

THE ROBESONIAN

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1922.

PUBLIC SENTIMENT WILL NOT TOLERATE SUCH CRIMES

In his remarks to the grand jury the other day after receiving its report Judge Connor said that while the brutal murder committed near Lumberton last Wednesday night was the crime of one bad man...

Such a crime as that committed at St. Pauls is most unusual in Robeson county. It has no public sentiment to back it, so far as The Robesonian can learn...

CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION

A series of crimes, culminating in a brutal murder, followed the escape last Tuesday and Tuesday night of eight convicts from the county chain-gang...

Of course there may be no connection between the escape of the convicts and the number of trustees; all the trustees honestly may have earned, by exemplary conduct...

Certainly rigid investigation of such a situation as this should be made at once. The grand jury's investigation impressed at least one of its members that this is a chain-gang deluge...

BEFORE AND AFTER

"When the devil was sick, the devil got well, the devil a saint was he." Up and down the land it was proclaimed in divers ways during the war...

envy of a man infinitely bigger than he, marshalled his forces to betray all former service men and all others who believed that the great war was for something more than the loaves and the fishes?

Never before in one issue, so far as we recall, has The Robesonian had to record so many crimes and sensational happenings within the county as were reported in Thursday's Robesonian. News broke so fast that everybody connected with the paper was kept on the jump...

Truth about some movie actors, observes The Outlook, seems to be unconsciously expressed in a bit of correspondence from Los Angeles published in a theatrical weekly, reading as follows: "Director—says the best way to test an actor is to go camping with him..."

It is officially announced that the Republican National committee owes \$708,161.32 for the campaign of 1920 which resulted in the election of President Harding.

Free Cotton Seed.

To the Editor of The Robesonian: The Department of Agriculture has allotted to me for distribution a limited number of quart packages of cotton seed that they think is an improvement over the variety now in general use.

I will be glad if you would call attention to this through the columns of your paper, and I will be pleased to send a package of this seed to those writing for same.

Yours very truly, H. L. LYON, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., Feb. 2, 1922.

TOWNSHIP PRUNING DEMONSTRATIONS THIS WEEK

- Pembroke—Hugh Monroe, Tuesday, February 7, 10:30 a. m. Wisharts—J. R. Phillips, Tuesday, February 7, 1:30 p. m. Sterlings—Thompson Williams, Wednesday 8th, 10:30 a. m. Orrum—Geo. Branch, Wednesday, 8th, 1:30 p. m. Thompsons—Scott Stone, Thursday, 9th, 10:30 a. m. Fairmont—W. G. Pitman, Thursday 9th, 1:30 p. m. Smiths—H. A. McNeill, Friday, 10th, 10:30 a. m. Red Springs—J. M. Brown, Friday, 10th, 1:30 p. m.

O. O. DUKES, Farm Demonstrator.

- Mr. N. B. McArthur, member of the lower house of the General Assembly, is a Lumberton visitor today. Mr. C. M. Oliver of R. 2, Fairmont, was a Lumberton visitor Saturday. Mr. E. A. Baxley of R. 2, St. Pauls, was in town Friday. Mr. K. S. Monroe of R. 3, Maxton, was a Lumberton visitor Friday. Mr. J. D. Kyle of Fairmont is among the visitors in town today. Mr. C. W. McArthur of R. 2, Rowland, is in town today.

Raleigh News & Observer, Feb. 3: Within two and a half minutes after the fire gong sounded, more than three hundred pupils of the Apex graded school were marched to safety out of a building that burned briskly to complete loss.

Card of Thanks. We wish to express to our friends our deep appreciation of their interest and sympathy during the recent illness and bereavement of husband and father.

MRS. S. W. COBB, and FAMILY, Rowland, North Carolina. How's This? We offer \$100.00 for any case of catarrh that cannot be cured by HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE.

CUMMINS BROTHERS GO FREE.

(Continued from page one) sending to her home for some water and camphor after he had been shot. Malinda admitted that she had been intimate with William Von Lowry and that the two had been together on a trip to Hoke county, spending one night of three at the home of a negro. She testified that Arch Cummings accompanied her and Lowry back home from Hoke county...

Willie Chavis, 15-year-old son of Malinda, corroborated the testimony of his mother as to the conversation with Norman Cummings about Asbury's not going to her home another night without being bothered. He also told of Asbury's going to his home on Saturday night prior to the homicide, reaching there about 4 a. m. Asbury was looking for his mother, who was away from home. Asbury spent about a half-hour there and he then accompanied him back to Pembroke.

Other Testimony

The testimony of Sheriff R. E. Lewis dealt largely with the trailing of the bloodhound to the home of Norman Cummings. He reached the scene of the homicide about 3 a. m. After daylight he saw some tracks leading to and from a point in the cotton field immediately east of the place where Asbury's body lay. It appeared that the person making the tracks stood at the point near where Asbury was killed. The tracks leading away indicated that the person making them was running. He followed the tracks around through the field and into a path that led direct to Norman Cummings' house. He also saw some tracks in a field west of where the dead body was lying. It also appeared that the person making these tracks had stood there for some time.

O. D. Chavis, the bloodhound trailing from the point to the west of the body to the home of Norman Cummings, the dog making the same trail twice. The dog went to the front door steps and would have gone inside the house, but he held him back. He considered the dog dependable in trailing the human scent.

James Lowry and Hursey Jacobs, both of whom live near the scene of the homicide, told of hearing the shots and hearing Asbury moaning and answering Richard Cummings when he asked who it was shot. They also heard Richard call Norman, but did not hear him answer. Jacobs testified that he talked with Arch Cummings about his tires being cut the afternoon previous to the homicide. Arch said he "didn't see how they cut his car and failed to take the double-barrel shot gun, which he had in it." Lowry also talked to Arch about the car being cut the day previous to the killing. In the conversation Arch told him that the car was trimmed up in good shape and that if he could have been about the porch with the two buckshot shells in his gun, he would have done them like they did his car. Arch didn't call any names.

Body Was Exhumed.

Dr. Harding told of conducting the inquest over the remains of Asbury about 11 a. m. on the day following the killing. He reached the scene and found body lying beside the A. C. L. railroad track about one and a half miles north of Pembroke. He found a gunshot wound in each side of the deceased, both just beneath the margin of the ribs. The shots entering the right side made a larger hole than those entering the left. It was

his opinion that Asbury died as a result of the wounds.

At the request of the solicitor, Dr. Hardin exhumed the body of Oxendine on Monday of last week to determine the size of the shot. An autopsy was made and some buckshot and also some smaller shots were removed from the body. The shot were shown the jury.

Jim Oxendine, son of Asbury, told of reaching his father some 40 or 60 minutes after he was shot. He was dead when he arrived. He saw his father's pistol lying near his head. Jim exhibited the coat and vest which his father wore at the time he was shot, both of which had holes in each side, apparently made by the shot. He and his father operated a store in Pembroke and Malinda Chavis was a frequent visitor to the store.

J. R. Maynor asked Arche Cummings if he had any idea who cut his tires, and he replied, "No."

Bennie Sampson exhibited some gun wadding, which he testified that he found near the body of Asbury.

Effie Jane Oxendine, sister of Malinda Chavis, told of being at the home of Malinda on Sunday prior to the homicide and of Norman Cummings going there that afternoon. She testified that after he left Malinda told her of the conversation with Norman, in which he said that Asbury had been going to her home at night without being bothered, but that he would not go another night and leave unbothered.

Rural Policeman A. R. Pittman testified as to the trailing of the bloodhound to the home of Norman Cummings. He admitted that a double-barrel shotgun which was in Norman's home did not appear to have been shot in some time.

Here the State rested. After the jury had been asked by Judge Connor to retire, he called Richard Cummings, father of the defendants, to the stand. Richard told of what he saw and heard on the night Asbury Oxendine was killed. He was dozing when he heard the first shots. He heard four shots, after which he ran out of the house and heard a "furse" towards the railroad. "I went to the home of Norman and called him. Norman and his wife came to the door. He asked Norman to go with him to where the man was complaining, but he said they might also get shot. His wife said she didn't want Norman to leave her. He then went near where Asbury was lying and hailed. Asbury answered him and asked him to go here. He asked Asbury what was the matter and he replied that he was shot and asked him to hold his head. He placed Asbury's coat under his head, but didn't ask him who fired the shot. He sent his son, Redmond Cummings, to advise Jim Oxendine, son of Asbury, that his father was shot and also sent for a doctor. This was before Asbury died. When asked the direct question, he said that Norman was dressed in his night clothes when he first went to his home after the shooting. Norman did not go to where Asbury was that night, though Arch arrived later in the night. Richard denied that he called Norman and he failed to answer him, also that he called Norman's wife.

Oxendine was killed beside A. C. L. railroad track, near the home of Malinda Chavis. The defendants and their father lived in separate houses on the west side of the railroad from the point where Oxendine was killed. There are a number of houses on each side of the railroad in the opening where the homicide took place, Malinda Chavis living nearest the scene.

Other cases disposed of after the report of the proceedings published in Thursday's Robesonian was written were: Claud Oxendine and Thurman Hunt,

manufacturing liquor. Oxendine was sentenced to 2 years and Hunt to 18 months on the county roads.

Jesse McRae, store-breaking; not guilty.

Jno. Wealey Jones, bigamy; sentenced to 4 months on the roads, with leave for the county commissioners to hire him out after he has served 60 days on the roads.

Newland McDonald entered a plea of guilty of manslaughter and was ordered committed to the Jackson training school. McDonald shot and killed his brother, Carey McDonald, at the home of the parents of the two, near St. Pauls, about a month ago.

A Valuable Layman.

Major A. J. McKinnon, of Maxton, N. C., who though widely known, will probably be known to more of our readers as the father of our missionary, Miss Sallie Lou McKinnon, has been quite ill at Spartanburg, S. C., where he had gone to hear Billy Sunday. We are glad to learn that he is very much better. The prayers of the church should ascend for the complete recovery of this valuable layman, the father of our honored and beloved missionary.—North Carolina Christian Advocate.

Mr. Nash Lamb of R. 2, Fairmont, is a Lumberton visitor today.



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