

## DEFENSE BEGAN TESTIMONY IN LAWRENCE CASE THURSDAY

Defendant with Slashed throat Grimly Sits Through Sessions—Eight Days Gone—End Not Yet in Sight—Motion for Dismissal Denied.

STATE'S CASE STRONG BUT EVIDENCE ALL CIRCUMSTANTIAL

Defense Attempting Alibi—Presence in Durham Easily Accounted for Till 9:20 P. M. Evening of Murder

Pittsboro has gone through possibly the most thrilling ten days of its long history. Expectation of crowds and thrills has been raised, but the reality has exceeded the expected. The attempt of the defendant to kill himself right in the midst of the trial introduced a thrill that has had few precedents.

The progress has been slow but steady, despite several long delays on the part of the state. The first appeared right in the beginning, when an important witness could not be reached, and the last when another was kept away by illness. The defense in the latter case would not consent, it is understood, to proceed with its case till all the state's evidence was in, as it would seek a dismissal of the case on account of insufficiency of evidence.

Thousands have attended the trial from this and other counties. Durham has furnished the greatest number, but they come from considerably more distant points. For a week the court house has been densely crowded. Thursday was the first day when there were empty seats. The ladies of Pittsboro take unusual interest in the case, and probably for the first time in years have been regular attendants of court. There is little tension. The trial has been fair and has gone smoothly along, when going at all. The speeches are the next big things on docket. With eight big lawyers in the case and with the attempted suicide to add pathos to a tragedy already full of interest, the big guns will have ammunition enough for a deluge of oratory.

It is not yet known whether the defendant will go on the stand. If he does not, then the defense will have the last speech, a considerable advantage. The state is represented by Solicitor Williams, who has steadfastly worked his way along, piling up a mass of very difficult and incriminating evidence, assisted by W. P. Horton and Robert Gannt. The defense has James Pou, Jones Fuller, Percy Reade, Elmer Long, Daniel Bell. Here are big batteries, and the days of the speeches will be the most thrilling, possibly, of them all. It seems at time of going to press that the evidence should be all in on Friday and the speeches begin that day.

**The Trial in Detail**  
The case had been set to be called on Monday, May 15. However, nothing was done about it that day except the drawing of a venire of 160 men. The officers set to work Tuesday morning, summoning them. Wednesday morning the venire was present and the court was set to begin the selection of the jury. But an important state's witness seemed to be out of touch and the solicitor insisted upon a delay, being unwilling to start the machinery of prosecution till this witness was within reach. Thus the morning hours passed away; but at 1:30 the case actually got a start, with the call of the regular panel of jurymen for the week, from which three were selected.

After the exhaustion of the regular panel, the call of the venire began, and the selection of the jury made such progress that the twelve were chosen well before sunset. The jury is composed of the following citizens: A. E. Cole, Glen Hancock, Charles A. Wilkes, M. W. Duncan, J. A. Williams, J. D. Rogers, J. E. Holt, Joe Spoon, W. Huston Fox, W. C. Stroud, J. H. Gaines. They were empaneled immediately and put in the care of an officer and have had to remain apart from the people and without newspapers during the seething of the crowds and the excitement attending the attempt at suicide.

Solicitor Williams pursued his accustomed deliberate and unhurried course. First the children of the dead woman were put upon the stand and told of the events leading up to their mother's departure on the evening of her murder. Her dress was described, and casually the solicitor asked about her gloves. The hat, found after the murder, was identified by the daughter as her mother's. Cross examination had to do with the action of Mrs. Yandle, the daughter, in phoning to Charlotte and with her first swearing out a warrant for another man.

The daughter had not seen the bridge until after the discovery of her mother's body, but had been in the community three times before. Nothing unknown to the public was discovered from the children's testimony. Orren Holmes, a Durham tailor, saw Mrs. Terry that evening about 7:30 or 8 o'clock, but was not

allowed to say whether she said where she was going. Dr. Charles L. Scott, of Sanford, testified that in his opinion Mrs. Terry came to her death by drowning. He said there was a bruise on the right upper lip, one on the nose and cheek bone, and a considerable bruise on the right ear. There was no cut.

Robert Dixon, Durham carpenter, who works mostly in Greensboro, testified that he saw Lawrence drive by in Durham the night of the murder in a two-passenger car with some one in it, whom he could not or did not recognize. Solicitor asked if it was a woman, but the question was ruled out, as the witness had already testified that he could not see who it was. D. M. Osborne and Guy R. Tingen told of hearing the screams on the bridge and the woman's plunge into the river; also the cries of "Help, help," that came from the water. They related that the car came from the Chatham side, stopped on the bridge, and then came across the splash and the cries side and returned. Twice they started toward the bridge, which was three or four hundred yards from them, but when the car would come back upon the bridge, as it did two or three times, they would run away from the fire into the darkness. Without going to the crying woman's aid, they went away to find a deputy sheriff, and returned at midnight with Deputy Henry Harrington.

Mr. Harrington told how he followed the vanishing voice when he had secured the fishermen's boat; he thought he got within a hundred yards or so of the woman, who was still said to be crying for help when he arrived at the bridge. But after staying in the water an hour without discovering her, he returned and alarmed the neighborhood, and the search began.

Deputy Harrington stated that the water at the bridge was 18 or 20 feet deep, and that the defendant's father formerly owned the land adjacent to the bridge, thus indicating the defendant's familiarity with the location, being raised right there. He had heard that the defendant drank a good deal. C. S. Harrington testified to about the same facts, as did Henry Harrington, describing the noise made by the woman after she had been in the water an hour or more.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Goodwin are the people who saw the car on the bridge. They had been to Sanford and passed the car on the bridge as they returned. It was 11:11 when they arrived at home, thus making the time of seeing the car a little before eleven, it is presumed. The car was facing the Lee county side. The lights were out. The lights were turned on after they occupied. Mrs. Goodwin said that the occupant was a large, square-faced man and resembled the defendant. She had never seen Mr. Lawrence till court week, but had told her husband what kind of looking man it was. That gentleman testified that she had described the man that night as "square-faced." He testified that the car was similar to the Lawrence car, but it was brought out that he had stated earlier that he thought the car was a roadster, while the Lawrence car is a coupe.

L. F. Warlick, Durham undertaker, described the condition of the body. He could not say whether W. H. Lawrence sent flowers to the home. And thus ended Thursday's proceedings, with little yet brought out to connect the defendant with the crime.

**Friday**  
The state opened its Friday's evidence with the testimony of H. E. Holland, who stated that he left Oxford at 11:45 on the night of March 24th, and that about a mile below Apex he found a woman's hat in the road. This he took to his mother's, and it is the hat which has been identified as the one worn by Mrs. Terry. He saw, he said, a touring car and a coupe in the road, the latter trying to pass the former. The occupant of the coupe looked like the defendant. He said that he was moved to notice the cars particularly because of the money he had in his pocket. Mr. W. B. Cheek testified that Lawrence had confided to him some months ago that he would be married in June. Mr. G. A. Allison, of Mocksville, who is telegrapher at Coolemeec, identified three telegrams which passed through his hands. The first was from Mrs. Terry in Atlanta and was dated June 26, 1927, in which she asked "Herbert" to send her \$200. Then followed a wire from the defendant saying he could send one but not two. The third telegram from "Annie" stated that one hundred would do. As the affianced of the defendant lived, it is reported, at Coolemeec, the presumption is that he was visiting her when this embarrassing call for money came from his paramour. The witness testified that he had delivered the request for money for her to Lawrence, and that Lawrence had written and sent the one signed "Herbert." This and other testimony was adduced to show the intimate relations of the defendant with the murdered woman.

Sheriff Blair Star Witness

Sheriff Blair came to the stand at 10:25 Friday morning and was quizzed and cross-questioned for a full two hours. He told the story of the events leading up to the arrest of Lawrence but did not tell what first led him to turn his attention to Lawrence. He was open and direct in his testimony, and impressed all as simply seeking to bring out the truth of the matter. After reviewing the evidence as discovered by him and others, and his seeking for some man for whom he had a warrant, he said the warrant wasn't served. A Mr. Haskins returned with him to Pittsboro and Durham from Atlanta. It had been mooted during the month since this occurrence that the man Haskins was he who first turned the attention of the sheriff to Lawrence, but nothing said confirmed this rumor.

The most interesting parts of the sheriff's testimony had to do with the conversation with the defendant before his arrest. This conversation occurred in Durham on the afternoon of April 11 in police headquarters in the presence of Chief Doby of Durham. At first, the sheriff testified, Lawrence said he knew Mrs. Terry slightly and did not know any one who had anything against her. The defendant declared that the woman had never been in his car. He declared that he had never given her any money. Then the sheriff let Lawrence know that he had knowledge of the money sent by telegram to Mrs. Terry in Atlanta and of certain night trips in his car, and the defendant finally admitted that he had done both. Sheriff Blair had notes of the conversation with the defendant and read what he had written on the spot. This notebook showed that Lawrence had accounted for himself that night as follows: He was with a friend before the Trust building between 8 and 8:30 o'clock. He then went to his office and wrote a letter. He next went to the post office and to the Sport Shop across the street. At 9:30 he was at Griggs' filling station, where he had the alcohol drawn from his car. Then he went to his home, locked his car and left it in the alley. He saw no one at the apartment house where he made his home, as Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Parish who lived with him were gone to Henderson.

Lawrence, when quizzed by the sheriff had admitted that he had been told by Mrs. Terry once that she "liked him," and that was the only talk they had ever had about marriage, that he would not marry a woman with a lot of children. "Lawrence appeared nervous during the conversation," stated the sheriff. Lawrence also told Sheriff Blair that when he went to his place near Aven's Ferry, or Bridge, he went by highway 10 to Cary and then down highway 50. This corresponded with Holland's testimony to the effect that he had met some one like him on highway 50 near Apex, and at about the time Lawrence, if the guilty man, might have been returning home after lingering about the scene of the tragedy.

Apart from the sheriff, Coroner Geo. H. Brooks was the most important witness Friday. He told of the glove found in the car and of numerous blood stains on the car. He took the car to Raleigh to have the supposed blood stains analyzed and photograph of finger prints made. His testimony was exceedingly suggestive, in that it forecast the identification of the glove as one of Mrs. Terry's worn on the night of the tragedy, and the introduction of the chemist's report of the blood test and the finger print report. The evidence forecast by Mr. Brooks was of immensely more importance than the mere testimony given by himself. And it was Mr. Brooks' evidence that is said to have first made the sweat break out upon the face of the defendant, and it was that, presumably, which gave him so great unease that night and led to that state of mind which resulted in the attempt to slay himself. If guilty, he foresaw his conviction; if innocent and the victim of a set of fortuitous circumstances and the "framing" by the guilty party, he saw himself being caught in a net of evidence that was intolerable to mind as no means of escape, forgetting, as he said he had, that there was another side to the case.

**Attempted Suicide**  
Confined in the dirty jail cell, Friday night was a dreadful one to the defendant. The evidence of Friday was planned, intentionally, or unintentionally, to harass the prisoner in an inconceivable degree. If guilty, there was, apparently, the assurance that the dead woman's glove was to be identified as found in his car and a chemist's report that the stains described by the coroner were blood stains. A night in the Chatham jail with its filth and discomforts is itself an harassing matter. But that plus a guilty man's conscience and the assurance that all was on the point of being revealed, or of an innocent man's humiliation and shame at what had already been revealed of personal immorality and of downright terror at what seemed imminent as evidence that he could not account for or perhaps counter-balance, made it a night of torture

to the man. At four o'clock the next morning, he was awake and talked to a fellow prisoner. A little later the despondent man undertook self-destruction with an instrument which required determination and disregard of the flow of his own blood and the constant thought of his immediate death to enable him to dig a trench an inch and a half deep in his fleshy neck, several inches long, and to broaden the gash with his fingers which held the safety razor blade as he strove to go through the fatty tissue to the vital vein. There was no fear of death there, but a fierce and persistent determination to die and leave a world that had become altogether distasteful to him.

He was still conscious when Jailer Burns discovered him that morning, lying in a pool of blood, and wanted a pistol to finish the job. Dr. Chapin, called immediately, states that the blood flow had almost ceased when he reached the man. He had been bled almost white.

**Excitement Ruled**  
Never before has Pittsboro, with all its exciting events of a long history, ever seen greater commotion. The crowds began to pour early into town. The rain of the previous night had released the farmers from their plows. From Durham, Sanford, and other towns throngs were coming. The word had flown to Durham and created consternation in the minds of the prisoner's family and attorneys. An ambulance was making its way from Watts hospital. Judge Nunn and the Solicitor were at their wits end. The physicians, Drs. Chapin and Thomas, had declared that the man's wounds were not necessarily dangerous, and that he might be able to return to court Monday.

The attorneys, all here now, consultations are held and the judge gives order for the wounded man to be taken to the hospital and for court to take a recess till Monday. By now the streets and courtyard were swarming with people, all talking of the sensational occurrence and drawing their inferences from it. At first glance, it looked absolutely like confession. But there followed consideration of the note which the man had written before deliberately setting out to end his life. It is understood, that he declared himself innocent, and it is certain that he so declared himself to those who talked with him after his discovery. He had said that he was being framed and that he was an innocent man and could not longer stand being lied upon. No one considered that any of the witnesses, especially the more important ones, was framing him, but the possibility that the material evidence had been created to be discovered and directed toward the defendant, looked possible to some in view of his assumedly dying protestation of innocence. Within a short time the Durham Sun had an extra on the streets blaring forth the attempt at suicide. Every daily in the state carried flaring headlines that evening or the next morning. Pictures of court and jail scenes flared forth in the larger papers, and probably the Pittsboro date line was carried in every daily in the United States.

**In the Hospital**  
The wounded man was successfully conveyed to Watts hospital and soon had an infusion of blood from his nephew's veins. The wound was carefully attended, following the earlier care here, and in a few hours the man was talking freely and regretting his rash act. He said that he forgot that there were two sides to the case and that he would have his turn, and that he must have been unbalanced for the time. He expressed a perfect willingness to have the trial continued.

**Back on the Scene**  
Accordingly, Monday morning saw the defendant back on the scene, with neck and wrist swathed (for he had cut his wrist also to help in the drainage of blood), with countenance ashy white. He was taken into the court room in a wheel chair and sat stoically through the long hours of Monday as the unflustered and persistent solicitor still pursued his painstaking weaving of an inextricable net of testimony, a net that can scarcely be unwound, but could be cut to smithereens by an effective alibi.

**A Puzzled Jury**  
If ever was a bunch of twelve men who were in a condition of wonder and were utterly bewildered, it must have been that jury, from whom supposedly the story of the attempted suicide had been kept. Abruptly Saturday morning they had been sequestered with an officer; all the morning they must have been aware of an unusual excitement; all day Sunday they were still sequestered, and on Monday morning got into court to find the man whose fate they were to decree sitting a wan image of the man they last saw, in an invalid's chair, with neck muffled or swathed. It is too early for any newspaper to get an inkling from the men as to what they thought and guessed, but that should make an interesting paragraph next week.

**The Trial Renewed**  
The renewed rains had again released the farmers from their fields so badly needing the plow and the planter, and a greater throng than any day last week crowded into the courthouse. It became necessary for Judge Nunn to have the crowded aisle cleared. Word came from below that plaster was falling and there was a commotion down stairs for fear the floor would crash, bringing a mass of timber and struggling humanity down upon the occupants.

A request and even an order for the hail to be cleared of its crowding throng, was unheeded, but when the Judge quietly announced that the floor was in danger of giving way, there was an eagerness to match the earlier eagerness in leaving the room. Mr. O. Z. Barber, having examined the structure, assured the court that there was no danger if the aisle was kept free, as that was the dangerous section, as there were no supports under the floor which is directly over the lower hallway. It was estimated that over a thousand people were in the room which normally seats 600, and a large proportion of them had been standing as close as they could stick on the aisle floor. Two officers stood at the door later to keep back those who persisted in seeking entrance.

**The Mysterious Haskins**  
Unexpectedly the mysterious Haskins, of Greenville, S. C., came to the witness stand, with only the effect of making it clear that he was in Atlanta the night of the murder and that he knew Mrs. Terry and had been on a few jaunts with her. Still his relation to the turning of the sleuths upon the track of Lawrence was not revealed. Deputy McCauley, of Lee county, had preceded him and corroborated former evidence.

The main feature of the day was the introduction of witnesses to show the intimacy of the defendant with the dead woman. Hotel clerks from Winston, Salisbury, and possibly other registers, presented pages from their registers to show that the two had been at the times registered at the hotels at the same time. Then came Mrs. Yandle, the daughter of the dead woman, to the stand again to identify a bunch of letters as those found among her mother's possessions. The telegraph agent at Coolemeec and the hotel clerks proved the handwriting of the letters to be that of the defendant. The letters were all signed "Rover," and were written, two from Duke, two from Greensboro, and eleven from Coolemeec, where Lawrence had a contract in progress last year. The Duke letters were dated in 1925, and the Greensboro ones in the spring of 1926. The Coolemeec letters were all written last year. Only one of them bore the caution to "burn this." That one suggested that a meeting could be made ok on his arrival at Durham if his folk were gone as he understood they would be. The letters indicated that the woman was persistently and aggressively jealous, while he insisted that she had nothing to be jealous of, that he scarcely ever looked at a woman. The worst word in the series was "hell" which occurred a few times, as for instance when he characterized Coolemeec as a "hell of a place." They evidenced the fact that she called upon him for money often, and that he gave it freely when he was not hard run. But he complains that he is hard up at Coolemeec, as he was not getting the pay as he expected. The letters were remarkably free from indecent allusion, but showed nevertheless that an intimacy long existed.

Deputy Cal. Desern also bore testimony on Monday, but the evidence was chiefly corroboratory.

Late in the afternoon the Lawrence car was brought to the court yard for inspection by the jury and attorneys, and even the Judge took a look. Coroner Brooks was present to point out the blood stains. Those who expected to see it covered with gore were disappointed. It took the eagle-eyed Mr. Brooks to uncover all the spots. And still report of the test of those stains had not been given in evidence, and nothing has been said about the glove and purse found in the car, but the rumor has gone the round that the glove was a man's glove and the purse belonged to a sister of Lawrence. And the two revelations, whose imminence must have tortured the defendant into his rash attempt seem to be vanishing. Truly, Black-beard could not have devised a more successful scheme of torture than that intentionally or casually fallen upon by the state when it so casually mentioned the blood test and the finding of the glove. No wonder Lawrence thought someone was lying on him if the impression was left with him as with others, that the woman's glove had been found in his car, and that a chemist's examination was forthcoming which would fix the various blood stains discovered by Mr. Brooks as human blood. It was cleverly done, or fiendishly, if it was not an accident, the state supposing that the harassed man knew whose glove it was.

Court takes adjournment from the grove where the car has been inspected.

**Court Dawdles Away Tuesday**  
Tuesday was largely spent in dawdling. No one seemed to know very clearly why the costly time of the court should be spent in idleness. The larger part of the morning was a wasted while, it seems. Dr. Shore, the chemist who examined the blood at the bridge and supposed blood stains on the car, was awaited. He did not put in his appearance all day and after noon the state turned its attention to securing the privilege of introducing testimony about Lawrence's attempt at suicide. They won their point against a rather feeble protest on the part of the defense, who took exception. Jailer Burns told of finding the man lying in a pool of his own blood and of his request for a pistol. Dr. Chapin told of his experience and the request on the part of the defendant that the doctor finish the job for him. Altogether the impression was made

that Lawrence had been determined to kill himself and that it was no pretense on his part. The note written before the attempt to his friends was jury into evidence and read to the jury, which stated he could no longer stand the framing and lies against him. Mr. A. T. Ward was the first man to reach the wounded man after the discovery of his plight by Mr. Burns. He added nothing of importance. It seems that no one heard him say that he was not guilty, nor did any one hear a suggestion that guilt was the cause of the attempt.

Mr. Jack Womble, who works at the Mann filling station at Merry Oaks, was an important witness. He saw a man and a woman in a car similar to the Lawrence car about 10:15 the night of the murder. It stopped at the filling station and the couple got a drink. The man looked like Lawrence, he swore, but he would not state definitely that it was Lawrence. The woman was no girl, but a mature woman. He did not talk with them.

And this was the extent of the work of Tuesday. But Lee and Chatham are rich and, according to Dr. Gage, the Carolina Coal Mine, chemist, are to omuch richer, and they can foot the bill for a summer's session of court and let Ben Dixon MacNeill have a chance to make the watermelon patch he contemplated when he, as correspondent of the News and Observer, saw the trial stretch out into weeks.

**Another Day Dawdled Away**  
Wednesday was largely dawdled away in the case and the expense kept piling up. In this case, thus far the delays have almost altogether due to the state and not the defense. Dr. Shore, whose illness had kept him away the day before with the loss of much time to the court, made a late arrival Wednesday morning and gave his testimony about the blood in the blood-stained car. He testified that the blood on the inside of the car was that of a mammal, but that he could not determine whether it was the blood of a human. Thus the state was little further than it was before the arrival of the doctor. It may as easily be a rabbit's blood as that of Mrs. Terry.

Robert Terry came back to the stand and told of watching his mother on a former occasion similar to that of the tragic evening, and that she entered a car similar to that of the Lawrence car. He could not tell who was driving the car. He could not be shaken in the assertion that the car was of the Lawrence car type. His mother got in the car about four blocks from the Lawrence apartment.

Mrs. Yandle returns to the stand and states that she did not know of any communication from Lawrence to the family after the death of her mother. Court then recessed till two, when Messrs. Fuller and Pou argues a motion to dismiss the case on the ground of lack of sufficient evidence to send the case to the jury. It was a strong presentation made by Mr. Pou, in which many cases dealing with circumstantial evidence were recited. Judge Nunn, however, dismissed the motion, and that meant that he adjudged the evidence if not rebutted strong enough to need the jury's decision, and as there is little question of the validity of what evidence there is, the defense must win the jury where they could not win the Judge or must offset the evidence with an alibi.

**The Defense Begins Evidence**  
After the dismissal of the motion to dismiss the case Wednesday evening, the court adjourned till 9:30 Thursday, when the defense began its testimony, depending chiefly upon an alibi. As the Record, which has been delayed two days in order to secure at least the defense's side of the case, had to go to press Thursday night, it is impossible for it to give the full case of the state. And here a correction may be made of testimony produced as to the glove in the Lawrence car. The general impression and the impression of the correspondents of at least two of the state's papers, was that the witness, Mr. Brooks, did not state the kind of glove found, but the Record is now informed that the witness did state that it was a man's glove, though it is not known whether the defendant got that point or missed it, as did the newspaper men and others.

The defense began with the calling of an impressive list of about seventy witnesses, including Dr. Manning, mayor of Durham, and many other gentlemen of more or less prominence from Durham and practically the mature male population of the Aven's bridge community, where the defendant was reared.

A number of these men were called and gave favorable character testimony. Then began the evidence of an alibi. Jesse Kennedy first swore that he saw Lawrence the evening of the tragedy between 8 and 9 o'clock. J. W. Long, a contractor, saw him at the Trust building near nine o'clock. He also rode out to Duke University the next morning with him and other gentlemen. The defendant appeared in usual condition on the morning after the murder. He was questioned by the Solicitor as to the fixing of the date. His wife had declared that that was not the Saturday night he had seen Lawrence. He had told her he could check it up, as it was at the time of the railroad wreck at Haw River, as he went out there after going to the University

(Please turn to page eight.)