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ALBEMARLE, N. C., THURSDAY, NOV. 22, 1923.

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## Jodie Morgan Pleads Self Defense In murder Trial; Mary Milton Freed

### NOVEMBER TERM SUPERIOR COURT NOW CONVENING

Judge Sinclair Makes Initial Appearance—Two Important Cases—Large Crowds Present.

#### REPORT OF GRAND JURY

Superior Court opened in Stanly Monday morning. The event does not have the full significance of the court week of two or three decades ago, when the occasion one of great social and commercial importance as well as for the execution of the decrees of justice. The men traded "hosses" and the women gathered together to exchange greetings and gossip. For a citizen not to be in Albemarle court week was for him to miss the big event of the season.

The opening of the fall term of court, however, was unusually well attended. The two important cases to be tried brought interested citizens from all sections of the county and the hundreds around the courthouse brought vivid recollections to the old timers of other days.

The lawyers and other citizens were interested in greeting Judge N. A. Sinclair, of Fayetteville, who is holding his first court in Stanly. Judge Sinclair is serving his first term on the bench. The impression he has made in Stanly will make him sincerely welcome upon his return to this county. He upholds the dignity of the bench with an ease that comes of a natural judicial temperament and a good knowledge of law and procedure. He seems never to be at a loss in the numerous quick decisions that are made in the course of a trial. While he can hardly be called a lenient judge, as the several heavy sentences he has pronounced will show, yet he is not harsh. The sentiment among the lawyers of the local bar is that Judge Sinclair is an honor to the bench and that it is a pleasure to appear in his court.

**Court Officers.**  
Other court officers in attendance are State Solicitor F. D. Phillips, of Rockingham, who has been greeted by many of the friends who became acquainted with him on his previous visits here; assisting him is County Solicitor W. E. Smith. Mr. J. A. Little is in attendance in his capacity as clerk of the court, and is assisted by Deputy Clerk J. H. Snotherly, who has (Continued on page 8.)

## Cars at Square Wreck Daintily

Peace of Quiet Sabbath Afternoon Broken by Mishap.

Chief of Police Troutman had a grandstand seat at an automobile accident Sunday afternoon at the courthouse square. The chief was standing on the square attending to his own business and not expecting to be excited about anything at all. An Essex car was coming up the hill on Main street, going east, and a Ford was coming down Second street, going south, like many Fords and Essexes had done before them. Both were rolling slowly and leisurely, just as if nothing was about to happen. When the Essex began to nose over the top of the hill, wending its easy way across Second, the Ford just rolled up and butted it right smack in the ribs. Just like that. No wild scramble, straining eyes, screeching brakes or skidding tires. As nice a little lady-like wreck as you ever saw.

There did seem as if there was something in the air—or ear—that might have been a delicate little feminine scream, but may be not. Anyhow, Mr. Lee Hinson and his family climbed out of the Ford and Miss Georgia Lisk stepped from the Essex and examined themselves for broken bones, etc., but found no injuries except to the peace of the quiet Sabbath afternoon. Mr. Hinson found that the Essex body was damaged about \$40 worth and stood the bill at a garage. The Ford was damaged only slightly. Chief Troutman helped them adjust everything and the party broke up with no hard feelings.

## Girl Innocent of Serious Charge

Jury Quickly Cleared Mary Milton of Manslaughter Charge.

Miss Mary Milton was declared innocent Tuesday of all charges in connection with the death by automobile accident of Mr. Allen Carpenter last July 15, after having faced a Superior court jury on the charge of manslaughter, based on an allegation of reckless driving.

The attractive young defendant sat throughout the trial between her aged parents and took a serious interest in the proceedings which were to determine whether she should face dreary years of confinement or to be restored to the freedom of her country home. Her face revealed little of the anxious emotion which, naturally, she felt. At times, when the tragic details of the accident were brought out, she would turn away as if trying not to hear. At other times she would converse with her parents and attorneys quietly, without showing evidence of the strain of the ordeal through which she was passing.

Deep consideration for her feelings were shown in the trial by everyone officially connected with the case, although the case was hard-fought. At certain periods of the trial there was grave doubt among her friends as to its favorable outcome. Sympathy among court visitors was preponderantly in her favor, both before and during the trial.

Miss Milton's case was conducted by Messrs. Brown and Sikes, who were most vigilant in seeing that every point that could possibly have a favorable bearing on her case was brought fully to the attention of the jury. The case for the state was conducted by State Solicitor F. D. Phillips, with whom were associated R. L. Smith, Esq., and County Solicitor W. E. Smith. Their case was strong and exceedingly well presented. Judge N. A. Sinclair gave a short resume of the contentions of each side of the case and charged them as to the law applying. The jury was out less than an hour, returning with a verdict of "not guilty."

The verdict was probably rendered on the jury's belief that when Miss Milton swerved her car to her left side of the road that in doing so she was trying to execute a definite plan to avoid striking the aged gentleman, who was crossing the road to his left side and to her right, and that the fact that she was on the wrong side of the road was due not to carelessness but to an intention to swerve back of him as he crossed over to her side of the road.

The material witness for the state was Policeman Lee Burley, son who stated that he was standing in the grove beyond the ball park on the Salisbury road and saw Mr. Carpenter come into the road from a path, and started walking to (Continued on page 8.)

## Joint Baptismal Service Held Here

Ten New Members Received Into Baptist Churches Sunday.

The sister Baptist churches of Albemarle combined in a joint baptismal service Sunday evening at the First church. Ten persons were immersed, two of which became members of the First church and eight members of Grace church.

The service was conducted by Rev. Q. C. Davis, pastor of the First church, assisted by Rev. J. S. Harris, pastor of Grace church. A large congregation was in attendance, comprised largely of the membership of the two churches. The baptismal service occupied the time usually given to the sermon, but Mr. Davis gave a short talk of advice to Christians on some of the things necessary to a continuance of good works, including church attendance, contribution to church causes, special attention to communion services and prayer.

The Baptist cause in Albemarle and through this section is flourishing under the leadership of able and consecrated men.

## Trial of Oakboro Murder Case Heard

Lawyers Fiercely Battle Over Defendant's Guilt or Innocence.

With the court room crowded to the doors, Jodie Morgan was defending his life against a first-degree murder charge in the Superior court when court adjourned yesterday. Through his lawyers he pleads not guilty, claiming that he shot Oral Huneycutt on the Stanfield road last August and killed him in defense of his own life.

The case is being bitterly fought and the trial proceeded slowly yesterday, more than half the day being consumed in impaneling a jury. Judge Sinclair is presiding. Appearing for the state are State Solicitor Phillips, County Solicitor Smith, J. R. Price, Esq., and Hal C. Turner, Esq. For the defendant are R. L. Smith, Esq., Brown & Sikes, and I. R. Burleyson, Esq. Mrs. Sadie Leak, official court stenographer, is taking a stenographic record of the trial.

The jury is comprised of Messrs. B. E. Ritchie, A. M. Maynor, L. T. Jenkins, J. R. Poplin, Calvin Layton, Earl Cranford, Dan S. Speight, B. R. Wilhoit, John C. Austin, E. D. Chandler, Vance Deese, Eugene Melton.

Drs. Dunlap and Mahoney were first introduced by the state to testify as to Huneycutt's condition when examined by them before his death and after.

Tise Morgan was the third witness, who related the events leading up to the shooting and was an actual witness at the shooting. He said on direct examination that there had been hard feelings between Huneycutt and Jodie Morgan on account of the accusation of the slain man that Morgan had written a letter of a defamatory character about him. He further stated that he, the witness, and Huneycutt were standing by the road leading from Oakboro to Stanfield when Jodie Morgan rode up in his car. He, the witness, asked if the two might ride and Jodie Morgan said that Tise might ride but that he was looking for the two, that he had a crow to pick with Huneycutt. (Continued on page 8.)

## Davis' New Book Attracts Notice

Son of Local Pastor Prepares Valuable Text Book.

Rev. Q. C. Davis' son, Dr. W. H. Hurney Davis, associate professor of Greek in the Southern Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., has drawn much recent attention to himself in educational circles through the publication of his latest text book, the Beginner's Grammar of Greek New Testament.

This book is filling a definite need in the sphere for which it was intended and its sale is expected to be quite large. Doran has the American rights and Houghton and Stoddard of London have recently secured from Dr. Davis the rights to publish the book in England. While the word "modern" does not appear to be appropriate to a volume which is confined to the beginning of the Christian Era, it is nevertheless a fact that Dr. Davis' book is modern, having been prepared in the light of recent discoveries of papyri in Egypt which add much to the store of knowledge concerning the early Greek language. His book will be of great value to students of the Greek language, especially those in theological seminaries.

## PRESBYTERIANS TO RAISE LARGE ORPHANAGE FUND

A movement fostered by the board of regents of Barium Springs Orphanage, a Presbyterian institution, is expected to raise \$100,000 by Thanksgiving, says Rev. R. Murphy Williams, of Greensboro, president of the board. This fund will wipe out the present deficit of \$32,000 and will allow for some much needed improvements. Mr. Williams urges all Presbyterians to cooperate to the end that the orphans will be adequately cared for.

## BADIN OFFICER DECAMPED WHEN NEGRO TALKED

Accusation of Irby by Chief Early in Superior Court—Charged With Bootlegging Activity.

### LAW NABS STILL AND MAN THREATENED TO SPREAD

One thing after another disturbed Badin this week. When the dust cleared away Chief of Police T. A. Early was holding the center of the ring with a dandy little copper still on hand, one of his officers gone without leaving an address and John Graham, colored, on his way to the roads for 15 months.

Chief Early and Officer Melton, of the Badin force, got wind of something unusual going on and raided the residence of the negro, finding a little copper still on the cook stove that would have been the pride of any moonshiner. They seized this and the negro, who opened up a yarn about his being in league with Officer Frank Irby, of the Badin force. The negro's statement is not supported by any other evidence of Irby's complicity, but, at any rate, the erstwhile officer disappeared before he could be located.

Judge Sinclair heard the case in Superior court Tuesday and sentenced Graham to the roads for 15 months, upon condition that he is examined by the county physician and found physically fit to stand the work.

## Alumni Members Enjoy a Banquet

Former Trinity Men Gathered Here Tues.—Honored Guests.

Stanly county Trinity Alumni Association banqueted Tuesday evening at Hotel Albemarle. The following members were present: Mr. J. P. Shinn, president; Mr. C. A. Reap, secretary; Mr. R. L. Smith, Dr. T. A. Hathcock, Dr. J. C. Hall, Messrs. H. F. Deese, W. E. Smith, Loy Guldge, A. P. Harris and A. C. Huneycutt were guests as were Dr. LaPrade and Mr. R. A. Thigpen. The former is head of the department of history of Trinity college and the latter the Alumni secretary. After a sumptuous feast those present listened to some good addresses. The principal address of the evening was delivered by Dr. LaPrade. He stated that Trinity had graduated more students in the last 14 years than in all its history before. That there are more in the graduation classes now than was in the institution 14 years ago. That those presenting themselves for college were not so well prepared as they were some dozen and more years ago. This is because in the high schools have grown so rapidly that qualified teachers could not be had for them. These conditions, which face all the colleges of the state, constitute a very grave problem. It is the job of the college to take the past and give it to the student so that he can carry it on to the future. No person knows what that future world into which the student must go will be. Therefore, the college can not tell the student just what he must take into that world or just how he is to do his work in that world. Trinity college is endeavoring to teach him to so think that he can keep his feet on the ground and his head on his shoulders face whatever may come without fear. For this work the college needs all you can give us, especially your good will and strong support. Dr. LaPrade spoke of the spirit of Trinity college, stating that he was not an alumnus of the college nor a native of North Carolina nor a Methodist, therefore, could study the spirit with an open mind. He had found that spirit to be a passion for education. Not education for a few but for all the people.

## HAD MONEY BUT DIED IN THE COUNTY HOME

Willie Leach, who was known to a good many Albemarle people some weeks ago as a stranger here taking treatment for lung trouble, died some days ago in the Montgomery county home as a result of his affliction. Reports reaching here are that Leach had some over \$200 given him by a friend, but was stricken in Troy, where he had lived, and went to the county home to die.

## Little Child Dead.

Mr. Ralph Andrew, foreman of The Press composing room, received the sad intelligence Tuesday of the death of his little nephew, Aubrey, the young son of Rev. and Mrs. B. H. Millikan, of Booneville. The funeral was to have been held at Rocky River Friends church, Chatham county, at 10 o'clock today, and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew left early this morning to attend.

## Court-Week Visitor.

Among the court-week visitors in Albemarle was Mr. J. C. Barbee, of Stanfield, route 1. Mr. Barbee came in and subscribed to The Press, a mutually agreeable proceeding. He said that conditions throughout his section were quite favorable, with good corn and cotton crops and wheat prospects good.

## High School Wins Hard Game in Anson.

The local high school football squad won a close but decisive victory over the Wadesboro high school team in Wadesboro last Friday afternoon, the score being 7 to 6.

the high schools of the county, at which time the association members, all Trinity students of the county and the high school graduates will be invited.

## QUICK WORK OF FIREMAN HALTS LEAPING BLAZE

Lowder Building on North Second Street Burned in Sunday Morning Fire—Small Insurance.

### THREATENED TO SPREAD

Fire completely destroyed the frame building owned by Mr. J. D. Lowder on North Second street near the drug store several blocks out from Main street about 2 o'clock Sunday morning. Only effective work by the fire department prevented the swift mounting flame from spreading to the adjoining buildings.

Mr. Lowder, in speaking of his loss, said that the property destroyed, which was a frame grocery store with a barber shop in connection, was worth about \$2,000, on which was carried \$500 insurance. Mr. J. Ross, owner of the grocery stock, said Mr. Lowder, bears a loss of \$800 to \$1,000, without insurance.

The fire was under such headway when discovered that the firemen had to confine their efforts largely to preventing the blaze from spreading to the adjoining buildings, there being no hope of saving the burning structure. Even then the roof of the drug store was considerably damaged, as was the wall of Mr. Lowder's residence. The origin of the fire is not known.

Mr. Lowder spoke in highest commendation of the effective work of the fire department, saying that he had no hope that they would be able to keep the fire from spreading to his other buildings. It is a point of special pride with the local outfit, however, that they, have not yet allowed a fire to run away with them.

## COUNTY AGENT URGES FARMERS TO ORDER NOW

County Agent Phillips urges the farmers of the county who will want to join in with the others who have already placed their orders for Sodotol, the new free government explosive for removing the stumps from their fields to communicate with him at once. The idea is to order a car of the explosive and orders have already been placed for a large portion of this quantity. The fact that the amount for distribution by the government is limited makes it necessary for the Stanly farmers to act quickly, before the supply is exhausted.

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## THANKSGIVING DAY APPROACHES AND HOLIDAY SPIRIT APPEARS

### Thanksgiving Proclamation

Governor Cameron Morrison has issued the following Thanksgiving Proclamation:

"North Carolina has been blessed with a year of great prosperity in material things on the farm, in the factory, and in every line of business, God has most generously rewarded the labors of our people. We have been led by God to make a liberal use of our material prosperity for the benefit of the defective and for improved educational opportunities for our children. Now, therefore I, Cameron Morrison, governor of North Carolina, following the previous action of the President of the United States, in his proclamation of November 4, 1923, do hereby proclaim and set apart Thursday, November 29, 1923, as Thanksgiving day and call upon our people to observe the day by assembling in their respective places of religious worship and giving thanks to Almighty God for His many mercies and blessings to the people of the United States, and of this state and to pray for divine guidance in the future. May I implore the people of strength on Thanksgiving day to remember the orphan, and the weak and defective of every class by some act of generosity and helpfulness."

"Done in the city of Raleigh on this 15th day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-three, and in the one hundred and forty-eighth year of our American independence."

## Standard Training School Announced

Methodists and Presbyterians to Hear Fine Teachers.

One of the most important movements begun locally is that of the Stanly County Cooperative Training school, which is being conducted in the city grade school auditorium December 2 to 7. Both Methodist and Presbyterian denominations are entering into this work, and it means a week of the finest possible training and instruction to those that enlist.

In other words, it is to be a real school. It must meet the conditions outlined by Sunday school authorities of the Methodist and Presbyterian denominations. Each student should secure the text-book designated for his class and if possible, read it through before the opening of the school. Books can be obtained from Supt. C. A. Reap at the court house. Enroll with a chosen class and stay with it throughout the school. To visit from class to class will do you very little good. It will break down the morale of the school. Any person over seventeen years of age, who otherwise complies with conditions, may receive certificate of credit. High school graduates sixteen years of age may receive credit. No certificate of credit can be issued to one under sixteen years of age. Students in this school can earn one of the necessary twelve units for a Sunday school diploma, eight of which must be general or basal units and the other four specialization units in any one given department. Those enrolling in the school are expected to attend all twelve recitations, unless unavoidably kept away. No credit can be issued to one who has not attended at least ten of the twelve class sessions. There is no charge attached to the school save that of the price of text-books. Every one, whether student, auditor or visitor, is welcome.

## LARGE BULL DOG WAS SHOT WHEN DANGEROUS

A large, fine-joking bull dog, the property of Mr. Raymond Talbert, was shot at Mr. Talbert's request by Chief of Police Troutman Monday near Main street when the dog suddenly became ferocious, attempting to attack people. The dog evidently had some disease that sent him into spasms of physical pain. Had the dog broken the rope holding him he would have been the source of extreme danger to persons on the streets.

## Concrete Bridge Nears Completion

Charlotte Highway Project Open Probably in January.

The concrete bridge over Rocky River on the Albemarle-Charlotte direct highway will be complete within a few weeks, probably in January, said Mr. J. C. Jenkins, foreman for Lefler and Smith, contractors, when in Albemarle Monday.

All the piers have been installed and four of the ten spans have been poured on the big concrete job. There is now no danger of high water interfering with the work, and the schedule of the builders is for the work to be complete some time in early January.

The highway contractors are busily engaged laying hard surface road on the Cabarrus county stretch. This work, however, does not interrupt traffic to any great extent, said Mr. Jenkins. The detours are short and well maintained. There are some more than two miles beyond the bridge presenting rough traveling, but the difficulties are not so great as to keep traffic from increasing daily.

This road, leading by Locust, shortens the distance from Albemarle to Charlotte materially.

A complete organization surrounds the work, and it is to the general interest of everyone connected with Sunday school work and religious training to enter fully into the benefits to be obtained from this school.

Time of Turkey and Cranberry Sauce One Week From Today. Deeply Spiritual Occasion Urged by Ministers, who Point to the Blessings Received.

Next Thursday is the day set apart by President Coolidge, for the nation, and Governor Cameron Morrison, for the state, as a time when the people should pause and give thanks for the many blessings which have been received.

Ministers, local and elsewhere, call attention to the great benefits which have accrued to the people during the past year in the way of material blessings, also in relief from such great disasters as earthquakes and volcanos which have caused distress and suffering in other parts of the world.

In Albemarle the people will gather in a joint Thanksgiving service at the Lutheran church at 10 o'clock. It is expected that a large congregation will be present. Every one is invited.

The grocers and meat markets of the city report that culinary preparations in the way of cakes, etc., have been underway for some days and that the indications are that the folks in this section are not going to suffer for want of fine home cooking, including steaming turkey and cranberry sauce.

## OKLAHOMA SENATE OUSTS GOV. WALTON

Oklahoma City, Nov. 19.—J. C. Walton, fifth governor of Oklahoma, was removed from office tonight by unanimous vote of the state senate court of impeachment after his trial on charges of corruption in office, neglect of duty, moral turpitude and general incompetence.

A formal verdict was returned after the executive had been found guilty of 11 of the 16 charges presented. The vote was 41 to 0.

Six of the original 22 charges constituting the impeachment bill were dismissed by order of the court. The court, by a standing vote, denied a motion for a new trial which Governor Walton's counsel filed immediately after the verdict was announced.

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