

Spivey Pays Penalty With His Life

Efforts Made to Save His Life By His Mother and Attorney, H. M. Jackson, But Gov. Gardner Refused to Commute His Sentence to Life Imprisonment—Went to His Death Without Having Confessed the Crime—Body Brought Back and Buried in Lee County.

James Spivey, who was under sentence in this county, on the night of September 21st last, paid the penalty for his crime in the electric chair at the Penitentiary in Raleigh last Friday morning at 10:30. The Raleigh correspondent of the Greensboro News, writing under that date gives the following story of the execution:

James Spivey, with a 10-year-old mind and a 26-year-old body, went down death row this morning shaking hands as though he was negotiating the receiving line at a governor's reception, then dropping into the electric chair, led a prayer meeting which ended with his death.

Spivey, about the stupidest of all the 103 chair victims, came nearest among all the moderns to furnishing anything of drama. He had made a garrison finish to a long campaign for clemency for his lawyer and his mother visiting him yesterday heard that he had lost. When Mrs. Spivey could not stay to hear that her son had won a reprieve, she remained to carry back his body to their home.

Spivey's conduct puzzled the party which filled the death room and ran it over in the vestibule. Unable to read or write intelligently he had stuck out for his innocence, though there was something painfully lacking in convincing power. His "conversion" seemed complete. He had worked himself up to an ecstasy. The ministers working with him were satisfied that his belief was genuine. They could not reconcile his transformation with a last minute lie. So when they followed him in this morning, they were set for the truth and after it was over they could not say whether they believed young fellow or not. They finally reached a sort of conclusion. The fellow's mind was an easy fit to any sort of story told him.

The prisoner's proclamation of innocence was not unconditional. "I am not guilty of the charges against me," he said as he rolled down his own prison socks and turned up the right trousers leg to assist his attendants in their work. He directed the tightening of the bonds and suggested that they should look them over. Then he asked to say a word of prayer.

He prayed extemporaneously, asking blessings upon everybody "who has helped me in this trouble" and forgiveness for all who had done him wrong. Every minute of the ministerial labors with him had drilled into him the necessity for his own exercise of forgiveness. If the boy had aught against a soul his leave taking did not show it.

What he meant by innocence of the charges even his ministers did not seem to know. They remembered that he always made those reservations and that he never declared absolute innocence of all crimes. The boy knew that he was suspected of other murders than that of his sweet heart. He had had those charges in mind. To the Rev. J. A. Denton, his pastor, he dictated the following letter which the minister gave immediately after the electrocution:

"Dear Mother and Family: I lines this morning to let you know that I am feeling fine. Tell all my people to be good and meet me in Heaven for I feel sure that I will be waiting there for them, for I have no fear of death since I am trusting in Christ my Saviour, for He said whose ever believeth in Me hath everlasting life again. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth on Him might not perish but have everlasting life. I want you and Aunt Lottie to be sure and remember the last word I told you—tell everybody to keep good company, for in bad company people get in trouble. Tell my brother, sisters and everybody that I said trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and meet me in Heaven, for I know I am absolutely saved by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Good-bye to everybody. In glory forever.
"Good-bye dear old mother,"
"From J. C. Spivey."

With the praying ended and benedictions upon his household the bell-built young fellow, leaned back and the leather straps were pulled over his face. The current shot through him and the stout body resisted death. One minute and 55 seconds the fire burned, the body turned purple. Joe Stoen, one of the electricians and the heart beat could be seen beneath the blue shirt. Another application stilled the organ and the crowd filed out as the dead basket was brought in.

More spectators turned their heads today than ever looked off when a man died in that chair. In the crowd was James Webb Gardner, son of the governor. Young Gardner has seen his ninth. The boy got interested in Spivey. Last night after 12, the younger Gardner went to his father's room and asked his excellency if he meant to allow Spivey to die. The governor went to bed with the Spivey spectacle before his eyes. There wasn't much sleep for the executive. Sanford and Lee county sent over quite a delegation. Among them there appeared no doubt that Spivey had killed the girl. Public opinion was strongly against him. Prison officials had doubt of his guilt. But everybody had today to ask the question, was Spivey mentally responsible? And unfortunately the state's way of handling them by electric expedition leaves little material on which to make such an investigation. Spivey will be buried in Lee tomorrow.

time before the girl was killed. Saw Men Run Away.
"Bettie and I went out to see about a noise in the lot, thinking somebody was trying to steal a cow," said Spivey. "She left me at the door of the house, telling me to wait, and went out to the barn by herself. Later I heard a scurrie and went out to see what was the matter. I found her groaning with a hole in her head, and about this time I saw two men run away. I could not tell whether they were white or colored."

Series Other Crimes.
Spivey was very vague and indefinite about dates, the distance from the Spivey home to the Spivey barn, but he emphatically denied veiled reports that he was implicated in the Waddell, Kelly and Matthews killings in Lee county during the past few years.

Scott, the coroner doctor, and others didn't treat me right," he asserted. "They tried to mix me up with the killing of Lacy Kelly and old Mrs. Matthews. I am innocent of these crimes. Why do they try to mix everything on me?"

Wilbur McLeod, Lee county negro, is now on "Death Row" awaiting electrocution for the slaying of Mrs. Matthews, but indication are that Governor Gardner will commute his sentence.

Fighting For His Life.
H. M. Jackson, Sanford attorney, was here Thursday with Mrs. Charlie Spivey, mother of James Spivey, and S. A. Buchanan, uncle of Spivey, to go over the case with Governor Gardner and executive counsel O.M. Mull in an effort to have the death sentence commuted. Federal district attorney E. L. Gavin, of the middle district, who has also been retained by Spivey, is due to see Governor Gardner regarding the commutation sometime Thursday afternoon.

Governor Gardner said earlier in the week that he did not plan to interfere with Spivey's death sentence, but said it with the proviso that no further evidence turned up in the case.

KIWANIS CLUB HEARS REPORT ON PIG CLUB WORK

The Kiwanis Club held its regular weekly meeting at the Carolina Hotel last Friday night and was called to order by President June Gunter. The members of the club rendered a song while facing the flag with Miss Louise Futrell at the piano. Mrs. Dan B. King and Mrs. Guy Jones called at the hotel and sold poppies to the members of the club.

The program was in charge of four new members, Harold Makepeace, Bert Marsh, Gilliam Anderson and John Davenport. Each briefly stated his impressions of Kiwanis International. They were good. President Gunter, whose name was chosen, gave a brief history of his life. Kiwanian H. M. Wagner called the club names of the members, giving them 100 per cent. The following were guests of the club: Misses Lolita Ellis, Edith Way and the following high school pupils, Mary Mercer Reeves, Bernice Seawell, Sam Lane and Bryant Johnson. To the accompaniment of Miss Ellis on the piano and Miss Futrell on the violin, they charmingly rendered several Indian songs. They were joined in these songs by the following other pupils who came in late, Margaret Currie, Rebecca Moffitt, Maxine Buchanan, Elizabeth McCormick and Myrtle Ray. It was one of the best musical programs put on in the history of the club. All enjoyed the recital by Miss Wakefield.

The next thing on the program was the report by Secretary D. B. Teague of the Pig Club which is promoted by the club. The report showed the following members of the club in the Cool Springs territory: Roy Craig, Gilmore Ross, John Orr, Elton Foushee, Tom Mullis, Thomas Gilmore in the Lemon Springs territory: Milton Cheshire, James Godfrey, Francis Willitt, Archie Kimball. The Kiwanis Club started with the distribution of 6 pigs. 11 boys have had pigs and moved out of the county or given up the work. Eight boys are now on the waiting list. This shows that the boys are still interested and want to keep raising blooded pigs. Mr. E. O. McMahan, County Demonstration Agent, thinks interest in hog raising has been stimulated. Friday night is "Ladies Night." The Club will meet at the Carolina Hotel at 7:00 instead of 6:30. It is hoped that there will be 100 per cent attendance. Every member is expected to bring his wife or sweetheart or some other lady.

WILL TEACH GRADING TO COTTON GROWERS

A six weeks course in cotton grading and classing will be offered to growers, buyers, warehousemen, millmen, and scientists interested in cotton lint at the State College summer school this year. The course begins on June 16, and lasts through July 25th.

Dr. Cotner explains that thousands of samples of cotton representing most of the grades produced in the United States will be available for study. The University cotton grades worked out and established by the United States Department of Agriculture will be used as a basis for comparison. Those who attend the course will be given a certificate from the college. Dr. Cotner says also that many who have received these certificates have later passed the rigid examinations given by the Civil Service for positions as federal graders.

The course as designed by Dr. Cotner will give thorough training in cotton grading at small cost. No entrance requirements are asked. The student must be mature and with a sincere purpose to learn what he can.

NEW JERSEY WOMAN SAYS HER HEALTH RESTORED AFTER FIVE YEARS.

Mrs. S. L. Taper says for five years I have been suffering with indigestion and stomach trouble. A friend of mine told me about SPAGOLAX, so I tried it and the first bottle did me so much good that I took two more. I haven't had a sign of indigestion since, and I can eat things now that I haven't been able to eat for years. My nerves are back to normal, my backaches have stopped and I feel like a new person, and I give SPAGOLAX the credit.
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