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TRYON, N. C. THURSDAY, SEPT. 1ST, 1949

CHARLIE STOKES FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE

The third day of the Stokes murder trial began Wednesday morning at 9:30 with the final address of Solicitor Clarence O. Ridings asking the jury for a verdict of first degree murder with no recommendation of mercy. He argued that the defendant believed in capital punishment; that he killed his wife and her brother without a fair trial or hearing before a jury and judge. The defendant showed no mercy and under the evidence presented was not entitled to any mercy.

In his opening remarks the solicitor stated this case probably had attracted more attention than any other case in Polk County in 100 years.

The solicitor concluded his pleading at 10:30.

Judge J. Will Pless, Jr., then charged the jury and reviewed the evidence presented by both sides as he recalled it. He informed the jurors that they were selected on the original jury list by the County Commissioners because they were considered men of common sense able to weigh evidence and to accept that which seemed sound. He told the jury that they had the right to render 5 verdicts: First Degree Murder which would mean death; First Degree Murder with recommendation for mercy which would mean life imprisonment; Second Degree Murder which would show that the defendant killed unlawfully, but without malice or premeditation; killed in the heat of argu-

Continued on Back Pages

A KNIGHT AT ROTARY

Glen T. Knight will be in charge of the Tryon Rotary Club program Friday at 1 p. m. at Oak Hall hotel.

MONDAY IS HOLIDAY

Monday, Sept. 5, being the first Monday in September, is Labor Day, and a National Holiday. The banks, post offices and all official places including the county offices at the court house will be closed all day.

All the stores in Tryon will be closed as usual. Shoppers planning a big week-end will have to buy their supply of produce and meats on Saturday and fill their refrigerators.

ADDITION TO LANDRUM SCHOOL ALMOST READY

Landrum's new \$52,556 high school addition is scheduled for completion and occupancy by September 15th, it has been announced.

The addition is 3 stories high and includes 9 new classrooms.

Building contractor is the Fiske-Carter Construction Co., which received the award May 31.

The structure is of concrete blocks, brick and timber construction with built-up roof, steel sash, plaster walls and Celotex ceiling. Architect Harold Woodward designed the building.

The walls are up, the roof in place and some 90 per cent of all work completed.