

HOSEA THOMAS KILLED BY REVENUE OFFICERS

Meets Death Near Leatherwood in Henry County While Hauling Blockade Liquor

Stewart Enterprise.

A great deal of local interest and excitement has been aroused over the killing of Hosea Thomas by State and Federal Revenue officers near Leatherwood, upon the Danville road in Henry County, last Thursday morning. From the best information that can be obtained from press and private reports of the tragedy, the details appear to be substantially as follows:

United States officer J. N. Wood and R. H. Drummond, Jr., operating out from Danville, and State officers J. H. Pugh and J. C. Wilmarth, of Schoolfield, had had information that a lead of blockade liquor was on the road leading from Martinsville to Danville. The officers went in a car to Leatherwood Creek, shortly before daylight Thursday, placed their car across the road and went up the road to wait for the blockaders. In a few minutes their car came in sight and the officers hailed them with a flashlight and commanded them to stop.

The driver stopped his car, threw it in reverse and began to back away. Officer Wood sprang upon the running board and grappled with the driver in an effort to get control of the machine. The driver, who proved to be Hosea Thomas, jumped out of the car onto the bank of the road and, according to the officers, fired a pistol at Wood. Wood returned the fire and the other three officers who were coming up, also fired in the direction of the flash from Thomas' gun, seven shots in all being fired. Thomas disappeared in the darkness and another man who had been with him in the car also made his escape. The officers said they searched some distance in the direction Thomas had gone and not finding any sign of him, concluded that he had made good his escape. They took charge of the automobile, a Dodge touring car loaded with 60 gallons of booze, and drove it over to Danville turning it over to the proper authorities. It is said they made no report of the shooting but went out Thursday upon another raid.

Late Thursday afternoon reports reached Danville that a dead man had been found in a cornfield near Leatherwood ford, a short distance from the road. The man had been shot in the cheek, the bullet traversing the brain and going out at the back of the head. The body was taken to Martinsville where an inquest was held and prepared for burial.

When the officers were appraised of the developments, they admitted that a shooting affray had taken place and gave the details substantially as outlined above. Warrants were issued for their arrest Saturday, charging murder. It is expected that the case will be carried to the United States court for trial.

Hosea Thomas was a citizen of the Shooting Creek section and lived near the Patrick-Franklin line. He was a married man and leaves a wife and several children. The papers reporting the affair stated Thomas' companion on the night of the shooting was Lester Roberson of Dodson.

There are various theories and opinions expressed concerning this as is true of all murder cases. Sympathizers with the liquor men seem to hold that Thomas was foully murdered and hidden away in the cornfield; while the officers' friends maintain that the killing occurred while they were discharging their official duties and that Thomas met his death as a result of the too frequent determination and practice of bootleggers brazenly resisting the mandates of the law.

The new Dodge car which Thomas was driving had been purchased from Mr. Jim Puckett, of Stewart, less than a week before its capture.

Another Account Of The Thomas Shooting

Martinsville, Va. July 22.—R. H. Drummond, Jr., J. N. Wood, federal officers, J. W. Pugh and R. C. Wilmoth county officers, were indicted here by a special grand jury in the Henry county court this afternoon and were remanded to jail, bonding being denied by Judge Peter Dillard, presiding at the court session.

Soon after a true bill charging the murder of Hosea L. Thomas, of Patrick county last Thursday had been returned, H. C. Peck, of Richmond, legal adviser for the government revenue force, appeared and made a formal motion for bail. Dalton Dillard, of Franklin county, who has been retained to assist commonwealth's attorney, Joseph Taylor, to prosecute

the case, said that he would oppose bail.

Judge Dillard declared he would not break into a civil action then going on to hear evidence on the question of bond, after which Peck said that he would appear tomorrow before Judge H. C. McDowell at Lynchburg in the federal court, to ask for the removal of the cases from state to federal jurisdiction and then apply for bail.

The four officers were then placed in one cell in the county jail, a strong modern building where they will remain pending developments in Lynchburg. The four men were plainly disconcerted by the trend of events and had previously showed discouragement over the failure to appear on the same of S. R. Brame, chief of the revenue staff, who had been confidently expected here today.

The small courtroom was packed with people when the decision was made, scores coming from Patrick to see what disposition would be made of the case. The officers remained in a room in the marshal's office until their presence in court was required. Among those on the scene were three brothers of the deceased, typical men from Patrick, also their women folk. They came in handsome cars and wore deep mourning.

Attorney Dillard said tonight that he would follow the case wherever it goes and that he would strive to have the county officers tried in the state and not the federal court, claiming they were not legally deputized officers. No preliminary hearing was heard this morning, this being waived by Mr. Peck, who had the conduct of the officers' case in charge. Fully a score of cars came here from Patrick today. They did not leave when the case of the revenue officers was disposed of and at nightfall there was a fair crowd in the court house yard discussing the case.

Relatives of the slain man said this evening that the body of Hosea Thomas will be disinterred in order that the bullet still in his head may be removed. They claim to have information that one of the officers used a revolver of heavier calibre than those used by the others. In this way they believe a definite clue may be established to the slayer of Thomas who was waylaid by the officers while he was hauling liquor.

Liquor Traffic Now "Gone Forever"

Salt Lake City, Utah—Abolition of the liquor traffic is just as much an accomplished fact as the abolition of slavery, according to Clark Howell, publisher of the Atlanta Constitution, and Democratic national committeeman from Georgia, who was in Salt Lake City recently on the way to his home in Atlanta, after attending the Democratic convention.

"Liquor has gone forever; it will no more return than will slavery," Mr. Howell stated. "The great majority seem to recognize this fact," he added.

MAY PUT THE COUNTRY ON 'GASOLINE RATIONS'

Representatives Of Refining Companies Discuss Matter With Government Men

Washington, July 24.—The eastern sections of the United States, if not the entire country, may soon be put on "gasoline rations" which will cause automobiles to cut practically all "joy riding" and limit purchasers of gasoline to a few gallons weekly.

A ration system for gasoline is already in effect on the Pacific coast, notably in California where one's tank must be empty before he can be sold only three to five gallons of gas.

Informal conferences have been held here between representatives of refiners and large dealer and government officials. There is no governmental agency clothed with authority to order a rationing system, but it is admitted that if supply and demand make it imperative the refiners will be able to bring about a voluntary system that will ration all automobile users. The shortage of oil and gasoline is declared to be getting acute, and both at the federal trade commission and the bureau of mines and geological survey today reports indicate rather serious conditions.

It is understood here that representatives of several of the large refining companies have discussed the ration system informally with some of the officials of the government, but it was said in official circles today that no government action is in prospect.

There was admission, however, that the shortage of crude oils and gasoline might become so acute that the refiners would be forced to ration consumers as they are now doing on the Pacific coast.

Making Blackberry Brandy

Talk about a land that flows with milk and honey, this is a county where there would be a plenty of blackberry brandy if it were not for the pesky revenue officers. Down in the good country about Shoals some citizens last week were in a fair way to have a nice supply of this kind of brandy, and it was to be pure and good. All things known indicate that possibly two or three families were preparing to have on hand a little private stock and were making nice progress when some fellow had to go and tell deputy sheriff A. G. Ashburn. And the deputy went on last Saturday night and broke up the whole game. He found located in a nice secluded place down on the branch, right near the Methodist church at Shoals, a well arranged miniature distillery. The blackberries were fermenting all right and the tubs and the pipes and the steamer were all in place to turn out the goods in proper form. All signs pointed to the fact that operations had been in progress since the berries began to ripen some days ago. The still had evidently been going for as much as two weeks. The outfit for such a plant was something new to the deputy. The folks down that way had devised a new and good way to get results. They secured a 50 gallon tank such as they use with these modern cook stoves that have a waterback and tank connected to it. This tank was built into a furnace and in this way steam could be generated and sent into a barrel where the berries were thus boiled. The steam from the berries in the barrel was passed through a pipe that was cooled by water, and in this way a high grade of liquor was no doubt produced. The interesting part of all this was the shrewdness the fellows displayed when they located their manufacturing plant in a stone's throw of the Methodist church, evidently reasoning that no one would suspect anything in that part of the moral vineyard. Any hateful officer would hunt the branches for a still, but surely no one would be so presumptuous as to expect to find one in the very shadow of a church. Any way, Mr. Ashburn brought along the stove boiler after turning out the berries that were on the spot and just ready to be converted into brandy.

After Brit Fleming Again

Brit Fleming, a young man of this city has had more than his share of court publicity during the recent months, and again he is before the public. This time his troubles are to be charged up to a man from Winston, one Mr. C. G. Wilson, who was a visitor here some days ago. The story goes that Mr. Wilson came here on business and got acquainted with Mr. Fleming. Their acquaintance became of such an intimate nature that Mr. Wilson was willing to take Mr. Fleming into his confidence and acquainted him with his personal needs, one of which was some liquor. And the story goes that Mr. Wilson thought he needed more than any little quart, he needed a whole two gallons. At least that is the story he wrote back here to the Chief of Police when he gave the information that brought about Mr. Fleming's undoing and landed him again in the city lockup.

When the case was called Monday the court was presented with a telegram from Wilson saying that so far as he is concerned the matter can be dropped, that he is too busy to come all the way up here to Mount Airy on this matter. But the court sent word to Winston for Mr. Wilson to come along up here else a capias will be sent to that town and an officer will bring him along now that the matter is in court.

Part of the story that was furnished to the police by the Winston man was that he gave Fleming the neat little sum of \$40 and was never able after that to hear a word from Fleming or the liquor.

Girl Killed By Lightning

The twelve year old daughter of Mrs. Jerry King was killed by lightning near her home in Westfield township Wednesday evening on the way to attend church at Mt. Hermon. The child was along with other members of the family and it was necessary to cross a wire fence. The child was holding up a strand of wire while another person was going through. A thunder cloud was passing at the time and a stroke of lightning caused a heavy charge to get on the wire, and it was this charge that caused the child's death. So heavily was the wire charged that death was instantaneous and the body of the child turned blue at once.

Surry Citizen Visits Georgia

Editor Mount Airy News:

Last week I had the pleasure of visiting my brother, E. L. Ring, at Hahira, Ga. which is in the extreme southern part of the state. I had learned in advance something of that wonderful country but after seeing it I was sure that "half had never been told."

They are just starting the tobacco business in Georgia. None was grown until a few years ago. This year about 18,000 acres are being grown. More than half of the crop has been cured and will be all ready for the market by Aug. 1st. The Georgia markets opened July 20th. Have never seen such fine fields of tobacco. Many growers will make 1,500 pounds per acre and it is curing up the brightest I ever saw. Tobacco is a new crop to them and they have not learned the importance of keeping the suckers off.

I have never seen such fine tobacco land. These people do not realize the value of their land. On some farms I saw 50 to 75 acres lying out that would produce 30 to 50 bushels of corn per acre. Until three years ago cotton was the principal crop but the advent of the boll weevil made cotton a less profitable crop and the farmers are now growing other crops that are far more profitable than cotton.

In addition to growing what they need for their own use nearly every farmer has several hundred bushels of corn to sell. I saw thousands of acres of sweet potatoes. A fifty acre field of sweet potatoes was not an unusual sight. I saw thousands of acres of water melons. Some times my attention would be called to a hundred acre peanut field.

The land in southern Georgia requires but little cultivation and a common "plug" mule can cultivate more acres than three good mules could in this country. There are at least eight kinds of agricultural products which are shipped in car loads to other parts of the country. Thousands of gallons of the famous Georgia cane syrup is shipped out in car loads. Corn, peanuts, velvet beans, sweet potatoes, water melons, tobacco and cotton are all grown and are shipped to the north in car loads. Only a few years ago they were dependent on the western "smoke house" for their meat. Enough is now being produced in addition to their own needs to support three packing plants. In addition to this train loads of hogs are shipped to the Chicago and St. Louis markets. These hogs are fattened on peanuts, sweet potatoes and corn. A row of peanuts is planted between every row of corn which does not lessen the yield of corn.

This is yet an undeveloped country. Thousands of acres of fertile land that would grow anything is yet to be cleared. Land values are increasing and it is only a matter of a short time when southern Georgia will be the greatest agricultural country in the world.

They seem to have every thing a person could wish for. They have the best roads in the south. They have a splendid school system and a very healthy climate. The water is pure but not as cold as our mountain water. A cool breeze blows nearly all the time during the summer. They say it never snows and the ground seldom freezes in winter.

But with all these advantages I like Surry and Patrick counties better than any place in the world.

C. J. Ring.

Brim, July 19.

Protracted Meeting

This is the season of the year when the country churches hold their protracted meetings and have the privilege of hearing the visiting ministers who come to assist the pastor in charge. Rev. M. B. Phillips reports two good meetings that have recently been held in this section of the county. At Calvary, a mile west of this city, Rev. J. H. Haynes has just closed a meeting in which he was assisted by Rev. G. W. Sebastian, of Wilkes county. A number of additions to the church resulted.

Rev. Mr. Haynes held a meeting at another of his churches, Mount Zion, near the Ararat station, last week and was assisted by Rev. M. B. Phillips. This meeting resulted in a large number of conversions and 19 additions to the church. This week Rev. Haynes is in Wilkes county assisting other pastors in their meetings.

LAUNDRY—I have the agency for the Winston Steam Laundry and will collect from the homes on Wednesdays and Thursdays and deliver back on the following Tuesdays or Wednesdays. I guarantee price and quality of work to be satisfactory. W. M. Jordan.

GERMANY DESTROYS HER WAR MATERIAL

Commission Superintending the Work of Destruction Site at Berlin Under British General and Eleven Committees

London, England.—By the Peace Treaty of Versailles, all war material belonging to the former enemies of the Allies, had to be surrendered in order to be "destroyed or rendered useless," under the control of the Military Interallied Commissioner of Control.

Of the amount which is surplus to that allowed to be kept by Germany for the needs of her post-war army, some 22,000 guns and spare tubes of all calibers, from 77 mm. (field guns), up to the largest calibers, having already been reported to the commission of control for destruction, or rendering useless, and some 8,500 have been destroyed, including those destroyed by the German authorities themselves before control was commenced and since its coming into being.

The armament subcommission, which is superintending the work of destruction, has its headquarters in Berlin under a British general with 11 committees working in the chief centers in Germany, namely: Berlin, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Hanover, Dresden, Munich, Stettin, Konigsberg, Breslau and Cologne.

Obligations Fulfilled

The value of Germany's fulfilled obligation in general, up to the end of May last, is published in the "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" of May 31, and the figures given below quoted therefrom, have been transmitted through the wireless stations of the German Government. The values total approximately 22,000,000,000 marks in gold, which is made up as follows:

The surrendered Saar mines,	valued at	1,000,000,000
State property in regions separated from Germany	6,000,000,000	
The surrendered commercial fleet	8,500,000,000	
Animals surrendered	180,000,000	
5,000,000 tons coal worth	224,000,000	
Machinery valued at	6,400,000	
Dyes worth	4,400,000	
Benzol, tar and ammonia worth	30,000,000	
Cables worth	65,000,000	
Railway material worth	750,000,000	
Army material left behind	3,000,000,000	
Provisions and raw materials for the reconstruction of Germany	2,000,000,000	
Cost of the army of occupation	200,000,000	
Marks	21,959,800,000	

To these sums should be added, the "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" points out, the amounts which have to be made good by the state as a result of the liquidation of the German enterprises abroad, as also the German claims on Austria, Hungary, and Turkey, arising out of loans granted to them. In addition the customs and taxes levied by the entente in the occupied regions, are also mentioned.

Disarmament the First Condition

The disarmament of Germany was the first condition of the Peace Treaty to be fulfilled. The wireless communique from the German Government states that the State Defense has been reduced to 200,000 men, and the temporary volunteers and civic guards have been dissolved. Available army material has been destroyed, according to the communique, in the following quantities: 5,000 guns, 14,000 gun barrels, 8,500 gun carriages, 3,400,000 loaded artillery shells, 31,370,000 fuses, 4,680 tons of powder, 32,140 tons of explosives, 1,318,000 hand arms, 24,500 machine guns, 94,300,000 rounds of hand-arm and machine gun ammunition, 400,000 hand grenades, 1,597,000 swords, lances and so forth.

Furthermore it is stated that on May 5th there were ready for destruction 12,000 light guns, 217 anti-aircraft guns, 2,500 heavy guns, 3,358 mine throwers, 21,676 machine gun, 15,500,000 artillery shells and 29,500,000 rifle cartridges. To this should be added the whole of the aircraft forces, the whole of whose material, the government states, has been surrendered. Fortresses have also, they claim, been dismantled at the time set for their destruction.

Figures Doubted

How far these figures and statements can be accepted as being accurate may be gauged by the fact that Winston Churchill, Secretary of State for War, speaking in the House of Commons recently on the surrender of German aircraft, stated that up to May 29 last no airships or aeroplanes had been handed over to the Allies

but that 700 aeroplanes and 3,000 aeroplanes had been destroyed under allied supervision. He reminded the House that Germany was under no obligation to destroy aircraft material until the ratification of the Peace Treaty. For various and sufficient reasons he stated, the actual work of destruction was not commenced until May 3. The progress since that date has, he considered, however, been satisfactory. Article 202 of the Peace Treaty provides that all aeronautical material which had been used or designed for warlike purposes shall be delivered to the Allies.

Mr. Churchill further stated that at the time of the armistice Germany possessed approximately 16 airships and 11,500 aeroplanes. He believed that the process of disarmament was being carried out without undue obstruction, though he could not say punctually or willingly. Marshal Foch and the Interallied Commission on the Rhine were the responsible authorities for Germany's disarmament, and he believed that the complete surrender of Germany's war material, as stipulated in the Treaty, would eventually be completed.

Germany No Usurer

The "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung," which is quoted in the German wireless message, concludes by saying that neither with regard to the question of reparation nor the question of disarmament, has Germany ever thought of playing the role of a bankrupt or a usurer.

Indicative possibly of a change of heart, though more likely as a realization, if latent, of the different position she finds herself in, compared to where she expected to be at the end of the war, the newspapers claim that Germany should be treated at the Spa conference with common sense—which this newspaper now believes, and avers—"does not make right dependent upon might."

Typhoid Fever Vaccine A Triumph In Preventive Medicine

The best results have been obtained in the United States Army, where the vaccination against Typhoid fever is required by the government.

During 1913 the army had only two cases of Typhoid fever in the enlisted force of over 80,000,000. One of these occurred in a man who had not been vaccinated; the other was among the troops in China. He had immunized in 1911. There was only one death from Typhoid fever in the United States Army.

Since North Carolina has been using the vaccine; vaccinating those people that wanted to be vaccinated free the death rate from Typhoid fever has been cut half in a period of four years.

If everybody would be vaccinated and with the proper sanitary environment, then it would be that we would have no more Typhoid fever. Your County Health Department is at all times glad to help you out in promoting better health conditions.

L. L. Williams,
County Health Officer.

Sugar Price Decline Expected

New York, N. Y.—A decrease in retail sugar prices may be expected soon according to authorities, if present wholesale prices continue. One of the largest refining firms here has reduced the price of refined sugar 3 cents a pound, to 21 cents for shipments in bulk. Other refiners quote 22 and 22½ cents. The Cuban raw supply was quoted at 16.55 cents here, as compared with 23½ cents when the shortage was acute in May.

Increased supplies of raw sugar from Porto Rico have tended to overload the market, according to sugar brokers, who say that speculators are eager to unload contracts acquired some time ago.

Federal Law Helps Arizona

Phoenix, Arizona.—With the establishment of prohibition in the states surrounding Arizona, the task of enforcing the local prohibitory laws has become easier and less expensive. For a while there had to be maintained a cordon of guards upon every road by which an automobile could enter. There are still occasional captures of liquor from surplus stocks in California or New Mexico, but they are few. Two such captures lately made on the highway near Winslow, in three machines said to be bound from Columbus, New Mexico to San Francisco, developed cargoes of whisky valued at \$50,000 at the current "bootlegger" prices. The state law calls for confiscation of all vehicles captured in such trade.