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VIRGINIA CITIZEN DISAPPEARS.

Will Lawson of Ararat, Va. Dead or Has Deserted His Home and Family.

Citizens from the Ararat section of Virginia tell a thrilling story of the interest that has been aroused by the disappearance of Mr. Will Lawson, a well-to-do citizen who lives in Virginia about eight miles northeast of this city.

The story goes that Mr. Lawson left his home on Christmas eve late in the evening and told his family that he was going up near the mountains to buy a saw mill. It was known to his family that he had with him as much as fifty dollars in money. At the time he left he was somewhat under the influence of liquor, but he had no liquor with him. He was seen by a neighbor going along the public highway late in the afternoon of the above named day, and since that time if any one has seen him it has not been reported.

For two weeks his family thought little of it, for he is a man who drinks at times and was not any too devoted to his people when under the influence of liquor. They were under the impression that he was visiting among some of his relatives.

About a week ago the people in his section became aware of his disappearance and search was made for a proof of his whereabouts. A great interest was at once aroused. It was remembered that he had spells with his heart when drinking. It was also recalled that he was kicked on the head in Winston some weeks ago by a mule and badly hurt. He left home without selling all his tobacco and there was almost nothing to indicate that he had deserted his people.

All this left the impression that he was dead, possibly, and his body lying somewhere in neighborhood without burial. When this idea got abroad every man in five miles of his home, with a very few exceptions, quit business and every foot of land for miles around has been searched. It is the opinion now that if his body is within five miles of his home it must be under the water, for the search has been so thorough that had he been in that section he would have been found.

Telegrams have been sent to distant points where he is supposed to have gone should he be out of the country, but not the least evidence has yet been secured as to where he may be. He raised eighteen barns of tobacco last year and had six barns about ready to sell, and there is no reason for his leaving his home and family that is known to his people. His farm is one of the best in that section and is worth not less than six thousand dollars. He leaves a wife and twelve children.

Any information about him will be appreciated by his people. He is about forty five years of age, is of medium height, rather heavy, weighing possibly 160 lbs. red face with sandy mustache.

Some Hog Killing Hints.

Progressive Farmer.

Before killing hogs get a thermometer, such as are usually used in curing tobacco, and test the water. For grown hogs have the water 185 degrees, for young hogs, 165 degrees. By observing this there will be no danger of getting the hair "set." Kill not more than three hogs before scalding and butchering. When those are finished, kill others. Be sure to let the animal heat get out of the carcass before salting. Salt it well, and do not unpack until the meat is ready to hang up.

AN INTERESTING LAW SUIT.

Thirty Thousand Dollars Involved—Surrey Girl Resorts to the Courts to Obtain Her Rights.

In the state of Indiana, in a county court, attorney O. E. Snow, of Pilot Mountain, on Wednesday began the trial of a suit that involves a nice sum of money, some thirty thousand dollars. The story, which is not the brightest chapter in our local history, is about as follows:

A quarter of a century ago there lived in the Pilot Mountain section two young people, Miss Ellen Cook and Everitt Cox. A daughter was born to Miss Cook out of wedlock and report said that Everitt Cox was the father of the child. In the course of time Cox went west and made his permanent home. He acquired valuable land and when he died a year ago he was supposed to own property to the value of thirty thousand dollars. During all the years he is said to have sent money back to his daughter at different times.

Ellen Cook remained single and lived with her daughter to whom she gave the name of Daisy. The baby developed into a beautiful child and when it was old enough to talk it was learned that the little one was both deaf and dumb. When she was old enough she was sent to the institution that the state provides for this unfortunate class and was educated there. She is now a young woman, twenty three years of age and rather good looking.

When Mr. Cox died a year ago in Indiana he had brothers and sisters in that state who laid claim to his property, he having never married. Attorney O. E. Snow was employed to defend the interests of the estate in that state and the case was set for trial on Wednesday of this week.

Lawyer Snow and Miss Cook left Pilot Mountain last Sunday to attend the court and will be away for as much as ten days.

The law that applies in a case of this kind is interesting and is something like the following. The old English custom, known as the common law, governs in such cases where no statute has been made by legislative bodies. The old English law was that a child born out of wedlock was Nullius in Law, that is, to put it in English, Nobody's son. And the child could never become heir to any property except that belonging to its mother. There was long ago recognized what became known as common law marriages, which were the result of contract between a man and a woman, but in which no legal marriage was ever performed. A child by a common law marriage was entitled to its father's estate if the marriage could be proven. To prove the marriage it was necessary to prove that the father admitted the marriage and the child to be his own.

In the present case the fact that money was sent back here from time to time to the mother of the child, is not admissible in court for the fact that Miss Ellen Cook is the only witness to this fact and she is not a competent witness and by the rules of evidence is not allowed to testify in the case.

But they claim that witnesses can be secured in Indiana who will testify to the fact that Cox admitted on various occasions that he had a daughter back in this state.

If a jury decides that Miss Cook is his daughter, and that he so admitted the fact, then she will become sole heir to all his property, otherwise his brothers and sisters will get it.

Those in position to know think that Miss Cook has a very fair chance to win the suit.

Executors Notice.

Having qualified as executor of the will of Rev. J. A. Gilmer all parties owing the estate will make prompt payment and save cost, and all parties holding claims against the estate will present them in the time prescribed by law or this notice will be plead in bar of their collection. C. S. Gilmer Exr. Greensboro, N. C. R. F. D. Nov. 20, 1913.

EXCITING BEAR HUNT IN BURKE MOUNTAINS.

One of the Largest Bears in that Section Was Drowned and Finally Killed.

Morganton, Jan. 10.—There are many places in the old north state that one can go to enjoy himself, but very few places that one can get more real enjoyment than at the home of Jim Parks in Linville township, Burke county. It is a most hospitable home and strangers are always welcome and are treated to the very best that this rich Linville bottom land can afford.

The time has long passed when big game was plentiful but there are still a few bears and other large game left in the mountains up the Linville river and back of the Table Rock, and there is no greater pleasure than for John, Charlie and Bud Parks to take you on a camping trip of three or four days up the river with their celebrated bob tailed bear hounds. In the days of Daniel Boone perhaps no more thrilling event took place than did about two weeks ago when on the head of the chimney branch one of the largest bears killed in years was drowned and killed by the Parks boys and a company of friends composed of Ed Spainhour, Pete Fox and Bert Wise. It happened in this wise: The "standers" were placed on the Chimney ridge which ridge is the main ridge leading from the top of the mountains and which a bear must necessarily cross in going either up or down the river. The "drivers," or men who go with the hounds and see that the dogs get over and around cliffs, etc., then drove around the east side of Short Off mountain and crossed the river about 10 o'clock in the morning the bear trail was struck. The hounds trailed down Linville river over about five miles of the roughest country east of the Rockies, one would imagine if he could but see it and then across the Chimney ridge where the standers were placed.

Every man was quiet and nearer and nearer around the mountain and up the ridge the bear came direct to Pete Fox who placed a shot behind his left shoulder but bruin was a little too far off and on he went after having been fired at seven more times by Pete. The bear went on for about two miles and was finally denned in a cliff which was the most ideal den possible. It was only large enough for the bear to get in easily and was hollowed out inside and sloped gradually downward inside. The opening was on the side of the mountain and was therefore very difficult to get at him. On reaching the den the men began wondering how they were to get him out when all at once out the bear rushed among the crowd. Shots were fired at him and he turned back to his den. This stunt was repeated several times until at last his eyes were shining inside the cave and Ed Spainhour took aim and fired not knowing whether or not he had killed him. The question then arose as to who would go in and see about the bear was dead or how many other bears there were in the cave. Ed Spainhour, trust to his aim that he had taken, unaid his trappers and crawled into the cave. The first place, so Ed says, that he put his hand, was in the bear's mouth since he thought the bear was lying with his head to the side, but to his horror the head was the first point of contact. Then realizing that the bear was of course dead, he hitched a yells to the fellows outside and grabbed his feet and pulled him. They did so and out came Ed and the bear. The bear was then tied together by the feet and a pole run through and was borne home in this manner. Such is a hunt on Linville though it is doubtful if just such a hunt will occur again for years.

The bears in this mountain are of wonderful endurance. The three days before Christmas a large bear was struck south of Linville river on the Linville mountain side and chased three days, only stopping at night and taking the track up again in the

morning. Snow then began to fall and the chase had to stop but only for a few days for the day after Christmas the hunt was started again and after three more days' running, the bear was killed near Brown mountain by Mr. Aldredge, who lives between Table Rock and the Hawk's Bill.

Two Hundred Men Farmed By State.

News and Observer, 6th.

The State Prison Board yesterday hired two hundred convicts from the State Prison and put them to work at \$1.50 a day each.

The first batch went to the Hardaway Construction Company of Whitney and they will work on the dam at Whitney. There are 150 in this squad. The other force of 50 went to Randolph county and will work on the roads of that place.

In placing these the board is much pleased. It has been fighting the old plan of building railroads that may never have rails or locomotives and have stood for the cash basis of hiring out. The State feeds and guards the men and the construction companies work them. The rate is considered very good and pays a good profit to the State, students of that phase of the State's affairs say.

The larger batch will work on one of the largest pieces of development in the world today. Whitney is to have \$15,000,000 spent on it. Six years ago the panic arrested and totally destroyed a venture of \$7,500,000 of which \$6,000,000 had been paid. That tragic waste and loss will prove worthless since Southern Aluminum Co. put \$1,000,000 even use the \$1,000,000 and which spurs the Y. S. river and is as good as a piece of land in the States.

The spectacular Narrows will be developed and the gorge that marks it as one of the freaks of nature in North Carolina will be flooded by the great dam which the State Prisoners will help to build. They start to work in a few days.

Dared Too Much.

It isn't wise to dare too much. Sometimes the other fellow calls the bluff. In Virginia the other day two men fell out and one expressed a desire to shoot the other if he had a gun. The other fellow got a gun, handed it to the man who professed to be itching to shoot and dared him to proceed. The fellow who was so accommodating as to get the gun of the other man to shoot him has been buried and the man who accepted the challenge is in jail. In Spence the other night, two negroes, Andy Newkirk and Sam Barber, fought about a woman. Andy took Sam's gun from him and beat his head almost to a pulp. Then to further humiliate his unfortunate rival, Andy handed the pistol to Sam and dared him to shoot. Sam had strength enough to pull the trigger and sufficient motor power to hike for the tall timber. The ball struck Andy squarely in the forehead, but the skull was too thick and it ploughed around and came out at the top of the head, leaving him in such condition that a funeral may be necessary. If an individual expresses a desire to perpetrate your hide with leaden pellets, and you are absolutely sure he hasn't a "weopin'" hardy, you might casually remark that he wouldn't hurt if he had the gun. But unless you are anxious to quit this warlike sphere, don't be fool enough to put a gun in his hands and dare him to fire. Many a man talks threateningly about shooting who hasn't the slightest idea of burning powder; but even the strictest coward alive will ordinarily do something if he is handed a gun and dared to proceed, just when he has been boasting of what he would do if he had a gun.—Statesville Landmark.

Catch the Idea?

Brooklyn Citizen.
She—Before we were married you used to catch me in your arms.
He—Yes, and now I catch you in my pockets.

PLANS FOR NATIONWIDE FIGHT FOR SUFFRAGE.

Women Outline Campaign to Obtain Constitutional Amendment.

Washington, Jan. 11.—Plans for a vigorous nationwide campaign to obtain a constitutional amendment giving suffrage to women were outlined today by the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage. The program includes a schedule of "demonstrations," that will, according to suffrage leaders, "awaken the country as never before to a realization of the issue and if necessary transfer the majority in Congress to a party that will stand for suffrage."

"We are perfectly willing to have the Democrats pass the amendment but if by the close of Congress they have not taken action, we will transfer our votes to a party that will act," said Miss Jessie Hardy Stubbs tonight in announcing the union's plans.

It was decided at a meeting today to transfer the energy of the union to the West at the close of the present session of Congress, Nevada, Montana and the Dakotas were named as the States upon which the organization will concentrate its efforts.

The first of the "demonstrations" will be held in Washington the last day of this month, when 100 working women from various States will urge the President to support the suffrage amendment. There will be meetings held simultaneously throughout the country on May 2 and a National mass meeting in Washington on May 10. The campaign by suffrage organizations throughout the country and \$9,110 was pledged at to-day's meeting.

"We are going into every district of every member of Congress, known to us to be opposed to woman suffrage," said Miss Stubbs, "paying especial attention to those where the elections showed a narrow margin for the victors."

Will Raise Possums and Get Rich Quick.

Asheville, Jan. 9.—Believing that there is always a market for a well-fed, fat possum, Thomas Israel, of Henderson county, has conceived and put into execution the novel idea of raising possums to order, and to carry out his idea, has enclosed a large plot of ground on his place near Hendersonville, stocked it with possums and is sitting back waiting for his profits to materialize.

Members of the possum tribe, made famous by former President Taft, multiply very rapidly, Mr. Israel says, and he also thinks that the presence of the domesticated animals will attract large numbers of their brethren from the nearby hills and vales. Figuring all these factors into the proposition, he expects to have about 2,000 possums of marketable age at the end of two years.

Possums now bringing from four to six bits (50 to 75 cents) apiece, and their skins, when properly prepared, bring an equal amount. Figuring every possible catastrophe into the account, Mr. Israel thinks he can raise the savory delicacy at a cost of about 25 cents a head. Based on his other figures, this would give a net profit of from a dollar to a dollar and a quarter on every animal.

Mr. Israel has not decided to attempt to corner the possum market as yet, but he is in deadly earnest about raising the animals for sale, and declares that he will make money at it. He is showing his faith in the venture by spending his money for supplies to start the farm.

No Race Suicide Here.

Wadesboro Messenger.
Uncle Wash McLendon, a respectable old colored man of Lanesboro township, died last week. Uncle Wash had, we understood, 37 children, to all of whom he had given Biblical names.

HUNDRED GALLONS OF WHISKEY SEIZED.

Together With an Alleged Blockader from Patrick County.

Winston-Journal, 13th.

Sheriff Slate, of Stokes county, and his deputies located and captured near Walnut Cove last Saturday night an alleged blockader, Perry Dillon, of Patrick county, Va., and seized 100 gallons of whiskey, a two-horse wagon 2 horses, a mule and a saddle.

Dillon was placed in jail at Danbury and Deputy Collector C. H. Haynes went down to Walnut Cove and took charge of the property, which he brought to Winston-Salem yesterday evening. The horses and mule were left with the Fisher Livery Company and the corn whiskey was stored in the government storage house here.

This is the same team that was captured in Stokes county last November by Sheriff Slate of that county, at which time they arrested a man by the name of Job Wood, who was in charge of it. He was released on bond by the State authorities in Stokes and early in December, the team taken from Wood was bonded out by him and other parties, putting up \$550. It has been learned, it is said that Perry Dillon is the real owner of the team.

This man comes from a section of Patrick county where it is said that a great deal of "the ardent" is being manufactured and from which place large quantities of it are being hauled into Stokes, Rockingham, and Forsyth counties. And it is not thought that a great deal of difficulty is experienced in finding a market for it in the "dry" territory.

It was the general impression from Dillon, were for a man who lives in this county, near Walkertown. Following up this impression Deputy Collector Haynes, of Mt. Airy, Sheriff Flynt, of Forsyth, and Sheriff Slate, of Stokes county, went to his home yesterday evening, but no whiskey was found. There were, however, a large number of empty kegs and barrels lying about the place.

The whisky that is seized by the revenue officers and placed in the government storage house here is disposed of under special arrangements made with the Internal Revenue Department by Collector Brown, who was serving when the prohibition law went into effect. The seized whisky is advertised for 30 days, so that the owner may have ample time to put in a claim for it. If no one appears, it is advertised for sale for 10 days' at end of which time it is put up for sale and bid off by the deputy collector at the amount of the taxes for the government. It is then shipped into Virginia, where it is resold.

Believe Slain Man Paid Assassin To Kill Him.

Berwick, Penn., Jan. 8.—That William Lechtenfeld, whose body was found riddled with bullets in Briar Creek township on December 19, paid \$50 for his own murder is the conclusion announced today by the police who have been working on the case. Lechtenfeld, they say, furnished the revolver, bought the cartridges, hired the assassin to commit the deed, and stood in the bushes while the fellow aimed and fired. To prove this, the State constabulary officers have an amazing array of evidence.

The motive of the crime was lacking from the first. There was every indication of suicide with the physical impossibility of it. He had threatened suicide by poisoning and shooting, but feared to take his life because he believed his soul would be damned. In a saloon he offered money to a man to kill him, and it has been established that he left the saloon with a strange foreigner, although nothing was thought of it at the time.

The belief that he paid for his own murder is supported by the fact that he had money about the amount he offered for the deed when he left home and that he was little on his person when his body was found.