

# In Eleventh Hour Statement Henry Clay Beattie, Jr. Confessed His Guilt

## Died In Electric Chair At 7:24 For Murder Of His Young Wife

### He "Wanted To Be Right With God And Man"

#### In Statement Made Public at Late Morning Hour Henry Clay Beattie, Jr. Confessed That He Killed His Wife.

#### Hesitated to Confess Because of Feeling For His Father—Walked Bravely to Chair Without a Quiver.

The 12 witnesses to the execution tolled through the murky dawn up the hill from which the penitentiary looks down upon the city. They were quickly marshalled and conducted single file through gates of steel bars to the chamber where Beattie was to offer his statement. There was no confession.

#### In Death Chamber.

Within the chamber all was in readiness. The chair, a solid structure of oak, would ordinarily have appeared like the chairs seen in scores of libraries throughout the land. In the somberly bare chamber, however, the chair was naught but sinister. Straps dangled from its arms and back and shining steel clamps appeared in the light of the electric like tentacles outstretched to clasp a victim.

The witnesses were seated, six abreast in an angle of the room. They shuffled their feet uneasily and when one leaned forward to speak to another his action was received with frowns. Major Wood, with two deputy wardens, addressed the witnesses, going through some small formalities demanded by the law.

Then with his two men trooping behind, he passed out into the building where Beattie awaited the summons in his cell adjoining.

#### In the Death Chamber.

In the death chamber the voice of the warden could be plainly heard, reading to the doomed man the final summons. The warden's voice droned on, it seemed to the witnesses interminably. In reality the compliance with the law occupied only a brief moment.

Then with Beattie between them the deputy wardens began their progress toward the chair only a few feet away. Prisoner Sees Chair.

When the procession, followed by Superintendent Wood, started, a signal was given which plunged the death chamber into immediate gloom for a moment. This was so hooded that it outlined the chair in a circle of blazing radiance so intense that the remainder of the room seemed in utter darkness. The witnesses scarce could see each other. The prisoner saw nothing but the chair.

#### Took His Place Like a Man.

There was no delay in preparing for the end. Beattie took his place, the single light immediately over the chair, though they were clamped with adjusting the straps, a half dozen clamps were quickly thrown into place and snapped. The cap, resembling a leather football head harness, was adjusted and the men stepped back.

#### Meets Death.

The warden raised his hand. Instantly Beattie's body stiffened with such violence that the straps creaked with the strain, the clamps rattled as though they were castanets in the hands of death and then that which once had been Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., relaxed. **Died at 7:24.**

It was just 7:23 when the shock was applied. One minute later Beattie was dead.

The surgeon had gone forward and with a stethoscope had listened for another faint beating of the heart that less than fifty seconds before had lived. He stepped back.

#### "He is Dead."

Young Beattie's death chamber was below ground. It has no windows. Because of its isolation and the death cells adjoining, the chamber is silent as an abandoned tomb. Into one corner of the chamber a black cable drooped. It was the heavy main wire leading from the dynamo of the city lighting plant a half mile away. The prison authorities do not depend on their own dynamo for the fatal shock.

Over this cable poured 2,300 volts of electricity. It was as silent as it was deadly. There was no purring of dynamo to indicate its fatal power. When the executive turned on the full voltage and the body responded to the fearful shock the witnesses gasped. There was no waiting.

#### Left Statement.

Immediately after the death of Beattie was announced the penitentiary had made no statement. It developed later, however, that he had left a brief statement, written in his own hand, with his spiritual advisers. Up to 11 a. m. this statement had not been made public and there were conflicting reports on the streets, both that it was and was not a confession.

#### Story of Execution.

In a torrential downpour of rain

course until the expiration of a full minute the current was shut off. Beattie's death was instantaneous, according to the prison surgeon. The utmost had been taken in the "setting" of the electrodes and in preparing the straps and clamps to withstand any strain.

There was no slip. The murderer's exit was as painless as modern science could provide.

The witnesses fled out. One or two were ghastly pale as they stepped into the early morning light.

Carriages were waiting for the witnesses and they were driven rapidly away. The identity of but few was known.

After the legal formalities had been complied with and the witnesses had gone, the body of Beattie was removed from the chair and taken to the mortuary room adjoining. Here it was laid to await the coming of the coroner who arrived shortly afterwards. Rev. Dr. Pix remained as the sole watcher.

All the preparations had been made for the removal of the body. The elder Beattie last night sent to the undertaker the brown suit which his son had worn in court when the jury declared his guilt. In this the body was clad for burial.

#### Mr. Owen Talks.

Dover, Del., Nov. 24.—"Is that so? I am glad he made a clean breast of it," declared Mr. Owen when told that Beattie had confessed the crime and asked forgiveness.

"He was convicted on circumstantial evidence and this fact left a doubt in the minds of some people. His confession settles our minds and clears up the case and to that extent I feel a sense of relief."

#### ATTITUDE OF THE VIRGINIA NEWSPAPERS.

By Associated Press. Richmond, Va., Nov. 24.—One feature of the Beattie execution that aroused a great deal of interest and speculation was the Virginia newspapers which are forbidden by a state statute to print the details of an electrocution.

As a part of the law which substituted the electric chair for the hangman's noose, the Virginia legislature wrote this paragraph into the statute: "No newspaper or person shall print or publish or disseminate or cause to be published or disseminated any article or articles under this act. Only the fact that the criminal was executed shall be printed or published."

The legislature, however, failed to provide a penalty for a violation of the section. Hitherto the law has been complied with out of respect for the state, but the Beattie case has so enthralled the state during the past several months that there were indications today that many newspapers would feel compelled to disregard the statute on this occasion and give as many details as could be obtained.

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#### NEWS EXTRA SELLS LIKE HOT CAKES.

The News' extra issued this morning and containing the account of the death and crime of Henry Clay Beattie was a record-breaker. There were issued 2,500 papers and every one of them were sold in the first half hour. The forms were sent to press three times as the previous editions were sold out. Every newsboy in the city was selling them like hot cakes and calling for more. This was a record breaking issue for any Charlotte extra.

#### TO INCREASE LEGATION GUARD.

By Associated Press. Peking, Nov. 24.—At a meeting of ministers representing the foreign powers here it was decided that it would be advisable to increase the legation guard.

An edict just issued orders Sheng Yung, the new governor of the province of Shen Si, to proceed to his post immediately in order to suppress bands of outlaws and protect foreigners.

Piracy on the west river is so rampant that the British steamboat companies of Hong Kong have been obliged to suspend their services. Several of their steamers have been looted and some of the British torpedo boat destroyers have left Hong Kong to patrol the West river.

#### WILL DECIDE ON DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

Mount Clemens, Mich., Nov. 24.—The time and place for holding the Democratic national convention will be decided by the democratic national committee in Washington at noon, January 8th, according to an announcement made today by Norman E. Mack, chairman of the committee.

### INDIAN PAYS FOR MURDER WITH HIS LIFE

Special to The News. Raleigh, Nov. 24.—Sending greetings and messages to his fellow Indians in Swain county, entreating that none of them follow his example and declaring he fully deserved the punishment he was receiving, Ross French the young Cherokee, went to the death chamber this morning in the state prison and paid the death penalty for the brutal murder of Miss Ethel Shuler, a crime committed October 8, in Swain county. The prisoner was attended by Rev. J. E. King, of Negro Episcopal church here, French having three weeks ago accepted the Episcopal faith. He was remarkably self possessed as he went to the death chair at 10:30 o'clock. The electric current of 1,800 watts voltage was turned on twice by Warden Sales before the physicians pronounced life extinct. The old grandfather of the prisoner, John Talala, 82 years old, was waiting out side the death chamber with a casket in which to place his grandson and convey the remains to the Cherokee home in the family burying ground. The leave-taking between the old man and his ill-fated grandson had taken place last evening and was most touching, the young Indian at the same time displaying great fortitude indeed. Officers who had attended him say he has displayed typical Indian stoicism tempered by Christian penitence.

### THE WEATHER.

By Associated Press. Washington, Nov. 24.—Forecast: North Carolina, rain this afternoon, fair and much colder tonight, cold wave in east and central portions; Saturday fair, colder in east portion; brisk and high northwest winds.

South Carolina, fair and much colder with a cold wave tonight Saturday fair, colder on the coast; brisk and high northwest winds.

### The Patterson Murder Trial

By Associated Press. Denver, Col., Nov. 24.—Much of the testimony of Mrs. Gertrude Gibson Patterson, who today resumed the witness stand in her trial on the charge of murdering her husband, was unfit for publication.

Taking up the subject of Patterson's illness—it is said he was nearly dead from tuberculosis of the lungs when he was killed—Mrs. Patterson said she had nursed him until a physician ordered her to take a rest.

She continued to visit him, however, and one day she testified, he exclaimed: "If you don't come back and nurse me I'm going to sue that—"

### Wm. J. Cummins Gets Prison Term

By Associated Press. New York, Nov. 24.—William J. Cummins, the Nashville Tenn., banker and the head of the suspended Carnegie Trust Company, of this city, recently convicted of the theft of \$140,000 from a trust fund held by the Carnegie Company, was today sentenced by Justice Davis in the supreme court to an indeterminate sentence in the state prison of four years and eight months to eight years and eight months.

### IT WAS A BIG BLOW OUT AT SOUTHPORT.

Wilmington, Nov. 24.—Southport celebrated yesterday and most eloquently the running of the first passenger train into that beautiful little city, the county seat of old Brunswick.

It marked also the birth of a new port, and several thousands joined heartily in the celebration.

### Forty-Five of Crew Drowned

By Associated Press. Tokyo, Nov. 24.—The Japanese destroyer Harusame foundered off Shima province in a storm today and forty-five of the crew of sixty perished.

### Southern Train Reported in Wreck

By Associated Press. Scotland, Ga., Nov. 24.—Two men were killed, another fatally injured and several passengers badly shaken up when Southern railway passenger train No. 14, bound from Macon to Jacksonville, collided with an extra north-bound train. Engineer Hugh Brantley, of Macon, in charge of the extra train, and an unidentified express messenger, are dead, while another unknown express messenger is fatally injured. The cause of the collision has not been ascertained.

### MRS. QUINN IS CHARGED WITH MURDER.

By Associated Press. Chicago, Ill., Nov. 24.—Mrs. Jane Quinn, whose husband was found shot to death in his bed recently, was charged with his murder in an indictment returned by the grand jury today.

### Commerce Threatened by Blockade.

By Associated Press. Constantinople, Nov. 24.—Neutral commerce is seriously threatened by the proposed blockade of the Dardanelles by Italy and Turkey's consequent defensive measures.

The ambassadors of the foreign powers here are conferring on the subject as it is believed that Italian action will not be delayed much longer. It is thought that Italy may even try to force the Dardanelles and dictate her terms of peace at Constantinople.

### North Carolina Conference Session

Special to The News. Kinston, N. C., Nov. 24.—During the morning session of the North Carolina Conference here four candidates were admitted on trial, and five were received into full connection.

The name of L. N. Booth was dropped from the conference roll, he having written a confession that he had misappropriated church funds. A confession that that effect was received from him, with the other statement that he did so with the hope of replacing the same.

### CHAS. W. MORSE MAY SECURE HIS RELEASE

By Associated Press. Washington, D. C., Nov. 24.—Announcement of the transfer was made in the following statement given out at the white house today:

"Application has been made to the president on behalf of Charles W. Morse for a commutation of his sentence, based on his present state of health, which is represented as very serious. By the president's direction the attorney general has directed the warden of the Atlanta penitentiary to transfer Mr. Morse to the United States army hospital at Fort McPherson, Atlanta, where he will have the best possible care and medical treatment while remaining in custody of the federal authorities."

### WORKMEN KILLED IN EXPLOSION

Nearly 400 workers were engaged in the building at the time. The bodies of these in or near the boiler room were horribly mingled, some of them being thrown into the streets together with bricks and debris.

Men could be seen at every window with fire raging behind them, frantically appealing for rescue. Ladders were quickly at the scene and many of the men were saved.

The scorched clothing and burned hair of these brought down told of the terrible ordeal through which they had gone.

Many of those who were taken to the hospital are suffering from shocking injuries. Some of them have lost legs or arms and others are fearfully burned.

### Three Members of Tar Party Are Sentenced

By Associated Press. Lincoln Center, Kas., Nov. 24.—Three members of the mob who confessed to participation in the tarring of Mary Chamberlain, the Shady Bend school teacher, were sentenced to terms of a year each in jail today.

The three are Everett Clark, wealthy mill owner, Jay Fitzwater and Watson Seranton.

The jury trying three men for complicity in the tarring had not agreed at noon.

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