

Mike Lawson Remains Firm in Story of Innocence of Whipping Women Under Terrific Rapid Fire Cross-Questioning by McIntyre

Defendant Kept Himself Well in Hand and Told Well-Knit Story of His Whereabouts on Night of April 14—Denies Membership in or Knowledge of Ku Klux Klan But Has Known of Some Raids They Have Made.

DEFENSE PUTTING ON MORE WITNESSES THIS P. M. TO PROVE CHARACTER OF DEFENDANTS AND ALIBI

End of Trial Not Yet in Sight—Many Witnesses Testify to Character of Defendants and Principal Prosecutrix and Whereabouts of Defendants on Night of Crime—Rebuttal Witnesses of State Will Hardly be Reached Before Late This Evening or Tomorrow—No Abatement of Interest and Clashes Between Counsel Are Frequent.

Additional witnesses are being put on the stand in Superior court here this afternoon of the third day of the trial of Mike Lawson, Jule Brogden and John Hedgpeth on charges of kidnaping and assault on females growing out of the whipping of Mrs. Hattie Purvis and Mrs. Mary Watson at Proctorville on the night of last April 14, to strengthen the piled-up testimony as to the good reputations of the defendants, the bad reputation of the principal prosecutrix and the whereabouts of the defendants on the night of the crime.

It is probable that witnesses for the defense will take up most if not all the afternoon and that the State will not get on witnesses in rebuttal until tomorrow.

There has been rumor of issuing for Judge J. A. Grady, alleged official of the Ku Klux Klan, a subpoena similar to the ones issued yesterday for Messrs. Keith and Randolph, but nothing will be done about that until Mr. R. C. Lawrence, who is out of town today, returns.

Under a volley of questions of such machine-gun rapidity from Mr. McIntyre that counsel for the defense protested that their client was not being treated fairly, that he was not given time to answer, Mike Lawson, on stand 1 1/2 hours this morning, remained firm in his denial of membership in or knowledge of the Ku Klux Klan or any of its activities, and admitted having used strong language in placing any man who said he belonged to the Klan. His story was as follows: Has been chief of police of Fairmont 3 years, moving there from Orrum, where he has a farm of 153 acres; has house and lot in Fairmont. Went to his farm after dinner on April 14th; came back by Proctorville and got a drink at Mr. Geo. Branch's store. His brother Fred had served sentences for stealing things but had been adjudged insane and was now in the department of the State prison for criminally insane. On the night of April 14 went to supper after meeting train about 6:30, met the next train at 7:40; got a shave at People's barber shop, then went to Mr. Mitchell's store and got the tax books, Alderman Mitchell having instructed him to collect some taxes. Went to Grantham drug store, where he saw P. P. Jones, Mem. Floyd, O. L. Barnes and Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs. Mr. Jacobs told him he could go to the company store at any time and get tax money. Went to Mitchell's store and put the tax books and about \$200 in safe. He showed a receipt, dated Monday following, April 16, from Town Treasurer J. E. Bracey for \$186.50, for money collected night of 14th. Leaving Mitchell's store, which he was closing, about 10 o'clock, went to pressing club across the street, talked with Roy Johnson; went next door to Tebe Floyd's store, where he stayed a few minutes; went to Jenkins Co. store, where he purchased a union suit from Mr. C. E. Grantham, a suit ordered for him as he had not been able to find his size, \$2. Went to his car near Grantham drug store, put package in car, went across street and purchased shirt from Mark McDaniel, then went up and down the street until about 11 o'clock, seeing Glyn Ashley, E. L. Vinson and Dr. McIlhenny. Arrived home at 11 o'clock. Told Mr. R. R. Turbeville, who was relieving Mr. John Davis as night policeman and watchman, to watch out as there was some drinking in town, that he was going to collect some taxes and was sick with a cold. Indicted by D. G. Rouse on account of a fracas and sued in justices' court on account of holding stakes in a ball game, the plaintiff, Lubin Prevatt,

losing and appealing to the Superior court, where he lost again.

On the grueling cross examination Lawson held himself in hand and stuck to his story. Between the rapid fire of questions counsel for defense stuck in a rapid fire of objections. Mr. T. L. Johnson protested that the witness was not being treated fairly. Mr. Dickson McLean insisted that the witness was entitled to some degree of courtesy. Under questioning Lawson said he could not remember any one from whom he collected taxes on night of April 14. Remembered hour he got home because his wife always asked him the time when he went home at night and he fixed the time in his mind after he had been accused. Called Mr. Rouse an opprobrious name, with trimmings, because he accused him of being a news gatherer for the Ku Klux Klan; told Raymon Inman that any one who said he was a Ku Klux was (opprobrious name). Didn't know it was against law to bet on ball game. Did not see hooded men who took Andrew Smith from recorder's court building, or as he left the room, but heard disturbance and saw them as they got in car and rode off. Didn't swear out warrant for Jud Hunt for selling liquor and tear it up when he learned names of klansmen would be disclosed. Had stopped at house of Mack Taylor, negro, to get water for his car, which was hot, when klansmen came up after Mack. Knew nothing about it and left as soon as he could. Didn't believe certain men he was asked about had accused him of being in Ku Klux raids. Did not come to Lumberton when Taliaferro was arrested and does not know the man.

As court opened this morning the defense put on seven more character witnesses, with the exception of one who was used to prove an alibi for Brogden.

Mr. Okey Stephens testified that he had known Mike Lawson all his life, raised within 3 miles of him, and stated that Mike had a good reputation. John Hedgpeth's character was proven good by this witness, but on cross examination it was shown that he was related to Hedgpeth. He didn't know anything about Fred Lawson, Mike's brother, leaving meat which he was charged with stealing at Mike's house.

Mr. A. E. Byrne gave Lawson a good reputation, having known him for 12 years. He emphatically denied that he had been a member or was now a member of the Ku Klux Klan. He did not approve of the whipping of the women.

Mr. Thad Stone gave defendants Hedgpeth and Lawson good reputations, but stated on cross examination that he might be distantly related to Hedgpeth. Did not approve of the whipping.

Mr. Hezz Phillips in giving Mike Lawson a good reputation stated that it was his mother's meat which Mike's brother Fred stole and that they did not hold anything against Mike. Said he went with an officer and found the meat in Mike's barn, but that Fred placed it there without the knowledge of Mike. He admitted having been recently indicted for reckless driving.

Screaming Nothing to Him Ernest Branch, son of Mr. George Branch, testified that Jule Brogden was in his father's store about 9:30 or 10 and that he later passed Brogden when Brogden was going in the opposite direction from Mrs. Purvis' home. He saw the K. K. K. coming from the direction of Mr. Surl's home. On cross examination he stated that he heard somebody scream one time just before he saw the Ku Klux and it was loud enough for his father to hear. His father told him that he supposed the Ku Klux were after somebody. The screaming was nothing to him, he said. He saw P. P. Smith at the funeral at the church, and saw Mike Lawson that afternoon about 1 o'clock, when he came to the store and bought a coca cola. He denied telling Conrad Purvis that Mike was at his store about first dark and for him not to tell his father about it. He did not investigate it at all and said that he didn't know whether anyone was killed or not, and didn't care if the women were whipped.

dants Mike Lawson and John Hedgpeth good characters. On cross examination admitted that he had a bad wreck with an automobile in Evergreen when he was driving after having been drinking. He was questioned about where he got the monkey rum and stated that it was down on the Waccamaw river. Judge Sinclair asked him if it was in Bug Hill township, to which he answered he thought so. Counsel for the defense asked for an exception to the remarks by his honor.

Mr. F. C. Jones, a character witness for the defense, gave Mike Lawson a good reputation and stated that Brogden's was good while he was working for him a few months. Denied affiliation with the Klan.

Had Another Husband. On cross examination of Jule Brogden, one of the defendants, it came out that when he married the woman with whom he has since been living as his wife she had a husband in the person of one A. C. Godwin. Brogden swore he did not know that at the time of their marriage and that they had been married about a year when she received a summons in divorce proceedings. Mrs. Brogden, on the stand later, admitted that she committed bigamy when she married Brogden, being the wife at that time of A. C. Godwin of Columbus county, that she passed off to Brogden as a single woman under the name of Hering and that no marriage ceremony had been performed for her and Brogden since her divorce from Godwin about a year ago. On direct testimony she said she had two children, but on cross examination she admitted to two others by Godwin.

In an effort to show that Brogden could be recognized by the grimy appearance of his hands even after they had been washed, Brogden was told to exhibit his hand to the jury. Brogden's denial of membership in the Ku Klux Klan was emphatic, and he stated that he did not know any one who was a member. Mrs. Brogden testified that she spent the night of April 14 at home, coming in about 10 o'clock after he had been in once before with flour and returning to a store for a few minutes to get some eggs. She corroborated his testimony as to his dress and activities during the night.

A Woman Protests and Sobs. During cross examination of Mr. K. Atkinson of Proctorville yesterday afternoon a woman's voice in indignant protest cut across the highly-charged dramatic atmosphere of the room when Mr. McIntyre asked the witness if he didn't know that Fred Lawson had left some stolen goods at Mike Lawson's house Mrs. Lawson lifted her voice from beside her husband "He didn't bring no things," she said, and her frame was shaken with sobs as Judge Sinclair rapped for order and she subsided into silence. The examination proceeded in tones a shade more subdued.

Would Take It as Grand Insult. Rev. P. T. Britt, a well-known Baptist minister, put on by the defense as a character witness, in reply to a question about whether or not hooded klansmen had ever offered him money in church said they had not, that he would not take it if they did and would consider it a grand insult.

Lawson Prayed in Public. Mr. Britt said he had never heard anything against Lawson prior to his trouble, that he baptized Lawson and heard him pray in public back in 1908 when 30 young men organized a prayermeeting. He said he was out of the State for 7 years prior to 1921 and that he had not known much about Lawson in recent years.

Defendants Needed Protection. Mr. Haynes Barnes, a character witness, stated on cross examination that he offered to go on the bond of the men after the preliminary trial because he believed them to be innocent men and that they needed protection. Mr. McIntyre asked the witness if he had not recently been turned out of the church. To this he replied that he had during the past year. He was asked if he investigated the affair and he replied in the negative. He was asked if he didn't think it needed to be investigated. He replied that if it did need investigation it should be done by a doctor or a newspaper man. He at one time had had Brogden indicted for profane language. Didn't know before about Brogden and his wife.

Saw The Klansmen. George Branch testified that he heard some one whistle for the car which he couldn't identify, and that he saw the klansmen there that night. Luther Byrd stated that he saw the car leaving from in the direction of

(Continued on Page Four)

White Man Severely Beaten at Pembroke

W. C. Courtney of Florence, S. C., Badly Battered by Unmasked Men—Found Unconscious and Brought To Sanatorium—Had Been Warned About Way of Living—Was Employed on New School Building.

Mr. W. C. Courtney of Florence, S. C., an employee of the contracting company erecting a new school building in Pembroke, is in the Baker sanatorium here suffering with a broken arm and several bad lacerations as a result of a severe beating he received at the hands of a mob of men near Pembroke Monday night. When found by the policeman of Pembroke he was in his car, one half mile from town, unconscious. He was then rushed to the hospital here, where he did not regain consciousness until the following day.

According to reports reaching Sheriff R. E. Lewis, who investigated the affair the injured man does not know who his assailants were and the sheriff has been unable to find out. It is reported from Pembroke that Mr. Courtney had been warned by some Indians and some white men that he had better change his way of living. According to these reports it is learned that he had been living a very undesirable life during his two-months' stay in Pembroke.

Reports from the hospital today state that his condition is greatly improved, but that he is badly injured.

Reports from Pembroke state that the men who did the rough handling were not masked.

St. Paul News

By Bessie G. Johnson St. Paul, July 17.—Mr. and Mrs. Julius Smith and small child, of Greensboro, motored over Saturday afternoon for a visit to Mrs. Smith's sister, Mrs. T. J. Smith, who has recently moved into her handsome new dwelling, which is a very attractive addition to our town. Mrs. Smith's guests will go from here to Wilmington, where they will visit other relatives ere their return home.

Mrs. Rakestraw, wife of Dr. Chaucey L. Rakestraw of Chester, S. C., spent last Friday at the home of Mrs. T. L. Northrop. Mrs. Rakestraw prior to her marriage was Miss Nonie McNeill an old schoolmate of Mrs. Northrop. The two hadn't met since their girlhood days, therefore their meeting last week was very pleasant. Mrs. Rakestraw was on a visit to the McNeill relatives at Red Springs when she came over here.

Mrs. L. F. Nance and children, who had been guests of her relatives in Sumter, S. C., for several weeks, have returned home after a very delightful visit.

Mrs. Stanley Harris, who spent several days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Terry, at Wendell, returned home last Friday. Mr. Harris going over to accompany her home. Mr. Terry and little daughter, Sarah, came over Sunday for a short visit in the home of his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Britt. From here they went to Philadelphia, where another daughter, Mrs. Harvey McMillan and children, were to join them for a few days' visit in the Terry home at Wendell, this being their first visit to her parents since they moved from our town a few months ago.

The "missionary basket" meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. J. H. Ratley on Armfield street, at 4 o'clock Friday afternoon this week. Miss Nettie Britt of Buie spent several days last week in the home of her brother Mr. Sanford Britt and family. Her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Melvin of Wilmington, accompanied her to St. Paul, spending the day with Mr. Melvin's sister, Mrs. E. F. Parnell, who also resides here.

On account of the revival which is in session at Parkton, the protracted meeting which was to be held at the Baptist church here last week was postponed until a later date.

Mr. W. Jerome Stephens of the St. Pauls Review staff spent the weekend at Proctorville with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Stephens. Miss Annie Louise Fisher left Sunday morning for Boone, where she is attending summer school, which will be in session six weeks.

CARS WASHED, POLISHED AND GREASED. TIRES, TUBES, ACCESSORIES GASOLINE 25 CENTS

Hospital Did Not Hold Patient Against His Will

Rodney Neal Was Free to Go from Hamlet Hospital at Any Time After His Recovery from Broken Back—Dr. James Only Sought to Find Out Who Would Pay the Bill and Offered to Give Plenty of Time—Young Man Wanted to See Matter Adjusted and Remained of His Own Accord.

One story is good until another is old. Dr. W. D. James, president of the Hamlet hospital, says that Rodney Neal, about whose alleged detention against his will a story was carried in Monday's Robesonian, was not detained but that he voluntarily remained at the hospital after he had recovered from a broken back, being unwilling to leave until some one assumed responsibility for the bill, and that the only thing officials of the institution had asked for was information as to who would assume responsibility for the bill, ample time being conceded in which to pay the amount. Rodney Neal's back was broken when an elevator on which were a load of brick and a man fell on him some two months ago in a building being erected at Maxton, when he rescued another man who was in danger and himself fell into the shaft. Neal had begun work for a plumbing company of Fayetteville about half an hour before. He was operated on at the Hamlet hospital and recovered from a hurt which is usually considered fatal, being a patient there about two months. When he was able to leave Dr. James sought to find out who would assume responsibility for the bill of \$615, \$195 of which was for a special nurse alone, and not for operation and nurse, as stated in Monday's paper. Dr. James says offered to give all the time necessary in which to pay the bill, even as much as two years, but that neither Mr. J. P. Wiggins, owner of the building, nor the plumbing company nor the boy's father would definitely assume responsibility. He says he was anxious to have this point settled before the boy left the institution because experience had taught him that after the patient left the hospital it would be much harder to get any settlement if no agreement had been reached. Rodney Neal, who impressed Dr. James as being an unusually clean-cut and square young man, expressed himself as being most grateful for his remarkable recovery and said he wanted to stay there until the matter was settled. The boy was not confined, Dr. James said, went automobile riding when he pleased and was free to go and come as he chose.

Dr. W. D. James was at Wrightsville Beach when the habeas corpus papers were served upon Dr. A. W. James. Rodney Neal said he did not want to leave until responsibility for the bill had been settled, and did not consent to leave until he was told by Dr. A. W. James that he had better go in order to avoid trouble. Dr. James says that Mr. J. A. Neal, father of Rodney, agreed with him at first that some one should assume responsibility for the bill before the boy went home, but that later he apparently was persuaded by attorneys to take the unusual and entirely unnecessary step of having habeas corpus papers issued. Dr. James' entirely reasonable version of the affair puts a different face upon the matter.

ROW AMONG INDIANS RESULTS IN SHOOTING NEAR PEMBROKE

McKinley Jones Shot in Leg by Loftin McMillan—Jones Will Recover—McMillan Released on Bond.

Loftin McMillan, Indian, who shot and seriously injured McKinley Jones, Indian, near Pembroke Monday afternoon with a shotgun as the result of a family row, was arrested soon after the shooting and given a hearing before the Recorder in Maxton and was released on bond in the sum of \$ for his appearance in Lumberton at the November term of criminal court. McMillan and Jones are brothers-in-law and it is reported that the affair started over family troubles. It was first thought that Jones would succumb to the wounds, but advices received today state that he will recover. The load took effect in his leg below the hip.

8 Children at 4 Births. Born, to Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Stephens, who live on R. 4 from Lumberton, Friday night of last week, twin girls. This makes 8 children born to Mr. and Mrs. Stephens at 4 births. Mrs. Stephens, who is 34 years old, has given birth to 13 children—6 girls and 7 boys—9 of whom are living.

Mrs. M. F. Cobb and daughter, Miss Mary, returned last night from Rock Hill and Winnsboro, S. C., where they spent some time visiting relatives and friends. Mrs. Thomas O. Edens and small son, Russell, and Miss Marie Russell returned yesterday afternoon from Kingstree, S. C., where they spent several days visiting relatives.

Cotton Market

Reported by J. H. Harrington Middling cotton is quoted on the local market today at 23 1-2 cents the pound.

Items of Local News

—Mr. R. C. Kornegay left Tuesday morning for New York city and other northern points, where he will spend a week or ten days. Mr. Kornegay is district manager for the Horsford & Rumford Chemical companies in this district, and will attend a business meeting of these companies while in New York.

—Mr. David H. Fuller will leave this evening for California, where he will investigate matters pertaining to the fortune of \$50,000,000 left by James Baker, who left Robeson county over half a century ago and died in California without leaving a will. Several heirs in Robeson have employed Mr. Fuller to find out the true state of affairs. Mr. Fuller expects to be away 5 or 6 weeks.

—Billie, 3-and-a-half-years-old son of Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Hodges, is critically ill at the Thompson hospital with tetanus, which developed from some cause not exactly determined, as no signs have been found of a hurt which might have allowed entrance of the germ. He was taken to the hospital yesterday afternoon and has been given the tetanus antitoxin, but very little hope is entertained of his recovery.

—Mr. S. S. Cox of Shannon, who was a Lumberton visitor Tuesday, said that not enough rain to wet the ground had fallen in that section since the first of May. The good rain had fell in Lumberton Monday night but did not extend up his way farther than Red Springs. Mr. Cox says he never before saw cotton so heavily fruited and that if it kept on that way it will not be able to stand up under the load. Not much sign of weevils, he says.

—Mr. R. H. McGirt of Rowland, who was a Lumberton visitor Tuesday, says he understands that the negro John Thomas, who killed his wife with a pocket-knife in Rowland Saturday night, was seen in Red Springs Sunday morning and that the negro said before his crime was committed that he was going to kill her and go to Alabama. Mr. McGirt said they had a good rain in his section Monday night and that it was needed.

—Mr. J. R. Burns and son, Mr. J. W. Burns, of Gaddysville, spent last Thursday here, guests of Mr. G. E. Rancke, Sr. They were accompanied to Lumberton by the latter's two sons, William and Jack, who stayed over, Jack returning Sunday with his parents and other children, who spent the day here with Mr. Rancke. At the home of Mr. J. W. Burns there are 13 children, 7 his own and 6 of them being children of a sister, who died a few years ago with influenza and, according to Mr. Rancke, each one has his or her duties to perform.

—Miss Flax Andrews returned Tuesday afternoon from Blue Ridge, where she attended a two weeks' conference of the home demonstration division. She was accompanied by Mrs. Daisy W. Jenkins and Miss Viola Jenkins, who spent the two weeks at Black Mountain and other points of interest in Western N. C. While on their journey home Miss Viola Jenkins was taken suddenly ill and was rushed to Charlotte sanatorium, where she underwent an operation for appendicitis. At present her condition is reported very favorable. Mrs. Jenkins will remain with her daughter until she is able to return home.

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PAGE'S LAKE ELECTRICALLY LIGHTED WITH LIGHTS IN ALL BATH HOUSES AND REST ROOMS

Mr. M. B. Floyd gave the defen-