

Mount Airy News.

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MURDER IN SURRY.

Riley Easter Killed in his Own Home by his Blocking Neighbors. Shot Down in His Doorway in the Presence of His Wife and Children.

Monday night of this week about the hour of eleven Riley Easter was killed at his home five miles north west of this city. He was standing in the door of his home and men standing in the yard fired a dozen or more shots at him, one entering his body a little below the waste band making a fatal wound. He was attended at once by Dr. E. M. Hollingsworth of this city who found him in a critical condition, vomiting and showing every sign of being fatally hurt.

Easter was well known in his city having been a citizen of this section for many years. He was a man of but little ability and barely made a living. He had the reputation of being something of a tinner, and reports say that he made it a business, at times, of making stills for the neighbors, and they say that he was an expert at patching a still after the officers had chopped it full of holes.

The old man worked about among neighbors and hauled wood to town for a living.

The story that explains his death is an old one and a repetition of life history of the blockaders of this mountain section, that is of the reports that are current are true.

Easter and his son Jim get credit for being mixed up in the liquor business at times themselves.

The Easter home was within a few yards of the North Carolina-Virginia line and in the section of country where men have long blockaded and thought themselves safer along the state line than at other points of the county. The immediate section is hilly and well timbered, and the places for locating a still are ideal and numerous.

Naturally the public is interested in a story of this kind, and it is hard to get at the facts, for the reports that are current are more or less conflicting. The following is the best version of the affair that we are able to get.

Last Sunday morning, before daylight, Jim Easter, the 23 year old son of the dead man, came to the home of Sheriff Belton in this city and reported to him that he had located a still near his home. The Sheriff could not go with him at that hour, for he had no gasoline in his car. Easter was not willing to wait and he caught away from home after daylight, for he said that the owners of the still would kill him. He and the sheriff made an agreement that Easter was to return home before day light and remove the still to a place agreed upon up on the road where the Sheriff could get with his car. Easter was afraid to carry the Sheriff to the place where the beer was located, because of the danger of being caught by the blockaders. And so after an understanding with the Sheriff, Easter hastened back to the hills, and true to his word had the still at the place of agreement up on the road. The Sheriff brought the still back to town and Easter went back to his home. Now that the truth is all out the Sheriff says that this young man Easter had been in the habit of reporting stills in that section to him, and that he made these reports for what money the Sheriff was willing to pay him. Of course the Sheriff was only too glad for him to report stills, for in this way he was able to largely suppress the business in that neighborhood.

Now, in some way, the blockaders are supposed to have caught on to the game Easter was playing at their expense. They tell how on Sunday afternoon Joe Cain and Gardner Cain went to the home of Riley Easter and found him in company with his neighbor John Greenwood near their homes. They tell how the two Cain men talked plainly to old man Easter telling him that his son Jim had stolen their still that morning, and that he must

have it back in place by that night or his fate would be sealed. They gave him until nine o'clock to get the still back in place, and made many and various threats as to what they would do in case he failed to return the still.

Monday morning old man Easter came to town and talked freely here with officers telling them how the two Cain men had accused his son of taking their still and making threats in case he did not return it. He left the impression that the sheriff had taken the still from the still-place and had not cut down the beer. Other officers heard the old man's report and made a raid Monday afternoon and found 250 gallons of beer where the old man told them he understood the still-place to be near his home.

And so by Monday night the Sheriff had their still and another bunch of officers had cut down their beer.

George Hicks, of White Plains, is the son-in-law of old man Riley Easter, and he and his wife and children were making the old man a visit and were spending Monday night in the home. The family was up later than the usual bed time because of the presence of the visitors. About the hour of ten, old time, two of the women in the home were out in the yard and saw a bunch of men approaching through the field in the bright moonlight. They returned to the the house and reported what they had seen. Old man Easter got up and went to the door, and by this time the men had approached to a point about 30 feet away and had stopped. Old man Easter invited them into the house, and without speaking a word they began to shoot at him, and some of the first shots fired entered his body and caused his death. A dozen or more bullet marks are about the door facing where the old man stood, and one is made to wonder why he was not hit more than one time. The shooting continued after the old man was pulled back into the house by one of the family.

About this time Jim Easter got his pistol and fired twice from the house at the men in the yard. When he began to shoot they rushed at the house and Jim slammed the door and tried to hold it shut. They began to try to push it open and at the same time some were shooting through the walls of the house. One of these shots hit the little seven year old daughter of Geo. Hicks, making a bruise in her side and waking the child from its sleep in a great fright. By this time the women in the home were screaming and the children too. Pandemonium reigned. Mrs. Hicks began to beg the men to stop shooting telling them that they had killed her baby. About this time they suddenly stopped shooting or trying to break in the door and all became quiet.

Jim Easter and his father and some of the women positively identified the men who are under arrest charged with the crime. They say the light of the moon was sufficient to make it positive to them who the men were who came into the yard and did the shooting. Jim Easter says that Joe Cain fired the first shot, and that it was this one that hit his father and caused his death. He says that he was looking directly at Cain when he fired this shot and that his father made an exclamation of pain and agony that makes him positive that it was this shot that gave him his death wound.

After the shooting neighbors were called and a physician and the officers notified. Early Tuesday the Sheriffs of both Carroll and Surry were on the scene and all the police and deputies about this town.

It was evident from the first that old man Easter was fatally wounded, and the interest in the effort to run down and locate guilty parties was intense.

Bud Edwards, Sheriff of Carroll, had a pair of blood hounds and in a little while after day the hunting was on in dead earnest. Joe Cain was found up in the loft of his home lying flat down between the joists and well concealed from view. Joe Bowles was found at his home, sound asleep in bed and the sun up. These two were hastened here by the officers and placed in the lockup. John Hicks and his son Sherman were at home sitting on the porch at 9 o'clock in the morning. Later Walter Cain was found at his home and Gardner Cain was, almost by accident, found hid in the woods, lying flat by the side of a log with a gallon jug of liquor by his side. All these men were placed in handcuffs and brought here by noon the day after the shooting. Those who are familiar with the effort to speedily arrest the men say that the work of the officers in so speedily making the arrests was a fine piece of work.

The men in the lockup in this city are strong and healthy specimens of manhood. Some of them look anything but a criminal. They are fair skinned, blue eyed anglosaxon stock, and men of plenty of sense. Some of them have property. They have employed attorneys and will no doubt try to show that they were in no way connected with the sad affair.

and are now in the toils of the law and have no help at home to care for their farming interests. Several of them have wheat stacked and not yet threshed.

John Hicks, who looks to be fifty, but says he is sixty, and his son Sherman have a crop of 5 acres of tobacco and 15 acres of corn, wheat unthreshed and the mother in the house paralyzed. No help there now that they are in jail.

Joe Cain aged 38 and his son Walter who is married, have a crop of 4 acres in tobacco and 16 in corn and no help to finish the crop.

Gardner Cain is a man of family, is forty years old and a tenant on a farm.

Joe Bowles is a tenant, is 23 years of age and has a family.

The dead man is a cousin of the Dunkard Preacher, the Rev. Joseph Easter, who was killed at his home some years ago under almost similar circumstances. The preacher was a man of convictions and his testimony in the courts of his county is supposed to have created such rancor in the breasts of the blockaders of that section as to bring about his death.

He was called to his door one night and shot dead with a load of buckshot. His death was the start of a great fight against the liquor evil in the section where he lived. The people were so aroused over his untimely end that a monument was erected by public subscription at his grave near Fancy Gay road some miles this side of the foot of the Mountain. It stands there today a tall white shaft of marble to mark the resting place of a man who gave his life in his effort to stop just such customs as get credit for the above unfortunate affair.

Five Go to Jail.

The hearing of the men under arrest charged with the murder of Riley Easter was held in this city Wednesday afternoon before Esqrs. Sparger and Race. The evidence developed was such as to bind to court all of the men mentioned in the above account with the exception of Sherman Hicks. The hearing brought out no evidence that would connect him with the unfortunate affair.

Men who attended the hearing and kept up with the evidence are free in their expression of opinion that the State will possibly be forced to electrocute some of the men, possibly four of them. It now appears to be one of the most cold blooded, deliberate murders that could be committed. The defense put on no witnesses at the hearing.

War and The Bee Business.

The war and the bee business do not go well together. Modern bee keeping some years calls for quite a large amount of sugar and the shortage of sugar in these war times makes the bee business an uncertainty. In some years a bee keeper can take his honey from the bees and sell it for a good price, and then if the fall flow of honey is not sufficient to winter on he can make up the deficiency with sugar syrup.

In some years modern bee keeping like modern production of fruit is not profitable because of weather conditions. This year the same weather conditions in the month of May that cut the wheat crop short cut the sourwood bloom short. The bloom that was starting in May blasted in the bud, and where a big bunch of blooms should be often one will find a little black dead twig.

For this reason, as we understand it, the bloom of the sourwood trees is reduced as much as half, and the bloom that did form does not appear to have secreted nectar in large quantities.

The result is a short honey crop. Bee keepers in this section could extract large quantities of honey from the bees here now but to do this might make it necessary to feed later in the fall, and the uncertainty of securing sugar makes it an uncertain business deal to take any honey from the bees this year in this section.

In the yards of the publisher of The News many colonies can spare a surplus, but this may be needed next winter, and so we will allow them to keep it and return during their war times to the old method of the farmer who allowed all his bees to have what they could make, except the ones he "killed".

As it appears now the man who has bees will not be likely get sugar this fall, and so he had best not rob too closely.

Accident to Heavy Machinery.

The big engine that drives the wheels at the factory of the Mount Airy Furniture Factory broke down a few days ago and it was such a break down as to make it necessary to buy a new engine. The Company found a new one at Charlotte and will be able to get it in place with no great delay. The smashup is supposed to have badly damaged the steam chest of the big machine and cause a loss of as much as \$8,000.00. Mr. T. J. Smithwick is in charge of the work of installing the new machine.

The Republican Primaries

The primaries held in this county last Saturday by the Republican party to select delegates to the county convention was a most interesting event. Then convention will be held at Dobson on Saturday of this week at which time all the county officers will be selected for two and four years. The primary last Saturday seems to have settled nothing. The offices that were open to a contest had so many aspirants that no man will get a majority on the first ballot.

One interesting part of the convention is the contest that some think they see in the way the office for sheriff was managed. Moses Hodge was a candidate and in some townships the party leaders so arranged, if arranged is the word, as to not give the people who supported Hodge a chance to cast their vote for him. Some think they see in this an entering wedge that means trouble for the Republican nominees for sheriff. It is taken for granted that the men who failed to get a chance to vote for Hodge at the primaries will resent this by their vote at the election.

Mount Airy And Food.

Mr. L. A. Martin, U. S. Food Inspector recently visited Mount Airy and made the following report to the County Food Administrator of conditions here:

"I have just made an investigation of food conditions in your city and I am sure you will be gratified to learn that Mount Airy stands at the head of the list of all the cities and towns I have investigated. Your merchants and millers, and other dealers, are certainly 100 per cent pure in their Americanism so far as their relations with the food administration go. In all my investigations, I did not find a single violator of the food regulations. And the spirit of your people ought to be an inspiration to you in your work. The fact is, their spirit, their willingness and hearty co-operation was the thing that impressed me most. They are observing the law and the regulations in the sale of food not solely because the law says they must but because they want to help and serve the boys 'over there'—they are prompted by patriotism and service first and the law second.

The "home fires" are burning in Mount Airy and it is this spirit and co-operation that is going to send us over the top to victory.

The Big German Bully.

How long would a farmer allow a big bully to stand in the middle of the road and say to him, You shan't go to market but once a month and then only in a light spring wagon? No longer than he could reach around for his old shot gun. You can be sure of that. The farmers are no cowards but the big German bully is out of sight and they have not all learned yet that they are being bullied.

How much will the Germans give the farmer for his cotton and tobacco if we lose this war?

And talking about taxes, how much taxes will the farmers pay when Germany calls on us for fifty billion dollars with which to pay her war debt.

Oh yes, the farmers are all in this war, whether they know it or not.

If we win they will be the first to profit; but if we lost they will be the first to feel the pinch of hard times.

1,200,000 U. S. SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN SENT OVER.

High Water Mark of Hun Offensive Reached; Initiative Passing to Americans and Allies.

Washington July 20.—The high water mark of the German offensive movement in France has been reached and the initiative now is passing to the allied and American armies. This is the lesson drawn from General Foch's sudden counter attack on the Aisne-Marne front by American military leaders, General March, chief of staff, today told members of the senate military committee. Later he announced that American troops shipments had now exceeded 1,200,000 men, insuring the man power to hold the initiative on the western front.

The direct objective of General Foch's counter stroke, General March told newspaper men in his weekly conference, is the railway that feeds the German forces in the Chateau Thierry region. Already it has been attained, for the French and American forces are either astride the line at certain points or have it under direct gun fire at short range, rendering it unusable.

Even as General March spoke, unofficial reports flashed over the cables indicated that the German withdrawal from the sector south of the Marne had begun under the threat of the onrush of General Mangin's attacking army in the enemy's rear. The withdrawal was foreseen by General March, when French and American shells began raining on the railway.

The American chief of staff told with evident satisfaction of the fact that six American divisions are battling with the French and for the first time revealed their identity. They either are on the advancing lines between Soissons and Chateau-Thierry or on those that are pressing the enemy along the Marne front, where is reason to believe the Germans may suffer serious losses in men and material before they reach safety. Still another division of Americans is with General Gouraud, the French leader who commands east of Rheims where the enemy assault hit against a stone wall defense.

Two regiments of American negro troops are also known to be engaged. One is east of Rheims, where the Americans held the right flank of the whole front of attack when the German assault began, just as the Americans at Chateau-Thierry held firm on the left flank. The other is with the attacking forces on the Soissons-Chateau-Thierry line.

General March made little effort to conceal his elation over the turn of the fighting. His explanation of the disposition of the American forces indicates that at least 195,000 American fighting troops are in the battle and probably the total force is nearer 300,000 than 200,000. Each division has a fighting strength of 27,000 men and each of the two detached negro regiments strength of 3,600. Full strength of each division with auxiliary units is 45,000 men.

Chamberlain's Tablets.

These tablets are intended especially for stomach troubles, biliousness and constipation. If you have any troubles of this sort give them a trial and realize for yourself what a first class medicine will do for you. They only cost a quarter.

Swell Club Loafers.

Maryland is taking its anti loafing law very much in earnest. It is putting the rich to work along with the poor. It has no more regard for a retired capitalist than a hobo. Indeed the authorities seem to be going out of their way to make life miserable for men who in happier times would have been honored as leading citizens.

In Baltimore recently they arrested James Madison Thompson a descendant of President James Madison and the former head of a big banking and brokerage house. His only apparent occupation was playing golf and attending to his social duties. He was ordered to appear in court and give reasons why he should not be punished as a loafer.

It is significant of the new order of things that the alleged culprit himself took the matter seriously. He immediately got busy collecting evidence that he had been trying to get into some branch of government war service.

What a world—when a retired capitalist can't let alone to enjoy his moneyed leisure! And the best of it is, he finds mighty little sympathy even among his own class.—Concord Times.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF CO-PARTNERSHIP.

To Whom it May Concern: Notice is hereby given to the public, that the co-partnership composed of J. E. Stone, J. C. Dodson, and Joe Flippin, doing a milling business on Toms Creek in Pilot Township, Surry County, under the firm names of J. E. Stone and Co., and Piedmont Roller Mills, has been dissolved, and the said parties have sold said mill to C. M. Bernard. This July 1st, 1918. J. E. STONE, J. C. DODSON, JOE FLIPPIN.

DOCTOR URGED AN OPERATION

Instead I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and Was Cured.

Baltimore, Md.—"Nearly four years I suffered from organic troubles, nervousness and headaches and every month would have to stay in bed most of the time. Treatments would relieve me for a time but my doctor was always urging me to have an operation. My sister asked me to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound before consenting to an operation. I took five bottles of it and it has completely cured me and my work is a pleasure. I tell all my friends who have any trouble of this kind what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done for me."—NELLIE B. BRITTINGHAM, 609 Calverton Rd., Baltimore, Md.



It is only natural for any woman to dread the thought of an operation. So many women have been restored to health by this famous remedy, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, after an operation has been advised that it will pay any woman who suffers from such ailments to consider trying it before submitting to such a trying ordeal.

Advertisement for Briscoe The Motor Co. featuring a large illustration of an early 20th-century automobile. Text includes 'The Car With The Half Million Dollar Motor', 'The Motor Co.', 'Agents for Surry and Stokes, N. C., and Carroll and Patrick, Va.', 'Automobiles & Accessories', 'GENERAL REPAIR WORK', 'Franklin Street', and 'Mount Airy, N. C.'