

Arrested At Harrisburg, Pa., And Carried From City

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Will John Gray Die in the Electric Chair Tomorrow?

Raleigh Tribune Bureau Sir Walter Hotel

Raleigh, Dec. 9.—Will John Gray die in the electric chair tomorrow for the murder of "Dad" Watkins?

This is a question being asked here today pending the result of a vigorous last-minute effort by Gray's attorneys and interested citizens of Stanly county to save him from the death chair.

No announcement has been made as to whether or not he intends to grant a commutation, although he and H. Hoyle Sink, commissioner of pardons, were closeted with the Stanly county delegation in an extensive hearing yesterday afternoon.

Considerable difference of opinion seems to exist as to Gray's mental condition, some maintaining that he is undoubtedly insane, others maintaining that he is as sane as any criminal ever is, and that he knows the difference between right and wrong.

That he knew full well the enormity of his act in killing Watkins, it is pointed out, that if he had not been conscious of his guilt he would not have gone to the pains to dismember Watkins' body and burn it up in an old barn.

It also pointed out that the slaying was undoubtedly premeditated, since the object was robbery. Others maintain, however, that only a maniac would have gone through with the horrible detail of dismembering the body of his victim and attempting to burn it.

In some respects, the murder of Watkins by Gray is regarded as being one of the most fiendish in the criminal annals of the state.

John Gray, young white moron who is to die within 48 hours for the murder of Dad Watkins, Stanly white man, has the governor and the pardon commissioner this afternoon working on a petition for clemency presented by Judge Lane Brown and O. J. Sikes, of Albemarle.

The friends of the Stanly half-wit came without price to his aid. They did not appear for him in the court below. The impression of virtually all the people of Albemarle is that a brain of some size planned the gruesome killing of Dad Watkins, but the mind of a baby executed the scheme.

Judge Brown and Judge Sikes got fairly into the case, but they will continue it tomorrow.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Edward L. Doheny testified in his own defense today in his trial for criminal conspiracy.

The 70-year old oil man went to the witness stand at his own request to explain to the jury the circumstances of his \$100,000 "loan" to Albert B. Fall, who is a defendant with him under the charge of conspiring to secure the award of the Elk Hills oil lease to Doheny interests while Fall was interior secretary.

The story of the \$100,000 as Doheny told it to the Senate committee three years ago, already is in the trial records. The oil magnate described the advance as purely a private loan made to help a man with whom he had worked as a mining prospector thirty years before and wholly unconnected with the Elk Hills negotiations.

Just before he took the stand Doheny's wife and his son, Edward L. Jr., had provided other details of the transaction. Appearing as defense witnesses they related how the advance was made in cash and how afterward the signature was torn from the \$100,000 note given by Fall and put into Mrs. Doheny's hands for safekeeping.

DOHENY, WIFE AND SON TELL JURY OF "LOAN" TO FRIEND

All Deny Money Given to Albert B. Fall Had Anything to Do With the Oil Lease Contracts.

NOTE PRODUCED FOR THE JURY

Doheny Said Signature Was Torn Off So if He Died There Would Be no Embarrassment to Fall.

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Both the note and signature were produced for examination by the jury.

The prosecution did not cross-examine Mrs. Doheny or Edward, Jr.

As he began his testimony with the usual recital of his name, occupation and past connections the elder Doheny showed plainly the weak effects of the arm infection which had kept him in bed much of the time for the past week.

He spoke softly and deliberately. After detailing his early life Doheny said: "In 1880 I found the first mine—the dream. Mr. Fall then was prospecting there. It was then I met him."

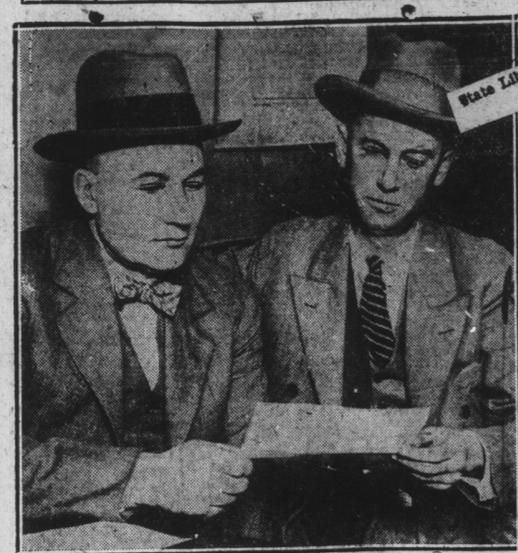
Called to the stand after his mother had testified about her connection with the incident the younger Doheny was brought under fire of questions from counsel who sought to develop not only details of the transaction but the reason behind it so far as he knew them.

The wife of the oil magnate defendant faced the jury with great poise and related calmly how her husband told her of the "loan" to Fall and how he had torn off the signature of the note Fall gave in return and put it in a safe deposit box so that no embarrassment might be caused to the secret secretary of interior in case of Doheny's death.

Owen J. Roberts, of government counsel, objected to Defense Attorney Frank J. Hogan's questions as to how Doheny characterized the "loan." There was protracted argument after which Mrs. Doheny was permitted to answer.

Mrs. Doheny said her husband had been asked by Fall for a loan to extend his New Mexico ranch holdings. Doheny had indicated an inclination to make the loan and she said she told her husband she would be willing to make it.

Press Hunt for Olson Boy



District Attorney J. S. Earl (left) and A. B. Curran, who is to succeed him in office, discussed the man hunt for Erdman Olson, of Prairie Du Chemin, Wis., who was wanted on charge of murdering his sweetheart, Clara Olson.

SOUTHERN OFFICIALS HAVE SAID NOTHING

No Reply Received by City Officials to Ultimatum in Form of Ordinance Sent by Rail Officials.

Apparently the Southern Railway officials are in no hurry to settle the matter of who is to maintain the overhead bridge near the Southern passenger station here.

Last Friday officials of the company were advised that the bridge would be closed next Tuesday and all traffic directed over the grade crossing below the bridge.

At least no reply has been received from the ultimatum and unless something breaks between now and Tuesday the burden may rest with the city to enforce the ordinance.

Just how all the trains, some of them running between 50 and 60 miles an hour, will be halted here has not been explained by the city officials.

The overhead bridge was built by the Southern and city officials contend that the company promised to maintain it. The rail officials deny this, however, taking the position that the bridge is now city property and as such should be maintained by the city.

That is the chief point at issue apparently, and it may take court action to settle it. The city is in position to maintain the bridge if convinced that it should do so, it is said, but every time one of the trains fails to comply with the law a warrant will be issued against officials of the company.

Opposed to Carnivals. Durham, Dec. 9.—(P)—Carnivals and local merchants don't get along at all, and the merchants, being permanently on the ground, are out after the itinerant organization's scraps.

A special merchants' committee has been named to draw up plans for keeping the tent shows out of town. They are doing missionary work among civic organizations preparatory to presenting a petition to the city council calling for a bar of all such traveling organizations.

"Keep our surplus cash at home where it will flow into home trade channels," is the merchant slogan.

Girls to Give Gym Exhibition To-night. The junior girls of the "Y" will give a gymnastic exhibition at the local Y. M. C. A. in connection with the basket ball game between Concord and the Carolina All Stars, which will be played tonight.

68 MEN ENTOMBED AT WORK; THIRTY SOON WERE SAVED

Men Were Trapped in Coal Mine in Francisco, Ind., Soon After Starting to Work Today.

RESCUE WORKERS SOON ON SCENE

They Had Rescued 30 of the Men Three Hours After the Explosion Occurred, Say Reports.

Francisco, Ind., Dec. 10.—(P)—All of the men of the first shaft, numbering between fifty and sixty, were entombed in mine No. 2 of the Francisco Coal Company by an explosion this morning, the telegraph operator here informed the Associated Press.

The explosion occurred about 6:20 this morning, a few minutes after the men entered the pit, the operator said. Rescue work was started at once, she added, but she did not know if anybody had been saved. Mine No. 2 is about one-fourth mile from Francisco, which is seven miles east of Princeton in southwest Indiana.

Thirty Rescued. Evansville, Ind., Dec. 9.—(P)—Reports received here at 9 a. m. indicated that thirty of the men entombed in the coal mine at Francisco had been rescued from the shaft. It was said that there were several dead at the foot of the shaft. A total of sixty-eight men were in the mine when the explosion occurred, according to latest reports.

PARKE SURRENDERS. Said He Got Virtually None of the Money Said to Have Been Taken From Memphis Bank.

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 9.—(P)—Rush H. Parke, clerk of the American Savings Bank and Trust Co., which was placed in receivership following the suicide of Clarence Henochsberg, assistant cashier Tuesday, declared to the police today that he had been the tool of Henochsberg and was taken into the bank's offices to assist in determining the status of the institutions accounts.

Parke surrendered voluntarily to the police here early today after a five-days absence in which bank examiners announced a shortage of \$105,000 in his accounts. He told of hiding in New Orleans and returning to Memphis as soon as he learned of Henochsberg's suicide.

Parke received for his own use virtually none of the money, he told the bank examiners.

WANTS LOW GRADE COTTON TO BE USED. Senator Harris Would Have Government Use These Grades Instead of Imported Jute.

Washington, Dec. 9.—(P)—In an effort to relieve depression in the cotton market Senator Harris, Democrat of Georgia, today offered a resolution directing the secretaries of commerce and agriculture to provide for use of low grade cotton in the manufacture of government goods and for covering cotton bales in place of jute which is imported from India.

"Low grade cotton," Senator Harris said, "is just as strong as other grades and the surplus of this grade is what causes the low prices." "If cotton were used instead of jute for tarps the farmers would save thousands of dollars," he added.

MOVEMENT TO BAR SMITH AND VARE Charged That Huge Sums of Money Were Used in Their Election. Washington, Dec. 9.—(P)—The first move to bar from the Senate Frank L. Smith, of Illinois, and Mm. F. Vare, of Pennsylvania, elected as Republicans, was made today by Senator Dill, Democrat, of Washington, who charged that huge sums of money had been expended in their primary campaigns.

He introduced a resolution asking that the Senate decline to accept their credentials if presented.

Coral jewelry is returning to favor among fashionable women in Paris and London.

Fencing is indulged in by many young women in France as an aid of health and grace.

MOTORISTS SHOULD KNOW LEGAL RIGHTS

Ignorance is Costing Them Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars Yearly.

Raleigh, Dec. 8.—Ignorance of their legal rights still is costing motorists hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly, and to combat this lack of knowledge is becoming increasingly the objective of motor clubs throughout the country.

This point is made by C. W. Roberts, vice president and general manager of the Carolina Motor Club, who declares that "the movement among the 855 clubs affiliated with the American Automobile Association to acquaint members with their legal rights is not in the interest of defeating justice but rather to see that the ends of justice properly are served."

"No fair-minded motorist would think of holding any brief for the violator of the motor vehicle laws," Mr. Roberts points out. "By the same token, he would not want to see the law unfairly interpreted against the man who has not violated the code. This, however, in spite of all the campaign against it is the practice in many places."

"Probably in no other misdemeanor case does the accused start with so much against him. Inevitably, it seems even in the courts that are entirely above all suspicion, the whole theory of justice is inverted and the motorist virtually is considered guilty until he proves himself innocent. Even motorists take this attitude toward the fellow driver who is seen by the roadside in conversation with an officer."

"It is a long road motorist must travel to overcome this prejudice. Motor clubs are tackling the journey because they know that the average car owner is a fair, decent, law-abiding citizen. He has been imposed upon to the extent of many thousands of dollars. He will get fairness when

he knows his rights. Teaching him these rights is one of the most popular forms of service rendered by clubs everywhere."

Miss Dare Must Go to Rear Or Don More Hats. Raleigh, Dec. 7.—Virginia Dave, as represented by the scantily clad and buxom young woman from Carram marble and presented to the state of North Carolina at the annual meeting of the Literary and Historical society last week, is threatened with ejection from her recently acquired position of empress in the state's hall of history.

In giving the sister a critical once-over this morning, Ben D. MacNeil, feature writer for The Raleigh News and Observer and one of the five members of the state historical commission, made known that he would propose to his colleagues on the commission when they meet here Friday that the statue may be removed to the less pretentious state museum.

The lady might be a very interesting role. Mr. MacNeil thought, but there is certainly no history about her. He could not imagine her keeping alive the tradition of Virginia Dare.

The statue pictures a plump young woman whose sole dependence for raiment is a chain of Indian beads about her neck and a fish net conveniently placed to save her from positive scandal.

Rare Bird Captured. (By International News Service.) Siler City, N. C., Dec. 9.—A rare bird was captured near the residence of E. T. Noel. It has distinct colors. Mr. Noel has carried it to the State Museum in Raleigh where it will be stuffed and put on exhibition.

Survey Shows Cotton Acreage For Year 1927 Will Be Reduced

Raleigh Tribune Bureau Sir Walter Hotel

Raleigh, Dec. 9.—If the preliminary survey made among some 200 farmers in the state is typical, and it is believed it is, cotton acreage for 1927 will be decreased in North Carolina nearly 30 per cent., and the acreage planted to other crops will be increased accordingly, it was announced by Dr. E. C. Brooks, president of the State College and chairman of the State central committee working for a decreased cotton acreage through greater diversification of other crops.

These agents brought in approximately 200 blanks that had been signed by farmers in accordance with the proposed plan of the central committee, showing the acreage of various crops that they expected to plant this coming spring. As a result of this preliminary survey, an intensive campaign will be launched in all the forty cotton counties of the state immediately after the holidays, to get every farmer in these counties to adopt uniform programs of crop diversification that will automatically reduce the cotton acreage, and make the farmers economically independent of cotton, regardless of its price.

The blanks brought in to the conference showed that among the 200 farmers who signed them, that tobacco would be increased 10.7 per cent., poultry 10 per cent., hogs about 23 per cent., and cover and feed crops about 27 per cent. The blanks showed further that there would probably be a decrease in the number of dairy cows, and that the reduction in cotton acreage brought about as the result of these other increases, would amount to a little over 30 per cent. This was interpreted by Dr. Brooks to indicate that the signing of these blanks would be efficient in bringing

about the desired acreage reduction. There is little likelihood that Texas will reduce its acreage much next year, according to Dean I. O. Schaumb, because of more land in west Texas being planted in cotton, although indications are that east Texas, will decrease its cotton planting. However, this decrease will be offset by the increase in west Texas. He explained that Texas was able to produce cotton more cheaply than North Carolina, due to soil differences, and difference in farming and harvesting. This makes it of increasing importance for North Carolina farmers to so conduct their farms as to be less and less dependent upon cotton, since they cannot hope to compete with Texas, Dean Schaumb said, and pointed to the fact that Brunswick and Columbus counties have now virtually gone out of cotton production with the result that they were as prosperous or more prosperous than when they raise cotton almost exclusively.

Although many of the county agents from cotton counties were of the opinion that many of the farmers would be very slow in signing blanks of any kind, they were of the belief that if the matter were properly presented and explained to them, that they would respond, and that with the aid of the bankers and supply merchants that satisfactory results can be obtained.

The county agents will get busy holding meetings in the counties, at which State College specialists will assist, immediately after the holidays and the plan evolved and agreed upon will then be carried into every community in every county. In the meantime a special committee of agents from the cotton counties will make a special study with regard to any needed adjustments in the blanks which will be used, and will help other agents in formulating plans for the final reduction campaign.

The Progressive Farmer FREE for a whole year to every subscriber of The Concord Times

BABY MIKE IS ONE OF THE CITY'S ORPHANS. THINK OF HIM WHEN SHOPPING FOR CHRISTMAS. 14 DAYS LEFT!

Rain

Christmas Toys at J. C. Penney Co's.