

MERRY XMAS

SHERIFF BRANDS TALE OF BEATING IN JAIL AS "LIE"

Also Denies TVA Man's Charge That He Was Robbed By Inmates

Earl Sparks, the TVA worker who says he was beaten with a broomstick and robbed of \$5 in the County Jail after a 'Kangaroo Court', is a liar" declares Sheriff Carl Townson, in answering the charges made by Sparks in the Scout last week.

"The man was not robbed of \$5 because he didn't have \$5" the Sheriff declared. "He was not beaten with a broomstick, but with a fist; and according to a prisoner who was sick and had no part in the affair, Sparks started the fight."

"Here is the Sheriff's statement, in full:

"Sparks was brought in by Policeman Tom Voyles. I was at the jail at the time. Sparks was certainly drunk. We searched him carefully. He had a ten dollar bill and 40 cents in change. We took the ten dollars to hold for him, and let him keep the 40 cents.

"About 30 minutes later Mayor Mayfield called up and asked me to release Sparks as soon as he was sober enough, so he could get to his work in the morning, provided he deposited \$7.35 to meet fine and costs.

"I myself waited at the jail until two o'clock in the morning. Sparks couldn't make change to put up the \$7.35 so I put it up for him. Then I put him in my car and drove him home. I told him I was doing it only on condition that he go immediately to bed. He thanked me and promised he would.

"Instead, I am informed that he came back to town and began bragging about getting out ahead of time, etc. Then he began telling about being robbed.

"A prisoner from Andrews, who was sick in bed, saw the whole thing. He denies that Sparks was robbed of \$5, and he denies that a broomstick was used. He says there was a general mix up, and that somebody struck Sparks in the mouth, with his fist. He says Sparks started the fight.

"If Sparks needed any medical attention because of his beating, he didn't show it. Neither did he say anything to me about wanting a doctor.

"Sparks lied, all the way through. His denial that he was drunk is absolutely untrue. He still had a bad hangover when I took him home."

Sought As Deserter, Cearley "Ready To Go"

Listed as a deserter and sought for weeks by the F. B. I., Herman Thurman Cearley, of Culberson, who once volunteered, then changed his mind and ignored his draft questionnaire, walked into the office of the County Draft Board last week, and told Capt. Wayne Walker he was ready to go to the army.

He filled in a questionnaire, and left for home, declaring he would report as soon as called. He gave no reason for his long delay, and did not say where he had been.

Where Are The Reindeers?



"Dedicated to Children of the World" reads the inscription on this huge statue to Kris Kingle on the village square at Santa Claus, Ind., a tiny hamlet that has achieved fame because of its name. With a population of only 19, and a "general store" that serves as post office, this little town actually handles more than two million pieces of mail during the Xmas season. The man pictured above is Santa's "official" Indiana counterpart, James Yellig, one of the town's 19 residents. Every year he answers more than 25,000 letters to Santa from children all over the nation. But Santa has gone modern. He can always count on having snow for his reindeer, so he has gotten himself a car.

Censorship Placed On All Information About Draft Calls

Censorship was clamped down on the Cherokee County Draft Board Monday morning, and no more information will be made public about calls to the service.

Dates of calls and names of men to be inducted will both be kept secret. It is known, however, that a call was issued last week, and that a considerable number of draftees will leave for camp shortly after the holidays. All men in Class "1-A" probably will be in the army in the near future.

It soon will be necessary for every man in the county from 18 to 65 years old, to register for possible service. Arrangements for this wholesale registration have not yet been made.

It is not regarded likely that older men will be sent to the active armed forces, but some, especially veterans, may be called for service as home guards, or other defense duties.

It is generally believed that those who held warrants as non-commissioned officers in the AEF days may be in demand to drill "Green" troops, and to command guard details at reservoirs and public works.

BANKS TO CLOSE TWO DAYS

Governor Broughton has declared December 26 a bank holiday throughout the state. December being Christmas day, all banks will be closed from Christmas eve until Saturday.

SPRING MAY SEE NEW HIGHWAY TO TENNESSEE LINE

Materials Can Be Had If Labor Is Available Ferebee Declares

If sufficient labor is available at a reasonable price, it is not unlikely that the coming spring may mark the start of work on a bigger, better highway from this section to both Chattanooga and Atlanta. Highway Commissioner P. B. Ferebee told the Journal that the survey of the new route is expected to be completed within the near future.

Mr. Ferebee also stated that plans for the new road had been extended. It was originally intended to lay out straighter and wider route from the Tennessee line to the point at Culberson on No. 64 where the road forks, one prong leading to Tennessee and the other to Atlanta.

The survey has now been enlarged, to continue the new highway as far as Murphy.

The result will be a road of at least three, and possibly four lanes, paved, and almost straight. It will eliminate much of the bad road, and all of the dangerous curves between this section and Chattanooga, and will vastly improve the travel into Georgia.

Tennessee has promised to cooperate by paving and improving the highway from the State line on into gone back on its often repeated
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Three Deserters From Army Caught By Carl Townson

Two army deserters, first cousins, were arrested by Sheriff Carl Townson as they walked along the Beech Creek road, both drunk, Sunday afternoon. They are being held in the County jail for the military authorities. They probably will be sent to the military prison at Fort Leavenworth to serve long terms.

Another deserter was taken into custody by Sheriff Townson last week, and turned over to a military guard from Ft. Bragg. He is Francis Nix, of Ranger.

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Prisoners Stage 4-Day Sit Down Strike At Peachtree Camp And Win, Is Claim

Cherokee County had its first "sit down strike" week before last, according to one of the strikers, when 107 inmates of the Prison Camp, at Peachtree, refused to work until they got better clothing, better food and more medical attention and medicine.

According to this former inmate, who was released last week, the men won a complete victory after the strike had lasted four days, from Thursday through Monday.

On Sunday, December 14, this man says, Captain Reed, District Supervisor of Prison Camps came to the Peachtree Stockade from Asheville;

MAN KIDNAPED; BEATEN, ROBBED; THREE ARE HELD

Chicken Hughes Seized In Daylight "Snatch" In Center of Town

Kidnaped at 3 o'clock Monday afternoon on Murphy's busiest street, Lawrence "Chicken" Hughes was forced in a car, driven to the Hangindog section, terribly beaten, and robbed, he says, of \$40. Hughes, about 60 years old, was rescued by The Law.

Three men: Ross Garrett, Willis Davis and Owney Radford, all of the Unaka section, and the first named two employed by the TVA are held in the County jail, charged with the crime. They deny robbing Hughes. They admit beating him, but say they did so because he drew a knife and tried to stab them. They also deny kidnaping, declaring Hughes got in their car willingly.

The three were captured by Constable Clifton Radford a cousin of one of the accused, after a chase of more than 20 miles, during which he shot out one of their tires. The fugitives drove more than eight miles "on the rim" before finally being forced to stop.

Radford, who is constable for Beaverdam Township drove up while the three were beating Hughes.

The victim says he was standing in front of a store, in mid-afternoon, having come to town after selling a cow for \$40, when a car occupied by three men drove up. Two of them jumped out, he says, seized him by the arms, and forced him to get into the machine. Then, he says, they drove out of town at high speed.

As soon as they got out of town, Hughes says, they demanded his money. When he told them he did not have any, he says they began beating him.

They drove almost to Hangindog, beating him all the way. Hughes declares: Then they stopped the car, threw him out, robbed him, and were pummeling his face when Constable Radford happened to drive up.

Hughes says he does not know any of his alleged assailants. In addition to his money, he says the men stole his knife. He identified a knife taken from one of the prisoners as being his property.

talked to the prisoners, and promised that "everything would be fixed up". The men went back to work next day.

The ex-prisoner declares that before the strike it was all but impossible to get medical attention. He also charged that the men were given badly worn prison garb, without any buttons. As a result he said, there was little or no protection against the cold.

The final complaint was about food, particularly breakfast. The ex-prisoner said that the morning the strike began—an unusually cold one—

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