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THE ROBESONIAN

WATCH YOUR LABEL ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DISCONTINUED WHEN THEY EXPIRE

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LUMBERTON, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1923

COUNTRY, GOD AND TRUTH.

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REMAINS POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED BY RELATIVES AS THOSE OF E. R. SHEPHERD

Sister and Brother of Man Who Disappeared Last April Identify Articles Found on Body Near Parkton.

Luke Britt, White, and Dock Rozier, Negro, Last Men Seen With Shepherd, Arrested on Charge of Murder.

CORONER'S INQUEST IS BEING HELD BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.

Decomposed Remains Found in Woods Near Parkton by Chalmers Edwards—Articles Found in Clothing Enable Relatives to Positively Identify—Large Crowd Viewed the Remains Here Yesterday—A Mystery Since Last April.

Luke Britt, white, aged about 25 years, and Dock Rozier, colored, about the same age, are in jail here charged with the murder of E. R. Shepherd of Putney, Ga., who mysteriously disappeared from Lumberton on April 11th, 1922, and whose remains were found by Mr. Chalmers Edwards near the town of Parkton. Britt and Rozier were arrested about 7 o'clock Monday night, after the officers had satisfied themselves that the remains were those of Shepherd, who was last seen with Britt and Rozier.

The body was found Monday morning about 11:30 three quarters of a mile south of Parkton by Mr. Chalmers Edwards, a young man who lives near Parkton, while he was in the woods near his home hunting rabbits, when he came upon it lying on the top of the ground uncovered. He immediately went to his home and reported his find, telling Dr. D. S. Currie of Parkton, who phoned Sheriff R. E. Lewis. Sheriff Lewis and Coroner Biggs left secretly for the place and upon arriving where the body was found were convinced that it was the remains of Shepherd. With the sheriff and coroner at the time were Messrs. F. P. T. J., H. G., and Chalmers Edwards, Dr. D. S. Currie and Rural Policeman J. T. McRaney. Upon close examination they found that the man had been shot with a 32-calibre pistol under the left eye, the bullet being found near the skull.

Clothing Recognizable

The clothing which the man wore at the time of his death was badly decomposed but not so much so that it was impossible to tell that he was wearing a dark grey suit with a slight red stripe. His black bow necktie was in fair condition. A silver pencil which bore the name of the concern for which Shepherd worked was found with a pipe, air-pressure tire gauge, an Ingersoll watch, bunch of 5 keys, a box which had contained aspirin tablets, and a Waterman fountain pen.

Brought to Lumberton

The remains and everything that would possibly help identify the body were brought to Lumberton and placed in a vault in the coroner's place of business, and no one was allowed to see them until after the identification had been made by relatives of the dead man.

Relatives Arrive

Mrs. H. M. Broach of Putney, Ga., and Mr. J. B. Shepherd of Doerun, Ga., sister and brother of E. R. Shepherd, arrived here yesterday morning and went immediately to the parlors of a local undertaker, where they definitely identified the remains as those of their brother. Sheriff G. E. Davis, of Thomasville, Ga., a brother-in-law of the murdered man, arrived in the afternoon.

Identification Positive

Proof that the identification was free from error was the fact that his sister stated as she alighted from the train, that her brother's cuff links would not match. This was found to be true. Personal effects, including the cuff links, a silver pencil, watch, fountain pen, bunch of keys, necktie, pipe and a tire air-pressure gauge were all identified as being the property of E. R. Shepherd.

The pencil which caused the officers to believe that it was positively the body of Shepherd bore the inscription, "Miller Lightning Rod Co., St. Louis, Mo., 'We Keep the Quality'". This was the name of the firm the murdered man worked for when he was killed.

Had there been nothing left but the skull, Mrs. Broach stated that she would have been positive that it was the skull of her brother by the prominent protrusion on the back of it.

Surviving are his wife and one son, Jack, aged 6 years; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Shepherd of Bridge-

CORONER'S INQUEST IN PROGRESS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Coroner's inquest over the remains of E. R. Shepherd is in progress. It began this morning about 10 o'clock with the following men serving on the jury: D. D. French, W. O. Thompson, Ira Bullard, Jim Spivey, John H. Floyd and Dr. John Knox. The inquest is being held behind closed doors.

Up until noon only four witnesses had been examined, the most important of which was Eliza Brown, white, who was with Shepherd and Luke Britt the day before Shepherd disappeared. The other witnesses were Joe Freeman, Herbert Ivey and Fred Stone. Upon request of Coroner Biggs and Sheriff Lewis, details of the hearing up to the present are withheld from today's paper but will be given with full report of the inquest in the next issue.

Fort Bragg Plays Lumberton on Local Court Friday

Soldiers Lost to Lumberton Hi Last Month—Fine Game Expected.

Correspondence of The Robesonian: The fast local Hi team will play the 1st Observation (Flash) Battery of Fort Bragg on the local Hi court Friday 23rd, the soldiers returning a game played at Fort Bragg Jan. 26th, the Lumberton Hi winning over the soldiers by a score of 20 to 19. The teams are well matched. Everybody come out to this game Friday and root for the Lumberton Hi. Let's win! Admission 10 and 15 cents: 4 o'clock.

The Lumberton Hi will play a game with Battery C, 5th Field Artillery, March 2nd at Fort Bragg. Let's all go over and root for the boys and see them win again.

Coch Haliwanger is getting our boys in good shape for these games. The Hi's are practicing every day for an hour. Our boys have won seven out of eight games played.

boro, Ga.; three brothers, Fred and Victor of Bridgeboro, and J. B. of Doerun, Ga.; and two sisters, Mrs. S. C. Pete of Sylvester, and Mrs. H. M. Broach of Putney, Ga.

Hundreds View Remains

After the identification was made the public was allowed to view the remains, permission having been given by the relatives. Hundreds of persons, including women and children, visited the undertaking parlors all during the day Wednesday, and saw the remains of the much-talked-of and much-searched-for E. R. Shepherd.

Story of Disappearance

On the morning of April 12th, last year a Ford runabout which was owned by Mr. Shepherd was found in a ditch on the W-C-A, highway about a mile south of Lumberton. The lights were still burning. The car evidently had been run into the ditch slowly, as very little damage was done to it. Officers began a search at once for Shepherd, notifying his people in Georgia. Lumber river was dynamited and dragged for the body of the missing man. The woods and swamps were scoured, but with no results. Mr. J. B. Shepherd, brother of the missing man, came at once to help carry on the search and remained here until all had been done that seemed possible.

From that time until Monday nothing had been heard of Shepherd. However it was talked of practically every day on the streets. The senseless mystery was often heard.

Sheriff Lewis gave out nothing concerning the finding of the body until he brought it back to Lumberton, satisfied himself as to its identity, and had placed the suspected young men under arrest which, as stated above, was not until about 7 o'clock Monday night.

—Mr. J. B. McLean of Bellamy is a Lumberton visitor today. He reports the death last night of a mule belonging to Mr. Ira Wilkins of Bellamy. The mule went on a hunger strike, Mr. McLean says, and that old age finished his earthly career. Interment was made this morning.

Don't fail to see "A Fashion Review Down Petticoat Lane" at the school auditorium Thursday night. Adm. 50 and 25 cents.—Adv.

Coop Marketing Problems Discussed At Meeting Here

Some Questions That Fuzzle Coops Answered by Mr. W. E. Lea and Propaganda of Opponents of Co-operative Marketing Proved to be False—Advantages of Organization Explained.

The regular monthly co-operative marketing meeting was held in the court house here Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock. Mr. W. E. Lea, of the Field Service Division being the principal speaker.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman R. H. Crichton, and much discussion was done by the members present, who represented 16 of the 25 townships, and local organizations from each of the 16.

Before the address by Mr. Lea, chairman Crichton asked him to explain the facts regarding the landlord being held responsible for the tenant's part of the tobacco or cotton, by the association when the tenant did not belong. It is a part of the marketing contract that all tobacco grown on the land of a landlord shall be marketed through the association. To this Mr. Lea replied that where a member of the association had a tenant who did not belong, that so long as the landlord showed his loyalty to the association and did not willfully violate the contract with the intent of being unloyal, he would not be indicted for a breach of contract. He stated that some parts of the contract law were what some would term a "dead letter" law and would be enforced at the judgment of the directors after a thorough investigation had been made.

Mr. Lea used for the subject of his address, "The Advantages of Organization." He pointed out the fact that farmers were compelled to pay for their fertilizers and gasoline at prices set by organizations and controlled by organizations. Speaking of how the Sherman Anti-Trust act had broken some big corporations into pieces, he showed where this was of little effect, for they were as a joint snake, coming back together in different ways in order to set the price of their product as they wanted it.

Before beginning a series of attacks against those who were fighting the co-operative marketing system, he said that he wanted it fully understood that he did not blame the speculative interests for wanting the business and that he did not altogether blame them for organizing, and spreading propaganda against the association. He then took up the propaganda which they were issuing and showed where each item was absolutely untrue. He said that they first spread the news that it was impossible to organize the farmers. To this he replied that the farmers have now organized themselves right here in Robeson county 1600 strong. Taking up the "anti-co-op" argument that the association could not get a good board of directors, he plainly showed that the present board was composed of the best business men in this part of the country. Then he said to contradict the propaganda that the association could not buy warehouses and drying plants without capital, the association had bought two and one half million dollars worth of warehouses, with nothing but promises. Their fourth argument, Mr. Lea said was that the association could not enforce the contract, that it was so loose that one could drive a two horse wagon through it. The different favorable decisions of the courts have proven this to be untrue.

The statement of Mr. Lea's that he knew it to be a positive fact that the association had sold tobacco to every large manufacturer in the United States and also to large European companies, met with much favor among those present. The propaganda sent out by the speculative interests was that it was impossible for the association to sell their tobacco to the big companies.

Another argument used by the speculative interests was that the association could not re-dry their tobacco satisfactory. To this Mr. Lea stated that the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. had paid an enormous sum to the association for tobacco that had been re-dried in the plants of the association and that it was perfectly satisfactory. He further stated that with the plants now owned by the association it was possible for it to re-dry 3 million pounds of tobacco per day of ten hours. He then stated that the propaganda had it that the association could not borrow money. To this he stated that 9 million dollars had been borrowed from bankers in the large cities and that 30 million was ready for use by the association from the government.

The argument by the speculative interests that the association could

(Continued on page 5)

To Vote on Bond Issue for High School Building

Special Election Will be Called to Authorize School Board to Issue Necessary Bonds—High School Building a Necessity.

The Lumberton school board is taking the necessary steps to call a special election to vote on bonds for a new high school building. It is the purpose to ask for authority to issue bonds in any sum that may be necessary up to \$250,000.

Mr. James D. Proctor, a member of the board, has been instructed to take the matter up with Senator L. E. Varner and determine just what steps are necessary to comply with all legal requirements and to have a bill passed by the present Legislature if that is found to be necessary.

Mr. C. Gadsden Sayre of Anderson, S. C., and Raleigh has been retained as architect for the proposed new building. Plans and a water-color perspective of the proposed new building will be placed on exhibition so that the people may see just what the school board has in mind.

St. Paul News

By Bessie G. Johnson

St. Paul, Feb. 20.—Exceedingly nice weather today, for winter, we must admit, soon March will be greeting us and then for, "the beauties of spring."

"Madame Rumor" says the wedding bells will soon be ringing and ring "loud", too. May the god work continue, but what ever you do, "save us the particulars."

Mr. Tom Smith and wife have arrived in town. They are making preparations to erect a 2-story brick residence, in Colonial style, according to reports, brick being hauled today, the dwelling to be erected in the grove—east Fayetteville street, a splendid location.

Dr. E. C. Murray left Monday for Charlotte to attend the laymen's convention. Others are planning to go today.

Among those to attend the Denishawn dancers' program in Raleigh on last evening, we note Mr. Locke McInnis, Mrs. J. F. Nash and Misses Majorie Russell and Mable McDonald. Mr. McDonald and some of the younger children were going over today to accompany Miss Mable home.

Two cars of brick arrived yesterday. That means the new high school building will soon be "on the way."

What will St. Paul do next in the way of improvement? A new telegraph office, maybe—thru the efforts of the chamber of commerce it is hoped one of the companies will be induced to establish an office in St. Paul ere long.

Friends of Mrs. Flora Bennett are glad she is convalescing since her few days illness.

Four New Judicial Districts is Expected to be Compromise.

Raleigh, Feb. 21.—Four new judicial districts, with the 24 solicitors on a salary, is expected to be the final wind-up of the legislative moves to create seven new districts and to take the fees from the prosecutor. The state now has 20 districts.

The house has passed the Warren-Connor bill, placing the solicitors on a salary, and the house is reported willing to give the state four new judicial districts. It is a sort of compromise between the senate, which put in bill for seven new districts, and the house, which at first, seemed disposed to confine its consideration of the judiciary to the elimination of the fee system for solicitors.—Brook Barkley in Wilmington Star.

Red Springs Girls Defeat Local Hi Girls.

The local Hi girls' team was defeated Tuesday afternoon by the fast Hi girls' team of Red Springs. The game was not one sided but was fought by both sides. Starring for Red Springs was Miss Stella McNeill and for Lumberton were Misses Betha and Allen; all around good passing and guarding by Misses Lawrence and McLeod for the locals. At the end of the second half the score was a tie, 21 to 21. The extra 5 minutes of playing decided Red Springs the winner with Miss McNeill starring with 3 field goals. The final score was 27 to 25. The return game is to be played at Red Springs in the near future.

Town Taxes

Two percent was added to unpaid town taxes on Feb. 1st. One additional percent will be added on March 1st, making three percent.

J. P. RUSSELL, Clerk and Treasurer. Adv.

Parkton Letter

Parkton High Defeat Fayetteville—Delightful Sacred Concert at St. Paul—Residence Burned—Splendid Program by School Faculty—Discovery of Remains of E. R. Shepherd.

By C. D. Williamson.

Parkton, Feb. 20.—The high school basketball team played a match game with the Fayetteville high Friday afternoon on the local grounds. The game was won by the Parkton team 19 to 23. It was quite interesting, notwithstanding our team had no one to coach, while the Fayetteville team had one who seemed to be up on the rules and regulations. Our boys were handicapped, yet they outclassed their opponents. Our boys play in Sanford tomorrow night. We hear of a good many voters who expect to go with them. The Rex Basketball team came up this afternoon and played the local grammar grades. Both teams, girls and boys, were defeated by the locals.

The North Carolina sacred orchestra numbering about 20, played at St. Paul Sunday evening. Notwithstanding the cold weather, the auditorium of the Methodist church was filled, with a number standing. The music was up to standard by the orchestra, and the choir of Chestnut Street Methodist church of Lumberton was also present and rendered two splendid anthems, also furnished a male quartet, which was good. The Lumberton male quartet also was present and was heard for two selections, which were listened to with undivided interest. Rev. Mr. Poole, pastor of the Methodist church, conducted devotional exercises, also made a brief speech which was much enjoyed, speaking in the highest terms of the orchestra.

Another feature was a violin solo by the noted violinist Mr. M. H. Shubert of St. Paul.

Our town was much excited Saturday about 3 p. m. when it was discovered that the house occupied by Mr. E. V. Joye was on fire. The fire made rapid headway. The high wind made it impossible to save the building, which was a 6-room residence, but most of the belongings were saved, as a large crowd of friends and neighbors rushed to the scene and both white and colored people worked manfully to save the near-by buildings. C. D. Williamson's residence just opposite the fire and nearest to it; next the residence occupied by J. C. Lancaster; next the Presbyterian church, which caught fire in several places but was soon put out by faithful and hard work. All the nearby buildings were kept wet all during the fire. The burned building was owned by A. M. and H. B. Culbreth. We have not learned whether there was any insurance or not. The origin of the fire is not known. The smokehouse caught first, Mr. Joye and family immediately moved to the M. Wright house in the northern part of town, on Railroad street.

The program by the graded school faculty last Friday night was much enjoyed by a small house, owing to the very cold weather. The music was good. The play was entitled "The Sweet Family." Those taking part in the play were Mrs. J. J. Cobb, Misses Gladys Godwin, Viola McDonald, Sarah Currie, Gladys Hughes, Irene Munns, Addie McLamb, Mary Brown. The play was full of pep from start to finish and was more than twice worth the money. It will be hard to forget. Door receipts were about \$25, benefit of new Presbyterian church.

Mr. J. D. Jordan remains quite sick with pneumonia.

An interesting discovery was that of Chalmers Edwards. Sunday evening while out strolling, following an old abandoned road leading from the public road which goes by the M. R. Tolar farm, less than a mile from our town, young Edwards discovered a man's skull about 200 yards from the main road near the edge of Green swamp. Making further investigation, he found what he thought to be the skeleton of a man. He rushed home and reported it to his father, Mr. T. J. Edwards, who went to the scene and found it like his 17-year-old son had reported. They reported the news to Dr. D. S. Currie, who Monday morning phoned to Sheriff Lewis, and Monday by 1 p. m. the sheriff and Coroner Biggs came to our town and made a thorough investigation of the skeleton and it was identified as that of E. R. Shepherd, the man who mysteriously disappeared from Lumberton nearly a year ago. This discovery has created no little interest up our way. The sheriff and party took the remains back to Lumberton last night.

Don't fail to see "A Fashion Review Down Petticoat Lane" at the school auditorium Thursday night. Adm. 50 and 25 cents.—Adv.

If in need of Boy Beans for planting, see our ad in this issue, Elrose Fruit Farm.

Cotton Market

Reported by J. H. Barrington

Middling cotton today 29 cents.

Items of Local News

—There will be a regular meeting of the Lumberton chapter of the O. E. S. at the Masonic hall tonight at 7:30.

—Today being the 22nd day of February, George Washington's birthday, a legal holiday, all the local banks are closed.

—"Morris, the Radio Man", the last number of the Lyceum course, will give a performance at the school auditorium Monday night, February 26th. School children will be admitted free.

—A brake beam on a coal car became loose this morning while the car was being shifted on the local railroad yards, but was found by the conductor before any material damage had been done.

—Mr. W. V. Brown, deputy collector of internal revenue, will be in Lumberton February 23 and 24 and in Maxton February 25 and 26 for the purpose of assisting individuals in making out their income tax returns.

—License have been issued for the marriage of H. Arthur Strickland and Rosella Ford, colored, and Booker T. McMillan and Hattie Bule, colored. The last named couple were married in the courthouse yesterday afternoon by Justice L. R. Stephens.

—Signs reading "Lumber River" have been hung on the three iron bridges that span Lumber river on the W. C. A. highway near Lumberton. The highway force here is doing a large amount of sign painting, having recently placed new guide signs and markers on the principal streets of Lumberton which are a part of the main highways.

—Among those attending the co-operative association meeting here Tuesday were Messrs. Wheeler Stone, Lacy Price and J. S. Scott of Thompson's township; Messrs. E. A. Hardin, Charlie Andrews and Boss Floyd of Sterlings township; Messrs. W. C. Brown, J. D. Kyle, O. I. Floyd and D. A. Jones of Fairmont township, and Mr. N. F. Barden of Orrum township.

—Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sharpe and daughter, Miss Courtney, returned yesterday from Raleigh, where they were guests Monday and Tuesday of Senator and Mrs. L. R. Varner at the Yarborough hotel. They also had the pleasure of attending with Mrs. Varner and daughter, Miss Lily Snead, the wonderful interpretative dancing exhibition at the auditorium Monday night of Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn and the Denishawn dancers.

Boll Weevil Meeting at St. Paul Friday Night

Prof. Franklin Sherman, State entomologist, will address a boll weevil meeting at St. Paul Friday night, February 23rd, according to information received by Mr. O. O. Dukes, county farm demonstrator. The meeting will be held under the auspices of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce.

MR. J. H. FELTS SR. DIED YESTERDAY IN CHARLOTTE

Mr. J. H. Felts, Sr., of Charlotte, father of Mr. J. H. Felts, Jr. of Lumberton, died yesterday at 11:45 in the Presbyterian hospital at Charlotte. He had been in the hospital three weeks and had been seriously ill all of that time. Mr. Felts was with his father last week, returning to Lumberton and going back to Charlotte Monday. He was with him when the end came.

AMERICAN FOUNDATIONS

Is the subject that Pastor Durham will discuss next Sunday morning at the First Baptist church.

As we are celebrating Washington's birthday this week, and as there is so much disregard for law at the present day, this subject is timely.

The subject of the evening sermon will be "Baalham, A Religious Sentiment; Caleb, A Religious Principle."

This is the second in the series of Sunday evening sermons recently begun by the pastor. The church extends a cordial invitation to everybody to attend these services.

You Haven't Seen Love in its Ideal Setting until You've Seen, When Knighthood Was in Flower. Watch for Date.—(Adv.)