

# The Laurinburg Exchange

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## NEGRO KILLED—TWO OFFICERS SHOT IN STREET DUEL

Mr. D. N. Poindexter Seriously Wounded and Officer D. B. Brown Shot Twice by Desperate Negro Tuesday Morning—Shooting Occurred on Main Street—Officers Were After Negro Who Did the Shooting—Negro Killed.

About 9:30 o'clock Tuesday morning a street duel was fought between two officers of the law, Mr. D. N. Poindexter, a Seaboard Air Line Railway officer, whose home is at Hamlet, Mr. D. B. Brown, of the Laurinburg police force, and John Williams, a desperate negro. When the smoke of battle cleared away the negro lay dead on the pavement in front of W. C. Williams' store. Officer Brown suffered two wounds, one in the fleshy part of his left arm and one finger on his left hand shattered, and officer Poindexter shot through the right side, the bullet piercing his liver, splitting it for several inches and severing the large intestine. Mr. Poindexter and Mr. Brown were both rushed to the hospital, where they were given medical attention. The bullet that struck down Mr. Poindexter was a steel jacket 32-calibre and was found lodged in the muscles of his back. An operation was performed on him by Drs. James and Prince, and the liver and intestine sewed up. He had bled profusely internally, and while his wounds are exceedingly dangerous, at this writing the physicians are hopeful of his recovery.

Mr. Poindexter attempted to arrest the negro at Hamlet Sunday morning for stealing a ride on a Seaboard train. The negro, being armed, got the drop on the officer, taking his pistol away from him and demanding his money. Mr. Poindexter came to Laurinburg in search of him Tuesday morning, and on his way down recognized the negro on the train. Coming on here, he secured the assistance of Officer Brown and soon spotted his man, who was standing in front of W. C. Williams' store. The officers approached him and the three went into the alley between Monroe's and Williams' stores. About the time the three got into the alley the negro backed out, and jumping to the pavement, snatched his Savage automatic pistol and began firing at Officer Brown, who was struck in the left arm by the first shot. Officer Brown drew his gun and opened fire. Officer Poindexter grappled with the negro, and while tussling with him received the bullet in his side. The negro continued to fight and shoot. Officer Brown by this time had stepped off the pavement and shot only when he felt it was safe, his brother officer being mixed up with the negro. Mr. Brown fired five shots and his brother officer four. The last shot fired came from Mr. Poindexter's pistol, according to Mr. Brown's statement, and after the negro had so seriously wounded him. The officer, who was crouched about the negro's waist, raised up, and placing his gun close to the negro's throat, fired. With this shot he sank to the pavement, dead. This was the fifth bullet to piece him, three others went into his chest and one into his arm.

It was believed that the negro was cocaine-crazed. He fought like a demon and only gave up after five bullets—either of three of them being enough to produce death—had been fired into him.

The negro's body was carried to the McDougald undertaking establishment, where the coroner's jury viewed the body before it was prepared for burial. Nothing was found on his body to indicate that he gave the officer his correct name. His coat bore the name of Hattie Williams, and a receipt was found containing the name Williams, but was not John Williams, as he stated to the officers, and is a stranger here. During his fight with the officers he held a part of a sandwich in his hand that he was eating when the officers found him, and when he fell it dropped to the pavement beside him.

During the battle a bullet

crashed a show case in W. C. Williams' store.

The shooting created the most intense excitement and soon hundreds of people were on the scene.

The coroner's jury, composed of H. O. Covington, S. W. Covington, A. P. McLean, N. Hammond, R. G. Stone and Mac Cameron, after hearing the evidence, rendered the following verdict: "That John Williams came to his death by gunshot wounds inflicted by D. B. Brown and D. N. Poindexter in the performance of their duties as officers of the law and in preservation of their lives, and the said D. B. Brown and D. N. Poindexter are hereby exonerated by this jury of all blame in the affair."

The evidence produced before the coroner's jury was as follows:

R. E. Lee being duly sworn, said: I was sitting in an automobile in front of J. F. McNair's store. I heard one shot, and two others in quick succession. I did not pay any attention. In turning around I saw two men clinched, a white man and negro, the white man being Mr. Poindexter, the detective. They seemed to be struggling with each other and the shooting continuing. Mr. Brown, being a few steps away, was also shooting at intervals. The negro seemed to be sinking to the sidewalk, holding to the white man. The last shot fired he sank to the sidewalk. The shooting was in front of W. C. Williams' store, on the east side of Main street. I was on the west side in front of McNair's store.

D. B. Brown being sworn, said: I am an officer of the town of Laurinburg. Mr. D. N. Poindexter, an officer for the Seaboard Air Line Co., came down on the train from Hamlet this morning. Mr. Poindexter recognized the negro as the man he attempted to arrest Sunday morning at Hamlet. At that time the negro took Mr. Poindexter's gun away from him. Mr. Poindexter and I were together and he pointed the negro out to me, and I said: let's go and question him. We went across the street and found him in front of W. C. Williams' store. Mr. Poindexter touched him on the shoulder and spoke to him. I was a few steps away and did not hear what was said. Mr. Poindexter, the negro and I walked into the alley between Monroe's and Williams' stores. I asked the negro his name and, as I remember, he said it was John Williams. I then asked him where he worked, and he replied that he worked at the guano factory. I then asked him when he had been to Hamlet and he replied that he had never been to Hamlet. Then Mr. Poindexter said to him, "You got on the train at Hamlet this morning and you were in Hamlet Saturday night." When he said that the negro jumped back, run his hand into his breast coat pocket, jumped back on the sidewalk, drew a pistol and the firing began. I don't know who did the first shooting. The first shot I heard hit me in the arm. I drew my gun and shot five times. I was hit twice and two other balls went through my coat. Mr. Poindexter was hit one time. I only saw the negro with one pistol; he was firing the one I saw and was shooting at me. I don't know how many times Mr. Poindexter shot. He fired the last shot and shot the negro in the neck. The negro pulled his gun first and threw it on me. I shot as quickly as I could and shot to keep the negro from killing me. His gun had seven loaded balls in it; the gun shoots eleven times and was a Savage automatic, 32 calibre.

H. L. Blue being sworn, said: I was going from Blue's drug store to the post office and was in the middle of the street and heard the firing and looked around. I saw Mr. Brown and the other two were tied up together. I made a high dive and

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## A COLUMN OF STATE NEWS

Short Items of North Carolina News of General Interest To Scotland County—In Condensed Form For Exchange Readers—Gathered from Contemporaries.

The State gets a \$70,000 revenue out of its tax on automobiles.

The State Fair will be in operation from October 20th. to 25th.

Dr. McKanna will soon open a liquor-cure hospital in Fayetteville.

While attending the circus at Greenville, a farmer was parted with four hundred plunks of his hard-earned.

H. E. Bond, of Cabarrus county, offers a record of cotton picking, having gathered 402 lbs. between sunrise and sunset.

The Thornton Lead and Steel corporation of Hickory has been chartered. The authorized capital is \$500,000 with \$124,000 paid in.

During the month of September, the Greenville tobacco market sold 5,978,767 pounds of tobacco, averaging nearly 300,000 per day.

While visiting in Burlington and attending the Fair, Benton Andrews, a young white man, was shot and perhaps fatally wounded by an unknown negro.

A near-riot at Moss Neck Thursday. The trouble was between Indians and negroes and occurred at a pond where a large number of them had gathered to fish. Liquor was flowing freely and the two races clashed. Deputy Sheriff Lowery, an Indian, was shot and seriously wounded.

President Fred N. Tate, of the Just Freight Rate Association, in his review of the freight rate fight, says the measures adopted by the General Assembly will bring great relief, but that the contest must go on till there is obtained justice for the whole State.

Suit for false arrest is being threatened against Cumberland county by Joseph Smith, who was jailed because of the sudden death of his wife, it being alleged she died from poison. The body of Mrs. Smith was exhumed and an autopsy performed. The stomach being examined, showed no traces of poison, and Mr. Smith was released.

In a speech at Wilmington the past week Mr. J. Allen Taylor in making a report of the work done at Raleigh by the Traffic Committee regarding freight rates, made a sarcastic arraignment of E. J. Justice because of Mr. Justice's attack on Wilmington's position and declared that Justice was ignorant of the rate situation and was using the agitation to advance himself to the United States Senate.

### Hope The Dogs Will Have a Good Time.

Washington, Oct. 10.—Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Leiter, "one of the happiest couples in society," have chartered Howard Gould's yacht "Niagra," to make a pleasure trip around the world.

The Leiters ordered the yacht to make a special trip to Washington for the purpose of picking up the four pet fox terriers of their two boys. A special compartment has been fitted up for the dogs on board the "Niagra," and they are expected to enjoy the trip as well as the other members of the party.

### Secluded.

By now the rural mail carrier has probably reached Greenville, S. C., with news of the opening game of the world series.—Wilmington Dispatch

## CONDENSED NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

A Column of the Week's Happenings Throughout the World Told In Brief—Gathered From Our Contemporaries and Boiled Down For Our Readers.

The post office department is taking an inventory of its assets.

For the third time this year, the Generally Assembly of Tennessee met Monday.

Matheson's Bank is a new institution in Bennettsville, S. C. It has a capital of \$10,000.

The price of radium has been advanced to \$10,000 a gram. One pound is now worth \$52,000,000.

The House Saturday refused to pass a Senate provision appropriating \$7,000 for an automobile for Vice-President Marshall.

It has been declared that the new tariff law may cause international complications because of the 5 per cent. reduction given American ships.

A Pennsylvania poker player held five aces in a game of draw poker, and is in a hospital badly wounded. Some of the players objected to his method.

Four defendants—three of them white men—who were charged with retailing at Gaffney, S. C., were fined an aggregate of \$650 by the Recorder.

Radcliff Morris, the 12-year-old of Mrs. Ella T. Morris, of Sumter, S. C., brooding over the loss of a clerkship in a store, shot and killed himself the past week.

Jesse Hayes, sentenced to the roads in Robeson county, rather than serve his sentence, drank concentrated lye and died from its effects in the penitentiary Friday.

For the nine months ending September 30th, business on the New York Stock Exchange showed a marked falling off despite the general price advances of the past few weeks.

President Wilson asked the editor of the Washington Post to retract the statement that he said any Democrat who voted against him in the currency legislation was a rebel.

Forty-nine players who participated in the world's series last week will divide \$135,163.89 between them on the basis of 60 per cent. to the winners and 40 per cent. to the losers.

After an absence of 25 years in the West, Walter Ludwig returned to Bellville, Ill., to find that, according to law, he had been dead for years, and that his inheritance had been divided for years.

In his testimony before the impeachment court of Gov. Sulzer, Allan A. Ryan said that the governor attempted to secure the influence of Murphy to stop the impeachment trial, saying he "was willing to do what was right in return."

With the announcement of Representative Oscar W. Underwood, of Alabama, that he will quit the House and run for the Senate, comes the assurance that Claud Kitchin, of this State, will in all probability succeed him as chairman of the ways and means committee.

The automobile of President Wilson, while the President was aboard, struck a messenger boy who was riding a bicycle in Washington the past week. The wheel was smashed but the boy only slightly hurt. The young fellow's greatest concern when disentangled from the wreck was for his wheel. The President quickly assured the young fellow that another wheel would be forthcoming at once.

## PRESIDENT PUSHES BUTTON BLOWING OPEN CANAL

President Touches Electric Button That Flashed Electric Current Four Thousand Miles and Ignited Immense Charge of Dynamite, Blowing Open Gamboa Dam, in Panama Canal—Undertaking Successful.

Washington, Oct. 10.—President Wilson at exactly 2 o'clock, Eastern time, this afternoon pressed a button in the White House which sent an electric current flashing more than 4,000 miles over land and under seas to blow up the Gamboa dike in the Panama canal.

Panama, Oct. 10.—The Gamboa dike was exploded at 2:02 p. m. this afternoon.

The electric spark that sent off the blast was sent forward by President Wilson from Washington.

The accomplishment was in every way successful.

Washington, Oct. 10.—A little electric spark which originated when President Wilson pressed the button in the White House was the silent agent which sped more than 4,000 miles overland and under water and ignited the immense charges of dynamite which practically removed the last obstruction in the Panama canal. Electrical experts calculated that within four seconds after President Wilson pressed the button in Washington, the current threw a small switch on an apparatus at the Gamboa dike, which in turn set in motion other apparatus which furnished the current for exploding the charges.

Elaborate preparations had been made by the Western Union Telegraph Company and the Central and South American Telegraph Company for the practically instantaneous transmission of the President's signal. From Washington to Galveston, Texas, 1,556 miles, a single wire carried the spark. There it was taken up instantaneously by sensitive repeating instruments and sped over the cable along the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico to Coatzacoalcas, Mexico, 793 miles further.

From that point it sped overland across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, over wires of the line of the Tehuantepec National Railway, 188 miles more on its journey, to another cable station at Salina Cruz on the Pacific Ocean, where other sets of sensitive telegraph instruments took it up and hurried it 766 miles over another cable along the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, to San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, a cable station, where other delicate machines transferred it to still another cable and shot it along 718 miles more to Panama. There the spark emerged from its long sub-marine journey to the overland telegraph wires of the Panama Railroad Company and completed its mission at the Gamboa dike.

Hours before the time set, experts of the telegraph and cable companies were busy perfecting their arrangements so the President's flash might have an unobstructed passage.

The Atlantic and Pacific oceans were not actually united today when the Gamboa dike was destroyed and the waters of Gatun lake were allowed to flow into Culebra cut, as lake and cut are on the normal surface of the water, 35 feet above the level of the sea.

The destruction of the Gamboa dike, however, removes the last obstruction to the navigation of the greater part of the canal by light draft vessels and opens up direct connection with the great Gatun lake, which already is practically ready to discharge

vessels into the Atlantic through Gatun locks and the Pacific division.

The waters of the lake rushing through the broken dike at Gamboa sweep through Culebra cut until they reach the great locks at Pedro Miguel, which mark the beginning of the descent from the top level of the canal to the Pacific.

### Judge Parker Denounces Sulzer.

Never since the impeachment trial of Gov. Sulzer opened has he been subjected to such a severe verbal flaying as Judge Alton B. Parker delivered in his remarks for the board of managers today. The castigation came before the court had scarcely settled down to work, the judge merely taking a few minutes of the morning session before giving way to Judge D. Cady Herick, for the defense.

"Before this bar the defendant stands guilty of these offenses charged by the impeachment and proved by uncontroverted evidence," he said. "Before the bar of the court of public opinion this defendant stands condemned by further damning testimony of his shifty defenses and his futile efforts to dodge by technicalities the trial of the issues before this high court.

"In these actions, public opinion, with a freedom not permitted to judicial opinion, finds direct evidence of guilt. The same public opinion takes cognizance of the fact that the defendant is suffering from such a severe attack of moral near-sightedness that even when directed by a myriad of scornful fingers he cannot discern the criminal and dishonorable nature of the acts proved.

"Even justice must see through its severe eye some things of the pathetic in this defendant's frantic efforts to cover the nakedness of his wrongdoing. Defiance, defence, justification, prevarication, denunciation of his accusers; attempts to suppress and falsify testimony, and efforts to cast the blame elsewhere—each in turn has been stripped from his quaking flesh until he stands now naked before this court without a rag of his attempted vindication clinging to his deformed and mutilated manhood.

"No act of his shows more perfectly the complete baseness of his character unfitting him utterly for any public or private trust, than does his efforts to coerce the members of this court through channels which his warped intellect mistakingly instructed him held the power of coercion.

### He Won't Be There.

I received a postal from Bennettsville the other day with the picture of a crowd of little negroes sitting on the fence waiting for the show to come, and the sender said to me on the card, "I am waiting for you to come." Poor fellow—he has a long and lonesome wait ahead of him. It took about fifty years of regular attendance in the school of foolism to really decide that I was a fool, but after taking a post-graduate course in shows especially, I decided that I was IT, spelled with a big I. The operation made me powerful sick, but I am still able to see that I was a very apt scholar. I think the card came from the court house, anyway.—Jim McGilvray, in Pee Dee Advocate.