

STOKES MURDER TRIAL

Continued from Page One

highway. C. D. Davenport, Clarence Cochran and Walter Cochran.

The defendant, Stokes, age 44, took the stand, told of his life near Greer, S. C., and the 11 years in Polk County; various jobs, last 6 months with State Highway driving truck; told of happy beach and mountain trips with his family; told of bringing young Mike Gantt to his home the night of the murders to visit his son. Of a visit to Clarence Cochran after supper to trade for a mule and mowing machine to cut some grass. He went in Jim Good's pick-up truck, and returned keys to Good that night as he went through his room. His wife was awake and quarreled with him for not telling her where he had gone. Said he wasn't giving her enough money and that she was going to sell the cow to get some money. They finally went to sleep. Next morning he built a fire, milked the cow and came back. He asked his wife if she wasn't going to cook breakfast and she said no, never anymore for him. He said he sat on the side of the bed to talk with her and she kicked him off. They started scuffling. She reached for the pistol on the chifferebe, but he beat her to it. In the scuffle she was shot. She called her brother, Jim Good to come and kill me. He had a shot gun. I took it away from him and shot him when he said he would kill me with a rock. I picked up the gun, put them in the truck and took the boys to Prof. Gantt's. Turned the highway truck keys over to the prison camp. Got in my own car and drove to Mill Spring, down to New Prospect, S. C., then over to Greenville County near my mother's, where I drove on an old country road and spent the night in the car. I stayed there all the next day. Bought some food at a country store. I drove on a little road I used to travel when two of my brothers drove up and said they wanted to take me to Sheriff Hines. So I came on with them.

The defendant stated that he had no intention of killing his wife or Jim Good, that all were in

good humor until the quarrel that night; that he had not mistreated his wife.

After this testimony court recessed for lunch.

Court was re-opened by Sheriff Hines at 2:15 following the noon recess.

C. O. Stokes was still on the witness stand.

Mrs. Lucille Burnett, daughter of the defendant, was presented by the State. She said her father had slapped her mother; called her names. She said her mother had been suffering from cancer for 6 years.

Hearing of evidence was concluded at 2:50 p. m. Tuesday.

Attorney J. T. Arledge opened the argument for the defense and reviewed the evidence, attempting to show that the killings was not premeditated, but were done in self-defense in the heat of a struggle; that the defendant loved his family and provided a living for them. Mr. Arledge concluded his address at 4:10 p. m.

Attorney J. E. Shipman followed at 4:20 along the same line and quoted the Bible extensively, appealing to the jury not to render a verdict of first degree murder; that the evidence didn't justify it. But that if they saw fit to render such a verdict to ask for the mercy of the court which would save the defendant from the gas chamber and give him a life sentence. He asked for nothing more than manslaughter. He concluded at 6 p. m.

Court will re-open this morning at 9:30 to hear the address of Solicitor C. O. Ridings for the State and Judge J. Will Pless Jr.'s charge to the jury. The problem for the jury will be to determine what degree of murder to fix on the defendant.

FOR RENT OR SALE: 5-room house. See M. R. McCown, Tryon, N. C.—Adv. 31, 1, 2p.

FOR SALE: Hotpoint apartment size, 3 unit range. 6-ft. refrigerator. Both 1 year old. Perfect condition. Available Sept. 16. Call Mrs. Messier, 13-M.—Advertisement 31, 2, 5c.