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NUMBER 21

Murder and Homicide Near Pembroke

Melissa Graham, 14-Year-Old Indian Girl, Shot and Killed by James T. Oxendine and Litter Shot to Death by Bethel Graham, Brother of Girl—Bethel Execrated by Coroner's Jury—Shot That Killed Girl Intended for James Oxendine's Wife—John Wesley Oxendine Held as Accessory.

A murder and homicide occurred near Pembroke Friday night about 10 o'clock when Melissa Graham, a 14-year-old Indian girl, was shot and killed by James T. Oxendine, Indian, who a few minutes later was himself shot to death by Bethel Graham, brother of the murdered girl. The shooting took place at the home of Joe Graham, father of the girl. Graham surrendered to Sheriff R. E. Lewis, who rushed to the scene of the killing soon after it happened. Graham was placed in jail, but was exonerated by a coroner's jury Saturday and released.

Story of Double Killing.

According to the evidence brought out at the inquest, James Oxendine went to the Graham home with John Wesley Oxendine. The wife of James Oxendine, who was not living with him, was at the Graham home. Oxendine forced himself into the house after being refused admittance and as he entered the door he shot the young girl, the load from a shot gun taking effect in her mouth. She died instantly. It is supposed that Oxendine intended the shot for his wife, Bethel Graham, who lives near by, heard the shot and took his pistol and hurried to the scene. When he reached the home of his father, James Oxendine pointed his gun at him and threatened to kill him also. It was then that Bethel fired several shots at Oxendine. One bullet entered Oxendine's breast and a second glanced his abdomen. Oxendine walked out of the house and fell just outside the door. He died in a short time.

An inquest was held over the remains of both the girl and Oxendine Saturday by Dr. E. R. Hardin, county health officer and coroner. The jury was composed of Messrs. J. H. Barrington, F. A. Wishart, H. C. Freeman, W. D. Lewis, J. A. McCormick and Calvin E. Lowry, the last named an Indian.

Verdict of Coroner's Jury.

The following verdict was rendered in regard to the killing of Melissa Graham:

"We find that Melissa Graham came to her death by a gunshot wound, said gun being in the hands of James T. Oxendine, deceased. We order that John Wesley Oxendine be held as an accessory to the killing of Melissa Graham and that he be confined to the county jail until further investigation by the proper court."

Oxidine was arrested Saturday and is in the county jail here.

The verdict rendered in regard to the death of James Oxendine follows: "We say for our verdict, that James T. Oxendine came to his death as a result of a pistol wound, inflicted by a pistol in the hands of Bethel Graham. We further find that Bethel Graham shot James T. Oxendine in defense of his own life and that said killing was justifiable."

Graham used a .32 calibre Smith & Wesson and the bullet that entered Oxendine's breast was the one that caused his death, it is said.

Town Bonds Sold At Premium of \$2,040.50

\$235,000 Town of Lumberton Bonds for Street Improvement, Sewer and Water Extension Sold to Detroit Concern—Eleven Bids Submitted.

The mayor and town commissioners Friday sold to Person Campbell & Co., of Detroit, Mich., the town's bonds in the sum of \$235,000 at a premium of \$2,040.50, the bonds being sold to pay for street improvements, sewer and water extension and to take care of the floating indebtedness of the town. The bonds were divided as follows:

Street improvement, \$80,000, 10 1/2-year bonds, bearing 6 per cent. interest, for \$81,368.

Sewer and water extension, \$120,000, 24-year bonds, bearing 5 1/2 per cent. interest, for \$120,228.

Floating indebtedness, \$35,000, 17-year bonds, bearing 6 per cent. interest, for \$35,444.50.

The bonds are dated April 1, 1922, and the purchasers will pay interest already accrued on same.

Eleven bids were made on the bonds, two local banks—the National Bank of Lumberton and the First National—both submitting bids.

As was stated in Thursday's Robesonian, contract was let Tuesday of last week for both the street and sidewalk paving and the sewer and water extension.

Town Primary Tomorrow.

The town primary will be held tomorrow. A list of the candidates to be voted on was published in Thursday's Robesonian.

Mr. F. F. Townsend of R. 6, Lumberton, is in town today.

Shepard Mystery Remains Unsolved

River Has Been Dragged and Woods and Swamps Searched in Effort to Locate Missing Man—Reward of \$100 Offered—Anonymous Letter Received by Mayor White.

An effort to solve the mystery surrounding the disappearance of E. R. Shepard of Putney, Ga., whose abandoned auto was found in a ditch beside the W.-C.-A. highway, 1 mile south of Lumberton, on April 11, have so far proved fruitless. Lumber river has been dragged about the point where the abandoned car was found, canals and swamps have been searched and the woods about town have been scoured in an effort to locate the missing man. Relatives of Shepard left Saturday for their homes in Georgia, after spending several days here trying to solve the mystery. They expect to return here and continue the investigation.

Relatives of Shepard have offered a reward of \$100 for information leading to his whereabouts. The consensus of opinion is that he met foul play. Mayor A. E. White received Friday an anonymous letter mailed at Wilmington reading as follows: "Please notify Mr. C. E. Maginnis of Cherryville, N. C., and when he arrives turn the Ford over to him, which you found. A friendly freight carried me to the Cape Fear."

"Thank you for your kindness."

"Discouraged."

The letter was written with a pencil, but was not the hand-writing of Shepard, according to his brothers. There is, however, a man named C. E. Maginnis living at Cherryville, according to the mayor of that town. It is thought that the letter was written before the writer learned that the ownership of the car had been established by local officers, the scheme being to gain control of the automobile.

Relatives of the missing man say he had a good bank account in his home town and that nothing has been drawn from the account since he left home on March 28.

It is reported from East Lumberton that 4 Smith & Wesson pistol bullets were found yesterday afternoon under moss and earth on the river bank near where the abandoned car was found.

Field Day An Entire Success

Large Crowd Thronged Local School Grounds and Auditorium Friday Afternoon for Series of Delightful Events—Field Sports and Pageants Occupied Entire Afternoon.

Field sports, a Mother Goose festival, May Pole dances, Indian dances, drill and crowning of the May Queen occupied the entire afternoon Friday on the local school grounds and in the school auditorium. A large crowd witnessed all the events and it was a delightful afternoon both for visitors and students. It is hoped that all schools in the county will take part in the next field day.

Filed Sports.

Field sports began at 12:30, Rowland, Barker-Tennille and Lumberton high schools taking part. Contestants from each of the schools fought hard to win, but the rivalry was friendly and there was no evidence of dissatisfaction on the part of any who entered. Names of prize winners will be published in the next issue.

The contests were judged by Messrs. Ralph Query and Jack Spruill. Miss Jessie Carlyle served as score-keeper and Mr. J. Robert Prevatt served as starter.

Mother Goose Festival Pageants by Grammar Grades.

Delightful exercises which were a credit to both pupils of the primary and grammar grades of the Lumberton graded school and their teachers were put on in the high school auditorium and on the campus Friday afternoon. The exercises were declared by many to have been the best they had ever witnessed at the local school. The program began at 4 p. m. in the high school auditorium and ended at 6:30 on the campus. The little folks apparently had the time of their lives, this being the first appearance of many of them on the stage. They were well trained and played their parts, each and several, in a most pleasing manner. Every member of the various departments and grades took some part in the exercises, so many of them that space forbids publishing a list of all the names.

Following is the program as a whole:

PLAYLET BY PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

Red Riding Hood Characters
 Red Riding Hood—Rachel Biggs
 Mother—Estella Sessions
 (Father of Red Riding Hood)
 Woodsman—Frances Lennon Bowen.
 Wolf—Robert Deese.
 Fairy Queen—Elizabeth Belch
 Fairies—17 Little Girls
 Brownie Drill—Doll Drill
 Mother Goose Festival Chorus—Characters
 Mother Goose—Lillian Bullard

Debate on Town Political Issues

Views of Candidates for Mayor Presented in Joint Debate—Candidate E. M. Johnson Denounces as Lie Charge That He Trying to Hide Into Office on Any Man's Coat-tail.

Town politics reached the "high water mark" Friday evening when the first public speaking was staged at Messrs. Prevatt & Lamb's store, Second and Chippewa streets.

Mr. W. S. Britt, law partner and brother to Mr. E. M. Britt, one of the two candidates for mayor, was the first to speak. Mr. Britt stated that owing to the fact that his brother was in Atlanta, Ga., at the bedside of his wife, who is critically ill, he felt it his duty to let the public know for what he stood if elected mayor of the town.

His brother, he said, had been charged with being against paving and other improvements. This he denied and said that Mr. E. M. Britt, who at the time was town attorney, drew the bill providing for the first street paving ever done in the town of Lumberton. This was while the late John A. Rowland was serving the town as mayor. The speaker compared the floating indebtedness of the town then and now. At that time, he said, the floating indebtedness was not more than \$500, while now it is more than \$35,000.

Mr. Britt denied the charge that his brother blocked the bill for sewer and water extension in the eastern part of town some three years ago. The bill his brother fought, he said, was a bill to abolish the board of audit and finance of the town. Continuing the speaker said, "if E. M. Britt is elected mayor all men will have equal rights and he will be mayor for no man or set of men."

Mr. E. M. Johnson, the other candidate for mayor, followed Mr. Britt. In beginning Mr. Johnson said he had recently published in The Robesonian a statement showing for what he stood. Referring to the charge that he was riding into the mayor's office on the coat-tail of the present mayor, A. E. White, Mr. E. M. Johnson said the man who says he is trying to ride into office on the coat-tail of any man is a common ordinary liar. The speaker declared that he had ever been in favor of sewer and water extension in the eastern part of town which the records would show. "If I'm elected mayor of the town, I'll stand by the measure until the people living in that section get it," he continued.

Referring to a meeting of the chamber of commerce and citizens of the town some three years ago when the matter of extending the sewer and water to that section was being discussed, Mr. Johnson declared that his opponent was the only man who made a speech against it. "I stood for bonds then and I stand for them now," he said.

In regard to the floating indebtedness of the town, the speaker said much of the deficit accumulated by having to borrow money to run the schools. The present municipal building also represents a part of the indebtedness, he said.

In closing Mr. Johnson said he wanted the voters to understand that when they cast a vote for him they were voting for E. M. Johnson and no other man.

Both speakers were introduced by Mr. C. B. Hocutt. Quite a crowd attended the joint debate and the political spirit was very much in evidence.

OK'ing Cole—Eugene Canady
Page—Knox Roan
Fiddlers—James Ammons, Walter Moore, John Todd Maxwell, Jack and Gill—John Robert Boyd, Betty Rose Ramseur, Little Boy Blue—Malcolm McLeod, Three Men in a Tub—James Hayes, John Ethel Lytton, Cecil Smith, Tom Tucker—George Whiting, Humpty Dumpty—Jimmy McMillan, Simple Simon—Robert McLeod, Pieman—Bruce McWhite,

"Boy Who Lived by Himself"—Laurance Parmele.
 His Wife—Janie Page Powell.
 Queen of Hearts—Mae Canady.
 Knave of Hearts—Cecil Thompson.
 King of Hearts—Stephen Ward.
 Tom, The Piper's Son—Dudley Jennings.
 Dame Trott—Edna Page.
 Little Miss Muffet—Lois Bruton.
 Spider—Reneil Edmund.
 Little Jack Warner—James Rozier.
 Old Mother Hubbard—Lillian Schae-man.
 Nimble Jack—Crowson Edwards.
 The Traveler—James Mercer.
 Daffy Dum Dilly—Margaret Lee Stephens.
 Bo-Peep—Mary Katherine Proctor.
 Peter Pumpkin Eater and Wife—James Bullard, Hazel Paul.
 Teacher L 10 o'clock Scholar—John Rhodes Barnes and Hubert Bryant.
 Song—Milking Maids.
 Compliments—Harold Williams.
 Old Lady—Ruth Roach.
 Babies in the Woods—Sandy McLeod and Louise Stephens.
 Jack Spratt and Wife—Badger Edwards and Ruth Stone.
 Chorus—Bramble Bush.
 Song—Sing a Son of Sixpence.
 (Continued on page four.)

Fairmont News

School Finals Week of May 14—Town Primary 25th—Last Week for School Registration—Mrs. Gary Mitchell Passes—Co-ops Will Have Tobacco Warehouse—Trying to Secure Judge Bingham for Address.

By H. V. Brown.

Fairmont, April 22.—The people of this community are anxiously awaiting the outcome of the preliminary hearing to be given H. L. Blue next week on the charge of embezzlement of money from the Bank of Fairmont. Chief Lawson went to Lumber Bridge late Wednesday night with a warrant sworn out by Bank Examiner Latham, and arrested Blue, returning with him to Lumberton, where he has been in jail ever since.

School Finals Week of May 14.

Fairmont school commencement will be held during the week of May 14th. On Sunday, May 14th, the baccalaureate sermon will be preached by presiding Elder J. H. Shore of Rockingham. On Friday night, the 19th, the literary address to the graduating class will be by Dr. Robert H. Wright, president of the East Carolina Teachers college, Greenville.

Town Primary April 25.

The primary for officers of the town of Fairmont will be held here Tuesday, the 25th. Those in the race are: for mayor, H. L. Stephens; for aldermen, E. V. McDaniel, E. G. Floyd, W. E. Taylor, W. M. Shockett, A. L. McDaniel, Isham Pittman, H. G. Mitchell and W. A. Griffin. The first three named served as alderman last year.

Last Week for Registration.

Next week will be the last week of registration for the special school bond election, according to Registrar E. W. Floyd. Many have registered and some have expressed themselves regarding the issue.

Our townsman and popular young candidate for sheriff of Robeson county is being encouraged every day, and while this race will most likely be one of the friendliest and best "won or lost" races, we are about to come to the conclusion that it will be very interesting and close.

Death of Mrs. Gary Mitchell.

The entire community was saddened to learn of the death of Mrs. Gary Mitchell, which occurred in Durham last Thursday morning. Mrs. Mitchell Mrs. Mitchell have made Durham their home for the past few years, where Mr. Mitchell is employed by Efrid's department store.

Deceased was before her marriage Miss Annie Lewis, niece of Miss Lorens Lewis, of this place. She has many relatives and friends who mourn their loss. Both of her brothers, Messrs. David and Giles Lewis, are (Continued on page eight.)

EDWARD A. McNEILL OF HOKE COUNTY COMMITTS SUICIDE

70-Year Old Man Blows Top of Head Off With Shotgun—Former Deputy Sheriff in Robeson.

Mr. Edward A. McNeill of Antioch, Hoke county, committed suicide Saturday morning by blowing the top of his head off with a shotgun. Deceased was around 70 years old and is survived by his widow and four children. The funeral was conducted today at 11 a. m. and interment made in the cemetery at Antioch Presbyterian church. Mr. McNeill was well-known, having been at one time deputy sheriff in Robeson county.

ORRUM SCHOOL FINALS

High School Recital April 28—Program by Primary Grades April 29. Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Orrum, April 22.—The Orrum high school will give a recital April 28. Thetis Shepherd and Eula Hall will be graduated. April 29 will be given over to the primary grades. A good program is preparing.

Hon. W. Banks Dove, Secretary of State of South Carolina, spent Friday in Lumberton with Messrs. H. M. McAllister and T. A. McNeill.

Mrs. S. McIntyre returned Thursday from New York, where she spent some time visiting at the home of her son-in-law and daughter Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Stack.

Miss Ruby Thompson returned Friday night from Charlotte, where she spent a week visiting her brother, Dr. S. R. Thompson, and friends.

Miss Eunice Blue and Mr. Max Heins of Reaford spent yesterday here, guests of Miss Ruby Thompson at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Thompson, North Elm street.

Miss Grace Huggins spent yesterday and last night in Fayetteville attending the Browning meeting and visiting relatives.

Misses Pearl Humphrey and Claudia Davis spent the week-end at St. Pauls with relatives and friends.

Mr. M. C. Prevatt of R. 3, Lumberton, was among the visitors in town Saturday.

Mr. E. C. Wade of Allenton was a Lumberton visitor Saturday.

Mr. C. T. Williams of Fairmont was a Lumberton visitor Saturday.

Lumber Bridge News Letter

Poultry Association Will Have Special Meeting April 27—Baseball Team Wins 2 Victories—Fire in Postoffice—Social and Personal.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Lumber Bridge, April 21.—On last Saturday afternoon the Junior Christian Endeavor of the Presbyterian church and the Sunbeam society of the Baptist church enjoyed an Easter egg hunt and a picnic. Mrs. J. Y. Hall is leader of the Endeavors and Mrs. C. J. Ammons is leader of the Sunbeams.

Friday afternoon the local baseball nine won a game from the Fairmont team, on the home diamond. The score was 4 to 3. On Tuesday afternoon the team went to Maxton for a game. They brought home the victory, having won by a score of 15 to 8.

Friday evening the Nonpartisan Literary society held a social. It was held on the high school campus and quite a number were present. Many delightful games were played during the evening. After an ice course was served the crowd sang many of the popular songs and the social closed with the strains of "Good-night Ladies."

Wednesday morning about five o'clock fire was discovered in our postoffice. While the fire had made quite a bit of headway, it was extinguished before very much damage was done. The origin of the fire has never been discovered.

This week the college students who spent Easter at home returned to their respective schools.

On Thursday, April the 27th, a special meeting of the Lumber Bridge Poultry association will be held in the school auditorium. The following program will be presented.

- Hopper Feeding—L. John.
- Parasites—S. K. Johnson.
- Market Eggs—A. S. Wylie.
- Cacons—E. G. Pophal.
- Growing Stock—O. O. Dukes.
- Music—Special.

The association especially invites the public to be present at this meeting. Come and see what the association is accomplishing.

Mrs. C. N. Monroe has been very ill for the past week.

Dr. W. J. McNorton of Georgia is visiting relatives here.

Miss Lillian Hall, student at Flora Macdonald college, spent Easter at her home here.

Miss Harriet Murphy of Macon, Ga., is visiting relatives here.

RAYNHAM SCHOOL WILL CLOSE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON APR. 26

Community Service Pictures and Play Hour in Addition to Commencement Program.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

The school at Raynham will close Wednesday afternoon. In addition to the regular commencement program the picture "King's Palace" will be shown by the community service. A play-hour will be held for the children. Ice cream and cake will be served free to all school children. Hour, 3 o'clock p. m.

2 Indian Blockaders to Roads.

William Strickland, Indian, was sentenced to 12 months and Giles Hunt, another Indian, to 4 months on the roads by Recorder R. M. Williams of Maxton Saturday on the charge of manufacturing whiskey. Both were brought to Lumberton yesterday by Rural Policeman W. W. Smith.

Dr. and Mrs. N. A. Thompson, Dr. and Mrs. T. C. Johnson and Dr. T. F. Costner left this afternoon for Winston-Salem to attend a meeting of the State Medical association. The meeting opens tomorrow and lasts through Thursday.

MAYOR WHITE TO CITIZENS OF LUMBERTON

April 26, 27 and 28 Set Apart as Clean-Up Days.

I have set apart Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 26th, 27th and 28th for a special cleaning up of our town.

It is desired by the town officials that the citizens cooperate with us to the fullest extent in this work to the end that we may keep Lumberton one of the cleanest towns in the state.

Please rake up all tin cans, rubbish, waste paper, and all other trash and place same on the edge of the street in boxes or other receptacles in order that the trash trucks may take it away without delay.

We would also suggest that all weeds be cut and piled out with the other trash so it can be hauled away. Vacant lots should be thoroughly cleaned off; by so doing you will destroy very many bad breeding places for mosquitoes.

Let both white and colored cooperate in the fullest extent in this matter.

A. E. WHITE, Mayor.

COTTON MARKET

Middling cotton is quoted on the local market today at 16 5/8 cents the pound.

BRIEF ITEMS AND LOCAL NEWS

License has been issued for the marriage of Miss Emily Mae McArthur and Carl Homer Cothey.

Early risers reported a light frost Friday morning. However, the frost was not heavy enough to damage crops.

Mr. A. R. Townsend, proprietor of the Robeson Vulcanizing Co., has made a voluntary assignment. Mr. F. D. Hackett, Jr., local attorney, has been named as trustee.

Mr. H. H. Fielder returned Saturday from Lakewood, N. J., where he spent a month with his mother, Mrs. E. H. Fielder, who is ill. Mrs. Fielder's condition has improved.

Mr. E. M. Britt arrived home Saturday from Atlanta, Ga., where he spent several days at the bedside of his wife, who is undergoing treatment at the Georgia Baptist hospital.

Mr. C. F. Ashley of R. 2, Fairmont, was a Lumberton visitor Saturday. Mr. Ashley said he has a good stand of cotton and that he has already given some of his cotton the second plowing.

Mr. Leon Hamilton has received and installed a radio receiving outfit. Mr. Hamilton installed the phone himself and it works perfectly. Last night he heard a sermon delivered in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. James R. McLeod, who were married on April 15, returned Friday from a bridal trip to Florida. They began housekeeping today in a residence owned by Mr. Robt. E. Lee on East Seventh street.

Mr. F. Eli Wishart returned Thursday night from Charlotte, where he attended a meeting of Rexall dealers of the two Carolinas. The meeting was in session two days and Mr. Wishart reports a most enjoyable occasion.

Julius Boone, 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Boone, who live near town, had his left arm broken just above the wrist Friday afternoon while playing on the school grounds. Young Boone ran against Master Berry Godwin French and fell.

Mrs. J. Q. Beckwith went Saturday to Raleigh to attend the graduating recital of Miss Louise Egleton of Hartsville, S. C., at St. Mary's college. Mrs. Beckwith's daughter, Miss Evelina Beckwith, who is a student at St. Mary's, assisted Miss Egleton in her recital.

Mr. G. E. Rancke, Sr., well-known Lumberton citizen, Friday celebrated his 87th birthday. Mr. H. C. Rancke and small son, H. C., Jr., of Rockingham, and Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Lane and two children, Robert and Anna, of Dillon, S. C., spent Friday at the Rancke home, Seventh street. Mrs. Lane is a daughter of G. E. Rancke, Sr.

A degree team from Fayetteville conferred the initiatory degree upon 31 new members of the Lumberton lodge, I. O. O. F. Thursday evening. The local lodge will have a banquet at the Lorraine hotel Thursday evening of this week from 7 to 8 o'clock. After the banquet a degree team from Wilmington, assisted by the Fayetteville team, will confer their degrees upon the 31 new members. Refreshments will also be served in the lodge hall. All local Oddfellows are requested to be on hand. Mr. L. W. Moore of Wilmington, State Grand Master, will attend the banquet and meeting Thursday evening.

Mr. S. McIntyre is Not Candidate for Audit and Finance Board.

Mr. S. McIntyre, whose name was handed in by a friend as a candidate for the board of audit and finance of the town, declines to make the race. Mr. McIntyre says that under no circumstances would he accept. This leaves only three candidates for this office, the number to be elected. These are Messrs. Frank Gough, H. M. McAllister and Jno. D. McMillan. The first two named are members of the present board. Mr. W. S. Britt, the third member of the present board, withdrew his name after it had been filed by one of his friends.

Recorder's Court.

Frank Johnson was bound over to Superior court by Recorder D. H. Fuller this morning on the charge of breaking into Mr. I. J. Wilkin's store at Bellamy. His bond was fixed at \$300, in default of which he was sent to the county jail.

Henry Edwards was given a preliminary hearing on the charge of assault upon Blanche Edwards, his 13-year-old niece, with intent to commit rape. Recorder Fuller failed to find probable cause and Edwards was released.

Mr. Q. K. Nimocks, an attorney of Fayetteville, is a Lumberton visitor today.

Mr. Warren Currie of R. 4, Red Springs, is in town today.

Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Walters of the Barnwell section were Lumberton visitors Friday.