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THE TRI-CITY DAILY GAZETTE

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Carl C. Countryman at Trial is Found "Not Guilty" on First Larceny Charge

Acquitted on Charge of Larceny Where He Had Given Check to Boul- levard Bank to Pay Note CHECK WAS NOT PAID

Wentworth, May 18.—A verdict of not guilty was rendered by the jury in the Countryman case today. Carl C. Countryman was placed on trial in Superior Court here yesterday. The indictment charged him with larceny. The specific act was, that he had borrowed \$425.00 from the Boulevard Bank & Trust Co., giving his note for the amount and placing as collateral a five hundred dollar Liberty bond. The note became due on or about April 2nd 1921 and Carl C. Countryman stepped into the bank to pay the note, giving cashier H. C. Pace his personal check on the American Trust Co. of Charlotte for the amount of the note. Mr. Pace accepted the check and handed Countryman his note and liberty bond. Countryman later stopped payment on the check and of course the bank was out the \$425.00.

Messrs H. C. Pace and P. H. Gwynn were the only two state witnesses and they testified to the facts as stated above. Besides the above facts, Mr. Gwynn read into the records a letter he had received from Countryman. After the state had introduced its testimony, the defense rested without putting Countryman or any other witness on the stand. The attorneys had finished their arguments to the jury when Judge Shaw adjourned court until 9:30 Friday morning. The letter referred to above reads:

Charlotte, N. C. Aug. 7, 1921
Mr. P. H. Gwynn, Jr.
Leaksville, N. C.

Dear Sir—"Behold how great a fire a little matter kindleth." Two things happened Saturday that changed my course entirely. Mr. Pace said when he handed me my bonds that "This is not good business but I guess it is all right." I did not think at first what he meant but it came to me that he suggested that my check would not be made good—food for thought. Then I learned that you had not done as you agreed to do regarding my appearance. That opened a long line of reflection. I recalled how you welcomed me when I came to Stoneville and how happy I was to find a neighbor of your apparent type, that you were going to use me at your school soon and I supposed help me to the front, how you straightway passed along and it was with difficulty and constant urging that I got a date and that when it was finally arranged it was so poorly managed that I did not pay my expenses. I recalled how you were going to use your influence with Bob Stone to induce him to cease fighting my plan for a new school house in a new location, how you advised me that when Bob Stone and Jim Glenn agreed on a matter it was pretty hard to beat them, that when I did beat them you denied me the credit and said that was a matter of course I recalled how defeated my newspaper project a year ago by insisting on an alliance with Murray how when I did start you withheld the support that would have insured the success of the project. If you and Mr. Pace, who waited on your judgment had come across the Signal would be now alive and flourishing and I would be in line for the Post-office. You were like adamant to all my pleas. Again you offered to get out of the schools and let me have your place. Then you endorsed another man. The more I considered these things, the more they rankled.

Now this \$425.00 was not my debt. It was the debt of the concern. The holders of stock were and are liable for it but my collateral was held for it. I could compel them thru

MISS EVELYN GENTRY WENTWORTH, N. C. CORRESPONDENT

Mrs. N. R. Reid and Mrs. Bethel Withers most delightfully entertained the Wednesday afternoon Bridge Club at Leaksville on Wednesday afternoon, honoring Miss Kathleen Walker who is leaving Leaksville soon to make her home in Greensboro, and Miss Anne Taylor who is also leaving this week for an extended visit to her brother in New York. The guests were entertained at the Reid Hotel, in its quaint old colonial parlor made more lovely with red roses and fragrant syringa in artistic baskets and bowls. Three tables were arranged for bridge and when the cards were laid aside, it was found that Mrs. A. E. Millner held highest score and she was presented with a set of tallies, while the honoree, boxes of correspondence cards were given.

Iced tea and sandwiches were served followed by strawberry ice cream and angel food cake.

Those enjoying this party were: Misses Kathleen Walker and Anne Taylor, Mesdames Lucile Reid, Amos A. E. Millner, W. D. Carter, Ava Scott, Chas. Taylor, Lawson Ivie, W. M. Millner, Godfrey, Hunter K. Penh, D. L. Withers, Watkins and Miss Dora DeShazo.

CUNARD LINE WILL COMPLY 3 MILE LAW

(By Associated Press)
New York, May 18.—If Supreme court edict preventing trans-Atlantic vessels from carrying liquor within the American three mile limit stands the Cunard Anchor Line will adhere strictly to the law, Sir Ashley Spark general agent for the United States announced upon his return from a conference of officials of the line.

NORTH CAROLINA WILL STOP WHIPPING PRISONERS

Raleigh, May 18.—The North Carolina state prison board today ordered drastic changes in the methods of discipline for prisoners under the states penal system in fulfilling one phrase of Governor Morrisons promised "action" in a prison betterment undertaking what it did.

Abolished corporal punishment and the dark cell. Provided for the reclassification of all prisoners so as to give greater privilege to those of good conduct.

Adopted rules for the maintenance of discipline almost identical with those of the federal governments penal system.

Recommended to the governor the placing of all prisoners now serving terms under indeterminate sentence thereby insuring appreciable cuts in the sentences of prisoners who make good prison records.

suit to pay me but here was long litigation with absolutely no one to handle the case for me—not a single friend that I could trust. I awoke to the fact that the proper instrument was in my hands. I acted. I stopped the whole machinery to provide for same. Now I am enclosing a note for the amount properly signed by the Signal Publishing Co., under my legitimate powers. I contend that this note is collectable in full and that this would render null and void criminal action that you might be induced to start in the matter. Harry Fagge has the books in his possession and I think if you will confer with him and with Squire Shelton that the matter can be arranged that you will not be the loser. W. N. U. has five boxes of type metal ready to be shipped to them on which there is a rebate of \$25.00 to the company. I hope this can be amicably adjusted on the above lines and that there may be no fight "to the bitter end."

Yours,
Carl C. Countryman.

MRS WARREN COMES CLEAR OF CHARGES FILED BY MRS. STONE

After most interesting trial Mrs. Margaret O. Warren is acquitted of taking pocketbook

MADE EXCELLENT WITNESS ON STAND

Wentworth, May 18.—Mrs. Margaret O. Warren of Reidsville a young married woman, mother of a three year old child was acquitted Thursday on a larceny charge lodged against her by Mrs. R. L. Stone, who until about the middle of January conducted a store in Reidsville, and while packing her goods getting ready to close her business she missed her pocket book containing about \$160 a watch, silver pencil, and other things. She swore she had placed the pocket book on a shelf in her store on the morning of January 17 that herself and son Otis and sister-in-law Mrs. Claybrook were the only persons in the store when Mrs. Warren came in with her little boy, except a colored woman who came in to pay a bill and then left, and another woman who asked for spring coats and departed.

The pocket book was later found at the lace counter in the 5 and 10 cent store, and the watch case was found in Mr. Fels store in the ladies room. State witnesses testified to having seen Mrs. Warren in each of these stores on the afternoon the day in question.

Mrs. Warren testifying for herself said she came uptown that afternoon with her little boy, she went to a barber shop to have the boys hair cut went into Mrs. Stones store to show her the boy before Mrs. Stone left town, looked at some things in the store she spoke to Mrs. Stone saw Otis Stone and Mrs. Claybrook packing boxes she stood near the shelf where Mrs. Stone said she placed her pocket book then as she was going out she met a woman coming into the store. She then went into a Candy kitchen and bought a package of popcorn for the boy. From there she went to the 5 and 10 cent store looked at some lace, made some purchases, went from there to Fels store and going up stairs went into the ladies toilet, came out of there and called a lady clerk and made some purchases in the toy department. left there and went again to the 5 and ten cent store, there she left some packages saying she would call for them later. Mrs. Warren then went to her mothers and on leaving her mothers she met Mrs. Stone who asked her if she had taken her pocket book by mistake, she answered No, and if you think Mrs. Stone that I have your pocket book you can search me.

Later she said she was met by Mrs. Stone and Mr. Gohagen the latter asking her if she had been in the 5 and 10 cent store and at the lace counter. She answered yes. Then he said you are the one who took Mrs. Stone's pocket book. This she denied. Then with a friend she went to police headquarters and told her story to Chief Jackson. That night she was placed under arrest.

Mrs. Warren went on the stand and made a most excellent witness, her attorney, Mr. Glidewell afterwards saying that in his 22 years of practice he had never seen her equal. She told her whole story without a single suggestion from her attorney and stuck consistently to it through a severe cross examination by the able Solicitor Mr. Graves.

Mrs. Warren and her husband both work in the cigarette factory with the foreman and several others testifying as character witnesses. Also Mr. and Mrs. Ware in whose house the Warrens live. Mr. Ware is a preacher and both he and Mrs. Ware spoke highly of Mrs. Warren. Mr. Glidewell told the jury that "if ever honesty was written on a face, it was on the face of Mrs. Warren."

Messrs Glidewell and Solicitor Graves made very able addresses to the jury. Glidewell keeping the jury's attention on the defendant and her straightforward story on the stand. Her good reputation testified to by good citizens, among them Preacher Ware and Mrs. Ware. He admitted that circumstantial evidence had woven a strong case against her, but she had even went further in relating her own narrative of the af-

CHINESE BANDITS TO EXECUTE U. S. AND BRITISH CAPTIVES

Unless Chinese army is withdrawn American and British captives will be executed on Tuesday morning

BANDIT ATTACK OTHER TOWN TAKES CAPTIVES

(By Associated Press)
Shanghai, May 18.—Chinese bandits last night attacked Tawenkow, 90 miles north of Incheng and seized a number of captives according to a report received here.

The American and British captives of the Shantung bandits will be shot next Tuesday if the Chinese troops are not withdrawn according to final ultimatum of the brigands brought from their mountain by Marcel Oliver Berube a Frenchman and one of the prisoners who was released for that purpose.

HIGH POINT FIRE IN GIANT FURNITURE FACTORY

High Point, May 18.—The plant of the Giant Furniture Company in High Point was visited by a disastrous fire Thursday afternoon, and before the flames were extinguished all the great buildings devoted to warehouse, storage and the finishing department lay in ashes or smouldering ruins. The loss on stock is estimated at \$150,000. While no estimate of the value of the building destroyed could be obtained it is very probable that the total loss including stock and building will not be very far from \$200,000. It was stated last night that the loss in large measures is covered by insurance and it was further stated that the company probably will rebuild at once. About 175 workmen are thrown out of employment.

EXCHANGE VICTORY NOTES

Secretary Mellon announces that the subscription books for exchanges of the 4 3-4 Victory Notes for the new 4 3-4 Treasury Notes, Series B 1927 closed at the close of business today Wednesday May 16 1923. Exchange subscriptions actually in the United States mail in direct transit to a Federal Reserve Bank & the Treasury Department at the time the books close will be regarded as having been filed before the closing of the books.

A PUBLICATION UNION FOR STATE UNIVERSITY

Chapel Hill, May 18.—The student of the University have voted to create a body known as the Publications Union which acting through a board of five members will supervise the management of the three main students publications the Tar Heel, the Carolina Magazine and the Yackety Yack. The scheme for a "blanket fee" to be paid by each student for which he will receive all three publications at a cost of not more than one half of what he has to pay at present subscription price.

The vote was about 7 to 1 in favor of the plan. For a long time the student publications have constituted a troublesome problem here.

STATE COLLEGE ALUMNI

Alumni home coming day at the State College promises to be one of the big features of the commencement according to Tal Stafford alumni secretary, who stated yesterday that in addition a large percentage of the members of the seven classes due this year for reunions puite a number of other Tech alumni would journey back to West Raleigh for the finals.

fair in that she had been at the 5 and ten cent store twice on that day.

Mr. Graves said that the state of North Carolina was not blood-thirsty it did not want to tear this mother away from her child. I only wanted to learn the truth and deal with its citizenship justly. That the law made no distinction. Every man admired a fair woman, and the pure mother above all. He was there to do his duty. The jury was sworn to do its duty. Failing in this "we would be less than men."

More Than Seventy People Meet Horrible Death in a South Carolina School Fire

MISS RUTH FARRELL
SOCIETY EDITOR
RESIDENCE PHONE 36
GAZETTE PHONE No. 1

Miss Catherine Cardwell in spending the week end in Greensboro.

Dr. Wells, who is carrying on a revival meeting at the Spray Methodist church gave the Student body of the High School a very interesting talk this morning on the importance of small things.

Mrs. S. M. Harris, Mrs. R. E. Price and daughter Miss Kathleen Price spent Thursday in Greensboro shopping.

The public is cordially invited to attend the recital tonight at the High School Auditorium given by Misses Bessie Clarke and Ruth Farrell.

Mr. Sam Wilson, Mr. M. G. Wilson, and Mr. G. C. Gammon were in Wentworth Friday on business.

Misses Barnes and Millner entertained a number of young people at a picnic Thursday evening at the Mebane Club House in honor of Miss Grace Perry. The evening was spent in playing games.

Misses Mary Sue Farrell and Harriett Dill of Greensboro College are expected this afternoon to spend some time with Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Farrell on Boone Road.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Wall attended the funeral of Mr. George Martin in Madison yesterday.

Miss Lydia Southerland and Mr. Harry Walker were in Greensboro to attend the show "The Ne'er Do Well," last evening.

Miss Katherine Marshall entertains this afternoon in honor of Miss Georgia Riddle who is visiting her.

BODY SCOUT LEADER DEAD

(By Associated Press)
Los Angeles, Calif., May 18.—Arthur Letts, vice president of the National Council of the Boy Scouts, died after a short illness. He was 61 years old.

ORVILLE WARING DEAD

(By Associated Press)
Plainfield, N. J., May 18.—Orville Waring one of the original incorporators of the Standard Oil Company died at his home here today. He was 84 years old.

MRS ASHBURY ELECTED PRES.

(By Associated Press)
Rome, May 18.—Mrs. Corbett Ashbury of England was elected president of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance by practically a unanimous vote.

Somebody intentionally or unintentionally fired a shot last night that sent a bullet through a window in the residence of J. B. Fagge on Monroe Street.

TO ALL CLUB MEMBERS

* We are receiving numerous *
* complaints from people who *
* state that they have subscribed *
* for the Gazette to various club *
* members, but have not as yet *
* received their paper. Club Mem- *
* bers should report their collec- *
* tions at least twice a week and *
* avoid all these complaints. You *
* gain nothing at all by holding *
* your subscription collections as, *
* you can hold your ballots until *
* the last minute before the final *
* close of the campaign if you *
* so desire. The above mentioned *
* complaints are becoming so num- *
* erous that they are an additional *
* burden to the office and the *
* campaign department will be *
* very appreciative if you will co- *
* operate with us in such a way as *
* will eliminate all these com- *
* plaints—in such a way as will *
* give the subscriber satisfaction. *
* * * * *

Oil Lamp on Stage Tips Over--Causes Panic-- Stairway Falls Crush- ing Many to Death

MOST TERRIBLE SCENES

(By Associated Press)
Camden, S. C. May 18.—Seventy-one persons are known to be dead and the condition of two others is doubtful as a result of a school house fire at Cleveland, eight miles from here last night, according to county and local officials. The collapse of a narrow wooden stairway leading from the second floor where an entertainment incident to school closing was in progress caused many deaths many being crushed in the debris. Others cut off from escape were burned to death while some jumped from the windows. The fire was caused by the overturning of an oil lamp on the stage of a jammed room and a panic followed.

The two story frame building burned rapidly and before outside help arrived nothing remained but to collect the read and give medical care to the injured. The death list reads like a roster of the families of the community. Family after family being virtually wiped out.

The exact number of injured could not be ascertained attention being given to the care of the injured and identification of the dead. Five injured are in a hospital here. Eye witnesses to the horror still were so shaken few could talk of it. Mothers with babies in their arms were trampled under foot and others hurled their children to safety in eagerly waiting arms of persons who had escaped and then fell back into the flames giving their lives that their children might live. Many persons were pinned beneath fallen timbers and some were impeded on the debris when the stair way fell. Men who made their way out of the building returned when they saw the situation and endeavored to rescue the imperilled. Some of these died in the flames. Death list at 73 with one missing.

GAZETTE'S PRIZE AUTOS WILL BE EXHIBITED ON STREETS AT LATER DATE

Owing to the delay in transit of two of the Gazette's Salesmanship Club prize automobiles it will be necessary to postpone the date of the street parade and exhibit of the three prize cars until the first of next week—probably Tuesday or Wednesday.

Little Carolina Wilson daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Wilson of Leaksville received a post card from Mrs. Pitcher yesterday postmarked in Italy. The card said, "Please don't forget me, for I shall always remember you."

FRENCH MILITARY COURT SENTENCES ARE CONFIRMED

(By Associated Press)
Dusseldorf, May 18.—The sentences imposed upon Dr. Krupp Von Bohlen and other Krupp directors for instigating opposition to the French at the Krupp plant shooting March 31st was confirmed by the court of revision. The convicted men will be transferred to prisons in France while their counsel prepare an appeal.

SQVIET RUSSIA HOLDS SWISS GOVT RESPONSIBLE

(By Associated Press)
Moscow May 18.—The Russian Soviet Government sent a note to the Swiss Government holding that government responsible for the recent assassination at Lausanne of M. Nervinsky, Soviet representative there, through the alleged negligence of Swiss officials to guard him.