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## "You Poisoned Me," Dead Wife's Spirit Exclaims in the Night, Elmore Threatt, Col., Claims

### MUCH EXCITEMENT

North Monroe Colored Population Gather Nightly To Hear Woman's Spirit Talk

ELMORE WARNED TO LEAVE WITHIN NEXT NINETY DAYS

When Spirit Speaks, Threatt Replies: "No, I Didn't; I Was Out 'Possum Hunting When You Died"

"Elmore, Elmore," you poisoned me," are the heart-rending words that Elmore Threatt, who lives in the colored section of North Monroe, is said to be hearing every night and at intervals during the day. They are being spoken by his wife, it is said, who died about 25 years ago from the effects of poison.

Elmore is about 80 years of age and his mind appears to be in as good condition as it has ever been, but according to his own statement the voice of his dead wife is continually ringing in his ears. "Elmore, Elmore, you poisoned me," To this Elmore replies, "I didn't poison you and you know I didn't, caze I wuz 'possum huntin' when you got sick." But the voice from the dead comes back with even greater force and certainty. "Elmore, you did poison me!" And Elmore doesn't know what to do, for in addition to the words of his wife, he states that Jesus himself has spoken to him and declared that Elmore did kill his wife and that he will be given just 90 days in which to get away from these regions, but Elmore says he is going to stay and "tough it out."

When asked if he always treated his wife kindly while she was alive, Elmore replied: "Yessur, I treated her all right—but, well, I did give her a floggin' once in a while."

Those Oklahoma and Canadian people who have witnessed the ignition of overcoats, fur garments, bedding, wearing apparel, etc., with their own eyes have nothing on the colored population of North Monroe, for the streets in front of Threatt's house are crowded every night with automobiles belonging to folks who have come to hear the voice from the tomb exclaim, "Elmore, Elmore, you poisoned me." Not only the colored population, but a great many white people are being attracted by the claims of Elmore and his colored friends who hear the mysterious voice.

But there is at least one colored person who doesn't intend to listen to that accusation, "Elmore, Elmore, you poisoned me." Her name is Caroline McDowell and she refuses to go anywhere about the headquarters of spiritland.

Elmore says his dead wife sleeps a part of the time and that her spirit cannot be called up until she awakes. It is stated that a number of his friends gathered a few nights ago to keep the troubled brother company and to hear the strange voice of his deceased wife. They were told by Threatt that she was asleep and could not speak at that time, but just as the words fell from Elmore's mouth, the voice spoke up: "No, I am not asleep," and the whole crowd was about ready to join the bird gang.

The colored ministers are lending their sympathy and help to the troubled soul. Prayer meeting was held at the home of Elmore last night and it is stated that the preacher spent a part of his time under the house listening for that strange voice, "Elmore, Elmore, you poisoned me."

### St. Patrick's Day

(Bessie B. Phifer)

Do you know why the Irish are "Wearing of the Green" today? They are celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

The Patron Saint of Ireland was born, it is said, in March, so near midnight on the 8th that some of his mother's friends claim it was really after midnight and therefore it was the 9th.

Consequently one faction celebrated with feasting and mirth on the eighth and the other faction paraded on the ninth. At least, the elders of the parish were called together and told by Father Mulcahey that "no baby could have two birthdays unless they were twins, and as Patrick was only one, I should advise you to add the two dates together and celebrate on the seventeenth." They took his advice and have held their celebration on the seventeenth ever since.

Patrick was not born in Ireland—in fact some claim England for his birthplace and some France. He was taken to Ireland when sixteen years of age and became a statesman and later a priest.

In this wild and hilly country there were many snakes, and to Patrick was given the credit of getting rid of them.

He lived to be very old—some authorities claim eighty years and others one hundred and twenty.

**St. Patrick**

St. Patrick went to Ireland—Or so I've learned folks say; There were just heaps of serpents there.

But he scared 'em all awav, And folks were all so grateful, As might be clearly seen, They keep his day by wearing A bit of Irish Green.

France must remember that the prayer reads: "Forgive us our debts—as we forgive our debtors."

### TODD CHILDREN, "KEEPING HOUSE," ARE GOOD STUDENTS

Miss Flora Todd, Age 15, Keeps House While Two Younger Brothers Cop Honors at School

Three children of Mr. and Mrs. Lee W. Todd, who live several miles from Monroe, are "keeping house" in a room in the Central hotel building in order to attend the Monroe school. The eldest, Miss Flora Todd, age 15, keeps house, cooks their meals and looks after her two brothers, Lee Todd, Jr., age 13, and Edward Todd, aged 9. They are making a wonderful record as students, too. Last month the Strand Theatre offered a free pass to the student making the highest mark in each of the fourteen or fifteen grades. Lee, Jr., won two tickets, one for making an average of 96 in the ninth grade and another for receiving the highest vote in the boys' debating society for being the best all around student; while his younger brother, who is in the fourth grade, won the pass in his room with an average of 97.

Lee, one of his teachers said, wanted to drop the study of Latin because he didn't make a grade higher than 95 on it last month. The three children come to school every morning "as neat as pins," one of their teachers said. Last year their father secured a job in Monroe so that he could give his children the advantage of a good school, but this past fall, failing to find work, rented a room for them in the Central hotel building.

### BOOM JOHN SIKES FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Movement Started to Land Monroe Man on the Ticket For Second Post of Honor in 1924.

R. A. MORROW MAY RUN FOR THE STATE SENATE

Prominent Local Citizen Would Be An Ornamental As Well As Useful Citizen, Says Correspondent

While Raleigh scribes are speculating as to the probable gubernatorial candidates to succeed Governor Morrison, local democrats are fostering a movement to place the name of John C. Sikes, one of Monroe's leading attorneys, on the next state ticket for lieutenant governor, says the Monroe correspondent in the Charlotte Observer.

Since custom, tradition and a gentleman's agreement give the west the second post of honor on the ticket neckwear, backers of the Monroe man are confident of making a winning campaign. Mr. Sikes, when questioned, scoffed at the idea of making the race, but his friends are certain he will cast his hat in the ring when he realizes his great political strength.

The Monroe attorney is by far the most popular man in the seventh congressional district. Several terms in the state senate and the lower house have also earned for him a large following all over the state, and should he announce his candidacy he will have a number of workers in nearly every one of the hundred North Carolina counties, his friends say.

Another political item of state-wide interest developed here yesterday when it was learned that R. A. Morrow for many years a member of the state democratic executive committee, was seriously considering running for the state senate this summer.

Although an active wheelhorse in the party ranks ever since the days of populism, Mr. Morrow has never sought an office, and it was only through the importunities of his many friends in the county that he has even considered entering the primary. Mr. Morrow, one of his friends said yesterday, would be an ornamental as well as a valuable member of the next general assembly.

A true Chesterfieldian, he has on many occasions been mistaken for Senator Lee S. Overman, so marked is his resemblance to the junior United States senator from this state.

### Solomon Didn't Know How to Build Roads

Mr. M. C. Austin of New Salem township says The Journal made a mistake Tuesday by calling for a Solomon to tell Mr. McRae and Mr. Dies how to get out of their road troubles. He doesn't think Solomon knew anything about building 4 per cent graded roads.

Mr. Austin is of the opinion that the proper thing to do is to lay off roads where everybody wants them and then build them to suit everybody and that there is no other way to please everybody. "Mr. Ezzell," he continued, "has promised to survey a road somewhere in the county just like everybody wants it surveyed, and when he gets the job completed he is going to be the most popular man in the county."

"When I want a horse shod," said Mr. Austin, "I always go to a blacksmith. When I want a house built I go to a carpenter and when I decide I am sick I always send for a doctor instead of a lawyer." The application he made to this illustration is that a man who is equipped and trained for road-building ought to be in position to do a better job for the same money than an inexperienced, unequipped man could do.

## W. B. Love, R. W. Lemmond, John C. Sikes and Judge W. O. Lemmond Sing the Glories of Old Goose Creek

This Famous Section of Union County Was Scene of First Circus; Gold Discovered There; Goose Creek Notables, One of Them Being Orderly to late General Funston

By Mrs. Knox Wolfe-Hargrett

The announcement that the Men's Bible Class of Central Methodist church was to have a debate, to be participated in by old Goose Creek natives, stirred to the dregs a portion of Mecklenburg, and Union counties. It came off late Tuesday night, and was held in the basement, where this club holds their Sunday devotions. The query "Which Section of Goose Creek produced the greatest men" was contended by perhaps the most brilliant debaters, in the most pleasing way, to be found throughout the length and breadth of the state. Their force of striking and driving home each sarcastic utterance of an opponent was simply unsurpassed. Each side held up to view the "everlasting hills, the numerous health giving streams, with their poetical sounding names—Duck Creek, Grassy Creek, Goose Creek, Crooked Creek, and Chinkapin, with their health restoring qualities, their lights, and shades, till verily each forgot that the good earth had any other universe fitted to be the home of humanity, and they contended that these two sections contained, with their vivid pictures, the western hemisphere. The affirmative was upheld by Messrs. John C. Sikes, (who by the way was introduced as "John the Baptist," being a Baptist, by Mr. Jim Fowler), and Walter Love. The negative side was argued by Messrs. R. W. and W. O. Lemmond.

Love Lead Off

Mr. Love led off, and laughter and applause greeted him continuously. One fine hit, in-speaking of the brilliant career of one of the east's successful sons and one whom the pride of his old friends had crowned with love and admiration, was that of Dr. Walter Sikes, the president of Coker College, S. C., that he had "made good notwithstanding his kinfolks—(my colleague)." Mr. Love also said that the waters of the various creeks running through the eastern portion, had caused the intellectual, moral and healthy condition of its men, as these waters had offered daily baths to the inhabitants, and had become pure from running through the hills and valleys of this God given portion of Union. Where upon Mr. W. O. Lemmond reminded him later on that they of the west had bathed in these life giving waters before they reached the east, on the way to Rocky River. (This took the roof off.)

Mr. J. C. Sikes, grew eloquent. He is our modern Cicero, and after naming many great characters from the past, he rose in the power of his masterful assertions, and almost on his knees, he exclaimed that "John Maynor had made affidavit, that George Washington and Martha, too, were born and raised in the eastern section of Goose Creek, and that Dunham Bundy had said that John Maynor's character was good. (Thunderous applause and laughter.)

First Circus in Goose Creek

Mr. Rubie Lemmond threw to the four winds some of the statements of his opponents that many illustrious sons had come from the east; not so, they were born in the west, but the Concord road had been moved. (Great applause.) He stated also that the first John Robinson circus ever held in the county, was in the western side, and he only had a monkey and a chain, but a big crowd, and that all of Plummer Stewart's, and Johnson McCall's ancestors attended it, and had a great time. (Cheers and laughter.) When liberty bonds were being subscribed to, he found the greatest patriot in the county on the western side, in the person of Mr. Hosea Helms. He had raised a big family. It was June, and he had not plowed a furrow, as he had been sick, and his wife sick, also his mother-in-law, who was ninety years old, was in bed sick, but he gave \$100. He needed this money at home, but wanted to help Uncle Sam. The first factory, a silk, or fullen mill, that was ever in this county, was established by Archibald Walker, 1801, on the west side of the Concord road. It was

### Royal Arch Masons Elect Officers

At the Tuesday night meeting of the Monroe Chapter of Royal Arch Masons the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: R. W. Lemmond, Excellent high priest; Blair Bivens, king; G. M. Beasley, scribe; E. G. Faust, captain of the host; Lee Griffin, principal sejourner; C. D. Royal Arch captain; Henry Crow, master of first V; J. C. Sikes, master of second V; W. S. Ashcraft, master of third V; P. H. Johnson, treasurer; J. W. Love, recorder and W. C. Wolfe, sentinel.

### Mr. Love Opens His Storage Garage

Mr. T. L. Love opened his storage garage to the public today. The building is located on the old Monroe street on West Jefferson street one block from the public square. It is 50 x 90 feet in size and affords room for about 100 cars. Mr. Love states that he will keep open day and night in order that people who store their cars may get them any time. The building is well arranged and securely constructed with all necessary conveniences. Mr. Love thinks he will probably add a repair department in the near future.

## ESQ. MCWHORTER GOES TO AID OF MR. HAMMER

Mails Affidavit to Congressman in Support of His Claim That Jackson Was Born in This State

HIS GRANDFATHER WAS THE PLAYMATE OF OLD HICKORY

At One Time, Family Tradition Says, George McWhorter and Jackson Were Chased By the British

Esq. Henry McWhorter, "war horse" of Jackson township, who earned state-wide fame ten or twelve years ago when he refused to accept a check for his services as stationery clerk in the lower house of the general assembly because he "hadn't earned it," has gone to the rescue of Congressman W. C. Hammer in his controversy with Congressman Stevenson over the birth place of Andrew Jackson.

An affidavit, duly signed and sworn to before a notary public, was dispatched yesterday to the seventh district congressman, in which the Squire, whose grandfather played with Andrew Jackson, sets forth family tradition that roots the claim of South Carolina for the honor of being the birth-place of "Old Hickory." The affidavit reads, as follows:

"Henry McWhorter, being duly sworn, says: That affiant is sixty-eight, nearly sixty-nine years old, and has lived all his life on the paternal estate lands of the McWhorter family that have been in the McWhorter family since the year 1781, which is situated about five miles from the site of the George McCamie house, hereinafter referred to;

"That the great-grandmother of the affiant, Mrs. Elizabeth McWhorter, wife of George McWhorter, senior, and mother of George McWhorter, the younger, was, according to the tradition, was at the George McCamie home at the time of the birth of President Andrew Jackson and was mid-wife at his birth; that she told her descendants that the place of the birth of the President was the George McCamie house, which is on the North Carolina side of the line; that the location of the line between North and South Carolina was not fixed definitely until the year 1813; at that time the line was surveyed and the site of the George McCamie house, which was the site of Andrew Jackson's birth, was found to be in North Carolina. It is about four hundred yards on the North Carolina side;

"That the grandfather of the affiant, who was named George McWhorter, Jr., was according to the well-known tradition in the McWhorter family, was a playmate of Andrew Jackson, and went to school with him near Charlotte; that, according to tradition brought down in the McWhorter family, the British at one time got after George McWhorter, Jr., and Andrew Jackson; that George escaped, but Andrew was captured and taken by the British to Charlestown, where he was incarcerated in prison. Andrew wandered back home at the conclusion of the war;

"That George McWhorter, Jr., according to the tradition in the McWhorter family, went with his mother, Elizabeth McWhorter, to the George McCamie house the next day after Andrew was born in order to see the baby. Andrew Jackson, young McWhorter was at that time five years of age."

### Fraudulent Employment Scheme Disclosed

Washington, D. C., March 16.—Large numbers of persons have been made victims of fraudulent advertising for labor in connection with the Muscle Shoals project near Florence, Ala., it is said in a statement issued today by the United States Civil Service Commission.

It is stated by the commission that there has been brought to its attention recent advertising throughout the country in which persons out of work have been promised positions at the Muscle Shoals project, conditioned upon their paying a registration fee of one dollar each. It is said that large numbers of unemployed men have responded, paying the required registration fee and receiving nothing in return. It is understood that the matter is to be presented to the Department of Justice for investigation and possible prosecution.

The Civil Service Commission states that further operations at Muscle Shoals depend upon action of Congress, and that no one can say at any time whether the Government will resume the work, or whether it will be conducted under private ownership or contract. In any event, the Commission said, there is no justification for advertising for labor or to be employed at the project. If the government undertakes to complete the work, such labor as may be necessary will be secured in the usual way through Government agencies. It is said, furthermore, that it is certain that no private person or company is taking steps to secure labor for Muscle Shoals in the present uncertainty.

The Civil Service Commission warns the public against the paying of money in the hope of securing employment at Muscle Shoals.

The world is full of men who are "promising" because they never do more than promise.

### Funston's Orderly from Goose Creek

For the sake of those not present we will name some. Very few of us knew of the close attachment of the late Cyrus Furr, to one of the Spanish war generals; that of General Funston. He was this general's orderly; selected at Charleston. Then Dr. Ely Crowell went to Lincoln, he was a member of the constitutional convention of 1876, at Raleigh. Thomas A. Crowell a noted physician, went to Los Angeles, 1883. Old man Samuel Crowell, revolutionary soldier buried on Capt. W. L. Howie's plantation; and many, many more. To cap the climax, Jack Crowell, a negro, was a tower. He could stand with both feet in a half bushel measure, and shoulder six bushels of wheat. But, Mr. Lemmond doubts the two feet going in the half bushel measure, for Africa was lavish in bestowing a good understanding to her children; says you can believe it if you want to; then he was a great farmer. Sowed three pecks of wheat, and reaped 9 bushels, 1 peck, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon, you can believe this, too, for Squire Flow vouches for it.

### Praises for Prof. Hamilton

Now, some of us think that Prof. Hamilton deserves great praise for most of Goose Creek's sons, of this latter day at least. I have been informed since living here, that a part of that vicinity wherein Prof. Hamilton struck his tent, was considered almost uncivilized, before he built up the splendid school that flourished there for years. That was the waters that healed them, not those muddy creeks! Those young men drank deep of this "Pierian Spring." Today, we fling flowers and praises to him, although he has taken his flight to the land of Beulah. Mr. J. C. Sikes lauded Dr. Weaver, in a beautiful and touching manner. This coming from a Baptist, was all the more appreciated, and it made the hearts of his own flock thrill, for they knew this good, and godly divine was worthy of every word that fell from this orator's lips.

The fine management of the dinner goes to Mrs. Eugene Ashcraft. The china and crystal ready helped plates, with bowls of many white violets gracing the tables all along, caught the eye at once as we were ushered into the spacious apartment, with five long tables, all a-glitter. Exclamations were heard on all sides, of praise for Mrs. Ashcraft's exquisite taste, both in decorations, and menu.

When I was growing up it was considered bad taste to mention what the menu consisted of, it was, of course supposed to be "delicious" and therefore alright, and we had to keep mum. So I adhere to my raising. The entire school faculty was invited to partake of this dinner, and enjoy this debate. We were honored to have with us Dr. Walter Sikes, also Mr. George Beasley, manager of The Monroe Journal. Music was furnished by the best singers of the club, with Mrs. Frank Laney at the piano. The night was fine.

"'Twas not one of those nights that the clouds and the moon, Contended for the right of 'holding the spoon!'"

No rain was falling, and all went well, only the debaters were called down too soon. The club chipped in and made a purse for some needy boy at college, raising \$41.85. It was sorrowful to recall some of the members of this class lying helpless, and sick at home. Hope they were remembered, if only by a flower.

### FAMOUS WINGATE DEBATE

No Man Can Now Question Ability of His Wife to Keep a Secret

(From the News and Observer.) We have long known it was true, but hesitated to give public expression to the conviction until a competent jury should decide that our contention was correct. It has come at last. The Baptist Young People's Union of Wingate recently had a public debate on the query:

"Resolved that a woman can keep a secret better than a man."

The debate, participated in by able debaters, raised all the points and arguments possible from the time of Adam, who was lacking in what we now define as gallantry, down to the period of Mrs. Alice Robertson and her Congressional career, and, after due deliberation, the question was decided in the affirmative.

Never again, now that the question now has been passed upon by a court of competent jurisdiction, will any mere man dare to question the ability of his wife to keep a secret.