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Russell Nelson To Die May 5

Convicted By Jury of First Degree Murder Of Watt Smith—Notice Of Appeal Given By Defendant — Prisoner Carried to State Prison.

Pacing a small room 8 feet square and with nothing to look at but four blank walls, Russell Nelson occupies a room on Death Row in the State penitentiary at Raleigh, doomed to die on the 5th of next May, unless given a new trial or the Governor intervenes.

It is learned that Nelson's counsel are entering a plea for a new trial. This would have to be decided by the Supreme Court.

Nelson was convicted of first-degree murder by a jury here last Friday. The day following he was sentenced to death by Judge Felix Alley, who presided at last week's term of criminal court.

This is the first time in 71 years that a person has been convicted of murder in the first degree in Stokes county. Reuben

Wright was hanged on the hill south of Danbury on the 21st of May, 1868.

Since then many murder trials have occurred in the county—some of them embracing circumstances of the most atrocious character. During many years it has become to be almost a proverb that "you can't hang a man in Stokes or Patrick."

Nelson shot and killed Watt Smith near Sandy Ridge in November, 1938. Reuben Tilley was also implicated in the crime. Tilley was acquitted at the trial.

Immediately after the adjournment of court Deputy Sheriffs Everett Wagoner, Cleve Lawson and Will George conveyed him and Julius Miller to the State prison at Raleigh. Miller had been convicted of second degree murder.

BOUQUET FOR JOHN AND HIS DEPUTIES

JUDGE ALLEY PAYS SPLENDID TRIBUTE TO STOKES OFFICERS.

Judge Felix Alley, presiding at Stokes court last week and this week, paid a splendid tribute to Stokes officers of the law Monday when he remarked from the bench: "You have the best sheriff in the State, and a splendid set of deputies."

The occasion was when in the absence of certain witnesses in a case ready for trial, one side made a motion for a continuance. The opposing counsel vigorously objected.

The lawyers were hot in the argument, when Judge Alley stated:

"Let the witnesses be subpoenaed. You have the best sheriff here in North Carolina, and he will get the witnesses in a few hours. I have held many courts, but for efficiency, I have never seen a sheriff more capable, conscientious and courteous than John Taylor, Sheriff of Stokes county."

The judge then added: "And he has one of the best crews of deputies I have ever come in contact with."

His Honor's gratuitous expression was highly appreciated by the Sheriff and his friends, it is not necessary to say.

HONOR ROLL

RECENT PAID-IN - ADVANCE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE DANBURY REPORTER.

- J. W. Overby to March 1, 1940.
- Z. O. Johnson to July 1, 1939.
- W. L. Martin to Aug. 15, 1939.
- J. W. Moser to June 15, 1939.
- Mrs. W. C. Nelson to Nov. 1, 1939.
- Mrs. Fannie Moore to Feb. 1, 1943.
- C. J. Corn to Nov. 5, 1939.
- W. R. Stovall to July 1, 1943.
- Carl Mabe to Feb. 1, 1940.
- W. W. Boyles to May 21, 1939.
- Geo. Fulton to Oct. 26, 1939.
- Mrs. M. M. Hawkes to Oct. 1, 1939.
- J. H. Ward to Feb. 7, 1940.
- H. T. Griffin to Dec. 2, 1939.
- Mrs. Nat Hutcherson to May 1, 1939.
- Z. D. Covington to Jan. 1, 1940.
- O. L. Kiger to April 10, 1940.
- C. M. Rutledge to Oct. 1, 1939.
- A. R. Phillips to Mar. 1, 1943.
- S. L. Reynolds to Aug. 15, 1939.
- J. C. Boles to Feb. 1, 1940.
- J. A. Lawson to Apr. 11, 1941.
- Chas. R. Carroll to Nov. 18, 1942.
- W. N. Reynolds to Sept. 15, 1942.

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NEW CAFE, SERVICE STATION

THOMAS E. SMITH REPLACES BURNED STRUCTURE AT KING—DEATH OF MISS WILMETA SMITH—LADIES AUXILIARY MEETS.

King, April 13.—Work is well underway and going forward at a rapid pace on a new cafe and service station for Thomas E. Smith at the intersection of Depot and School streets. This building is being erected on the same site where Mr. Smith lost a building by fire recently.

A number of King citizens are attending the civil term of Stokes Superior court at Danbury this week.

Miss Wilmeta Smith, aged 54, who lived alone at her home one mile north of King, was found dead in her home last Tuesday about noon by Chester Manring, who resides near her home. Dr. G. E. Stone, the examining physician, said she had been dead probably since Sunday. Apoplexy was said to be the cause of her death. Surviving are three sisters; Mrs. C. K. Boyles of Pinnacle; Mrs. C. C. Clifford, of Winston-Salem and Mrs. Thomas Goff of Tobaccoville. Funeral and interment was at Mount Olive Church Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Albert Sidney Boles, retired railway mail clerk of Washington, D. C., is spending a few days with relatives at Lone Oak Farm, one mile south of town. Mr. Boles was reared here entering the railway mail service more than forty years ago.

Construction on the new home of Austin Garner on Dan River street is being pushed along toward completion at a rapid rate.

Miss Edith Houser, trained nurse of High Point, was a weekend visitor to relatives here.

The following patients underwent tonsil operations here last week: Roger Ferguson of Winston-Salem and Lloyd Smith of King, Route 2.

Improvement is noted in the condition of Charlie Ross Newsum, Jr., who has been on the sick list at his home in North Side for the past several days.

Moir Smith has opened up a new cafe and service station at Timmons Cross Roads and seems to be enjoying a nice business.

The following calls were registered by the stork last week: to Mr. and Mrs. George Barr, a son; to Mr. and Mrs. Omnie Boyles, a daughter, and to Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Burrow, a son.

Miss Daherty Hall of Pfafftown spent a short time Saturday with relatives and friends here.

O. L. Rains has returned from a business trip to Denton.

(Continued on 4th page.)

SENIOR CLASS IS ENTERTAINED

PARTY GIVEN BY MRS. JAMES HAWKINS AT SANDY RIDGE — MISS VERA CARTER ILL—OTHER PERSONALS FROM THE RIDGE.

Sandy Ridge, April 10.—Mrs. James Hawkins delightfully entertained the senior class of Sandy Ridge high school at a party given at the home of her parents, Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Joyce, Wednesday night, April 5, honoring her eighteenth birthday.

Many interesting games were enjoyed. Various contests were conducted. Prizes were awarded the winner.

The guests were then invited into the dining room where a beautiful table was set with a large birthday cake as center attraction. A rose and white color scheme was carried out. Delicious hot dogs, dressed cake and lemonade were served to the following guests: Misses Georgia Maye, Mildred Steele, Doris Vernon, Evelyn Reid Turner, Edith Hennis, Evelyn Joyce, Rosa Rhodes, Louise Jessup, Zilla Priddy, Annie Priddy, Lou Ella Amos, Messrs. Louis Dodson, Hubert Corns, Cleo Lemons, Thurman Lawson, Curtis Stevens, K. E. Brown, D. C. Hutcherson, Gladys Joyce, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Darr and daughter, Joan, Mr. and Mrs. James Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. Ulric Handy, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Joyce, Mrs. Gilbert Joyce, Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Joyce and Mrs. Hilary Chapman.

Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Darr and daughter, Joan, spent the Easter holidays with relatives near Lexington.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Dodson of Winston-Salem spent the Easter holidays with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. A. Dodson.

Miss Abbie Hawkins has accepted a position with Walker and Elliott, plumbers of Madison.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Dodson of Winston-Salem, Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Dodson of Dodgetown, and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Dodson and family of Madison, Route 1, were the dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. A. Dodson Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Hilary Chapman visited Mr. and Mrs. Louise Joyce of Madison Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Dodson spent the holidays in Chatham, Va., with friends.

Miss Margaret Vernon has returned home after having spent the winter in Ruffin with Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Mason.

Mrs. G. W. Hawkins spent the holidays with her daughter, Mrs. J. L. Spencer of Walnut Cove, Route 1.

CCC CAMP GETS NEW MEN

OLD CROWD LEAVES AND IS REPLACED BY FRESH BOYS FROM DIFFERENT STATES—STOKES LADS AMONG THE LATE ARRIVALS.

Last week more than 100 new boys from different States of the Union replaced the discharged crowd of 80-odd who had finished their term of service and were leaving.

Among the new arrivals were the following Stokes county boys: Bullin, Fletcher Franklin, Madison, Route 1.

Cardwell, Clay Matchiel, Westfield, Route 1.

Dillon, Warren G. Sandy Ridge, Route 1.

Dodson, Joel Webb, Sandy Ridge, Route 1.

Duggins, Reuben Wilson, Madison, Route 1.

Floyd, John Buchanan, Walnut Cove.

Hall, Hassell Taylor, Sandy Ridge, Route 1.

Hall, James William, Westfield, Route 1.

Hall, John Lyman, Danbury.

Hall, Hardy, Walnut Cove, Route 2.

Joyce, Clifton Fred, Walnut Cove, Route 1.

Mabe, Paul Harding, Walnut Cove.

Martin, Ralph Shreve, Walnut Cove, Route 1.

Neal, George Malcom, Walnut Cove.

Neal, Raymond Franklin, Walnut Cove.

Schrist, David, Westfield, Route 1.

The following colored boys of Stokes county were sent to colored camps in other counties:

Martin, Raleigh Matthew, Belews Creek, Route 2.

Smith, Johnson, Belews Creek, Route 2.

Robertson, Curfew, Belews Creek, Route 2.

Fulp, Wilbert, Walnut Cove, Route 2.

Rev. Frank Swanson, Baptist minister, and Cashier I. M. Gordon of the Bank of Pilot Mountain, were witnesses in a suit at court here Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Chapman and Waldo Hawkins spent the holidays with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Chapman of Walnut Cove.

Quite a few people from this section attended the sunrise service in Winston-Salem Sunday A. M.

Miss Vera Carter is confined to her bed with flu.

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Dodson visited Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Hawkins Saturday night.

Little L. B. Hawkins has been confined to his home with bronchitis.

CIVIL COURT SUITS THIS WEEK

A NUMBER OF ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TRIED — BOOTH VS. TEAGUE NOW PENDING—FINISH OF CRIMINAL SUITS LAST WEEK.

Criminal court adjourned Saturday noon. This week civil actions are being tried, several of which have gone off the docket. As the Reporter goes to press, Booth vs. Teague is being tried. The following civil suits have thus far been tried:

Dorothy Simmons Watkins vs. Blair Watkins. Divorce granted.

A. L. Martin vs. Maggie Brim, action for debt, judgment for plaintiff of \$128.19 and interest and cost—total \$190.42.

Carroll vs. Eaton, Eaton vs. Scott, substitute trustee, and Eaton vs. Carroll, 3 cases consolidated. Compromised. Judgment, Eaton to pay costs. Carroll to pay \$600.00.

Owen vs. Wood, action for debt, judgment for plaintiff \$50 and costs.

Sands vs. Burge, action to set aside deed. Judgment for defendant.

W. Jack Wall vs. Viola Burrow Wall, divorce granted.

Beasley vs. Slate, action under terms of Workmen's Compensation Act. Judgment, \$203.89 and costs, and hospital fee, taxed on defendant.

Booth vs. Teague, trial pending.

CRIMINAL COURT

The following criminal cases not reported in the last issue of the Reporter were tried up to noon Saturday:

STATE AGAINST

Russell Nelson, murder. Found guilty. Judgment, prisoner sentenced to death by lethal gas on May 5, 1939, between 9 A. M. and 3 P. M.

John Ezra Joyce, B. and E., plea charged to forcible trespass, pleaded guilty, 2 months on roads.

Sam Dearmin, possession, pleaded not guilty, found guilty, cost and suspended sentence.

John Bouldin, possession, judgment cost.

Julius Miller, murder, guilty, 15 years in State prison.

John Brown, assault, pleaded guilty, \$25 and cost and suspended sentence.

Winnie Sands, assault and larceny, pleaded guilty of forcible trespass, 18 months on roads.

Anderson Martin, O. C. I., guilty, 90 days on roads.

Odell Boles and Dee Boles, larceny, both pleaded guilty, as to Odell, 30 days on roads after expiration of former sentence. As to Dee, cost.

Ed E. Smith, O. C. I., pleaded guilty, \$50 and cost and give up license.

John Lynch, O. C. I., \$50 and cost.

Tom Willard, O. C. I., \$50 and cost.

Nome Hickman, O. C. I., \$50 and cost.

Wallace Crump, A. D. W., \$25 and cost.

Taylor Anderson, O. C. I., \$50 and cost.

Bimmer Sutphin, larceny, 12 months on roads.

Winfred Edwards, O. C. I., 3 months on roads.

Claude Flynn, O. C. I., suspended sentence.

Emmett Hooker, possession, 4 months on roads.