgia can be expected to take any steps. This is because half the expense on a Federalized road is borne by the U. S. Government.

Improvement of the stretch of North Carolina road which is narrow, full of dangerous curves, and badly in need of resurfacing, needs only the approval of Highway Commissioner McKee. It is believed that the arterial value of this road to the entire section is so apparent, that Mr. McKee will approve. With a combined campaign by all the towns, he can hardly refuse.

Mrs. Martha Messer Passes on at Warne

Mrs. Martha Messer, age 63, of Warne, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Gus Williamson, Sunday night, after an illness that had lasted several months.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock with the Rev. Zeb Stephens officiating. She was buried at Henderson cemetery.

Mrs. Messer is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Gus Williamson and two sons, Fred and Lloyd, all of Warne.

Townson Funeral home had charge of the funeral arrangements.

Scout Subscribers Can Get Special Rates at N. Y. Fair

If you plan on going to the New York World's Fair this summer, you can save yourself money by seeing the Editor of the Cherokee Scout first.

This newspaper has made arrangements with the Hotel Empire, a 12 story fireproof structure in the heart of Broadway, for special reduced rates for every Fair visitor from Murphy and vicinity. Rooms may be had for as little as one dollar a day.

The hotel also offers sightseeing

tours, a three day tour of the city, room included, is available for only \$8.35 per person.

The Scout is happy to offer this service to its readers, without a penny of cost to them. However, this service is limited strictly to subscribers.

If you plan on going to New York, and are a Subscriber, the Scout will be happy to give you a card of introduction which will entitle you to these special rates—which are far less than the regular charges.