

# The Mount Airy News.

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## MURDERERS OF FELTS DETECTIVES ACQUITTED

**After Trial Lasting Seven Weeks Miners Come Clear, But Are Held for Other Charges.**

Williamson, W. Va., March 21.—The sixteen defendants, tried in connection with the death of Albert C. Felts, who was killed during the Mattewan gun fight last May 19, were today found not guilty by a jury in the Mingo county circuit court.

The defendants were formally discharged by Judge R. D. Bailey, presiding, but were remanded to jail pending bond arrangements on six other indictments, charging the men with having been implicated in the death of six other private detectives killed with Felts.

The trial consumed forty-six days. News of the acquittal was shouted to a large group of miners standing at a window outside the courtroom and the announcement was received with enthusiasm.

Wives and relatives of the Mattewanians stood on the porch of the county jail and received their kin with open arms. Williamson residents received the verdict quietly and there were no demonstrations aside from an outburst of cheers from the miners who stood vigil since early morning.

**Crime for Which They Were Tried.**  
A coal miners' strike had been in progress in Mingo county coal fields since July, 1919. Organizers of the United Mine Workers sought to unionize the districts, both in Mingo and Pike counties, on the Kentucky side of the border. Nearly a year later the Stone Mountain Coal Corporation engaged the Baldwin-Felts detective agency to evict striking miners' families from the company houses in which they were living. On May 9, 1920, a party of private detectives headed by Albert C. Felts, carried out the evictions. After a day fraught with argument between the operatives and the city officials the party finished its work and prepared to depart from Mattewan on an early evening train.

Upon leaving their hotel, Albert C. Felts and his men stopped in front of a hardware store. The leader and Mayor C. C. Testerman engaged in a conversation and while they stood close to each other talking a shot was fired. In an instant rifles and pistols barked from all directions and before the shooting ended Felts, Testerman, six others, members of the Baldwin-Felts party, and two residents fell mortally wounded in the main street of the village.

Twenty-three men of Mattewan were indicted by a grand jury at Williamson in connection with the death of Felts. At the outset of the trial, which began on January 26, the cases against several of the defendants were dismissed and as the taking of testimony progressed others were discharged on motion of the prosecution. When the jury took the case the fate of but sixteen of the original defendants remained to be determined. One of these was Sid Hatfield, Mattewan's chief of police, around whom a major portion of the testimony was entwined. During the closing arguments of counsel reference was made at Hatfield's marriage to the widow of Testerman two weeks after the latter was killed. Mrs. Hatfield has been in constant attendance at court since the trial began.

Six other indictments are hanging over the twenty-three men in connection with the death of the other six operatives who fell during the engagement.

Hatfield also stands indicted charged with the larceny of \$700 from the body of Albert C. Felts.

Five of the private detectives, who escaped after the battle, were indicted in connection with the death of Mayor Testerman, Otto Kingsley and Robert Mullens, the latter two being the other residents of Mattewan who met death.

Several months after the street fight, Anse Hatfield, proprietor of the hotel that housed the private detectives during their stay in Mattewan, was shot and killed while sitting on the porch of his hostelry. Sid Hatfield, Hallie Chambers, Ed. Chambers and Lair Chambers have been indicted in connection with his death. Anse Hatfield had been regarded as an important witness for the state.

The trial has been the longest and conceded to have been the most sensational in the history of West Virginia. It was held in the county courthouse at Williamson, but a few miles from where the Hatfield-McCoy feud was hatched. A few weeks ago, during the time of circuit court, which called the case, "Devil" Anse Hatfield, noted leader of the Hatfield clan during many troubles, died.

## WHALE UNEARTHED AT TARBORO

**Found Buried 15 Feet Under Ground**

Chapel Hill, March 19.—Deeply buried in the soft black sand of Edgecombe county, where a million years ago the waves of a pre-historic ocean beat upon a now almost forgotten shore, the bones of an ancient whale, recently discovered by citizens of Tarboro 15 feet underground where they have been lying quietly for probably 1,000,000 years, have been dug up under the direction of Dr. W. F. Prouty, of the geology department of the University of North Carolina and are being transported to Chapel Hill for safe-keeping in the geology museum.

A fair-sized whale, it is, too, a whale of a whale, in fact, measuring over all something like 50 to 55 feet, with jawbones stretching 13 1-2 feet from tip to tip, and with ribs and backbone in relative proportion.

Not all of the old boy is left intact. The slow process of time have worn away many of the smaller and lighter bones, but the heavy jawbones were found lying in almost exactly the same position they were in on that morning back in the Miocene period, thousands of years before man appeared on earth, when this particular whale settled down for his long sleep, and enough of the other bones were found to settle beyond all doubt what sort of animal he was and of what size.

Whether the whale can be reconstructed is a problem about which Dr. Prouty is doubtful. It may be that the bones are too soft and that not enough of them can be transported to the geology museum, but parts of the old whale have already reached Chapel Hill and they will repose in state in the museum alongside of other treasured specimens of other times, other days.

A broken exhaust pipe connected with the steam turbine engine at the Hart Cotton mills in Tarboro was the immediate cause of unearthing the whale. The heavy flow of water from the broken pipe tore away the soft sand and cut a deep gully back of the power plant. Some 15 feet underground the water pushed back the sand, and lying there in the side of the bank, in almost their natural position, were the two jawbones, big crescent-shaped bones, spreading out not unlike a giant wish-bone.

The bones, when fully uncovered, were difficult to handle because of both their brittleness and softness. They would fall to pieces at the touch and it was easy to poke a finger into them. Dr. Prouty put plaster of Paris around some of them to preserve them and make it easier to transport them. He will have at Chapel Hill the jaw bones, part of the front legs or flippers, several ribs, and segments of the backbone.

"Other whales have been found at various places along the Atlantic coast," said Prouty, in telling of his discovery, and one or two in North Carolina, but I don't know of any recently. This specimen was probably fairly similar to the modern whale. It is impossible to estimate his age exactly, but I should say that at least 1,000,000 years have passed since he was alive.

"That would make him belong to the middle part of the Miocene Period, the St. Mary's formation it is called," he continued. "At that time the ocean extended over eastern North Carolina and the shore-line was in the neighborhood of Tarboro. I think it almost certain that the spot where his bones were found was the shore-line of the ancient ocean."

Dr. Prouty said that the soil in which the bones were found was a dark marine sand, and he thinks it probable that the whale fell on his long sleep in quiet water, possibly in a lagoon near the shore-line. "There was little indication of oxidizing having taken place," he said, "and there would have been oxidizing had the water been agitated, as by the waves."

"Possibly the whale was swept by the waves into a quiet lagoon and was caught there; or possibly he died outside and was brought in by the waves."

## Harding Appoints Democrat Comptroller of Currency

Washington, March 14.—President Harding sent to the senate today the nomination of his personal friend, D. R. Crissinger, of Marion, O., to be comptroller of the currency. Mr. Crissinger was a Democrat, but supported Mr. Harding in the last campaign, heading the Marion organization that welcomed the front porch delegations. Secretary Mellon today expressed satisfaction with the appointment.

## SCIENTISTS DEPART FOR ASIA'S UNTRODDEN AREA

**Expect to Find Missing Link Between Man and Beast During Search**

New York, March 16.—A group of scientists left here recently on a mission that will keep them in the vast untrodden areas of Asia for five years.

When they return to America they hope to have evidence that the "missing link" between man and beast actually existed. Also they expect to bring back thousands of animal and botanical specimens to fill the proposed Hall of Asiatic Life in New York.

Roy Chapman Andrews, leader of two former scientific parties into China, will head the new groups, to be known as the Third Asiatic Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History. Supporting it financially are more than a score of New York's wealthiest men and women, the museum and other organizations. The party will sail from San Francisco on March 19.

Joined in Asia by scores of native guides and huntsmen, cooks and helpers, the scientists expect to introduce American automobiles, moving picture cameras and other modern machines on the Gobi desert, Central Asian plateaus, Tibetan steeps and other little known lands.

Gasoline trucks will constitute mobile bases for various branches of the expedition—paleontologists, archaeologists and anthropologists, while speedier cars are to be used in explorations and huntings. Dr. Andrews has found a 50-mile-an-hour tow slow to keep up with frightened antelopes in Central Asia, and is taking a speedier racer to use in hunting these mile-a-minute runners.

The first base of the party will be established in Mongolia, where the scientists expect to remain 24 months before penetrating Western China. After the vanguard has spent a year in Mongolia, a second group of scientists will leave New York to join them.

Northeastern and Central Asia will be gone over in a study of the origin and migration of man, to prove or disprove the popular scientific belief that Asia was the center of dispersal of the human race as well as for many of the mammals the descendants of which are now scattered over the earth.

There were five persons in the party leaving New York under the leadership of Mr. Andrews. His wife will go along as the color photographer. The others are Walter Granger and George Olsen, paleontologists, and Clifford Pope, geologist; all from the museum here.

Next year the museum will send out geologists and a motion picture photographer, and in 1923 archaeologists and anthropologists will follow. Then the entire expedition will devote three more years to intensive work.

More than 2,000 persons have sought in vain to accompany the scientists, Dr. Andrews said.

## Kinston Chamber of Commerce Active

The Daily Free Press, of Kinston, in its issue of March 12, contains a list of the new officers of the Kinston Chamber of Commerce, among them we notice the name of Carl H. Van Herve as secretary. The article mentions among the achievements of the Chamber of Commerce in the past the carrying of big bond issues for streets roads and other public improvements, procurement of better transportation facilities, the locating of a number of new enterprises here and numerous smaller successes. In the immediate future it will center attention upon schools, parks and city beautification, together with improvements of communication facilities.

## Engagement Of Mrs. MacSwiney Is Announced

The following from the London Evening Mail will be of interest:

"Mrs. Torrence MacSwiney, widow of Lord Mayor MacSwiney, of Cork, is engaged to Art O'Brien, vice-president of the Irish Determination League and president of the London branch of that organization. Lord Mayor MacSwiney died in Brixton prison, London, Oct. 25, following a hunger strike of 73 days. During MacSwiney's incarceration Mr. O'Brien furnished newspapers with almost hourly bulletins of the condition of the Lord Mayor and worked strenuously for his release. In this work he was necessarily thrown much into the society of Mrs. MacSwiney."

## GERMANY MUST PAY AT ONCE

**Millions of Dollars Said to Be Deposited in Banks of This Country for Germany Under Names of Individuals.**

Paris, March 16.—The allied reparations commission, in its note to Germany demanding fulfillment of article 235 of the peace treaty, notified the German government it must pay four hundred million dollars before March 23, it was announced today.

The money must be deposited in the Bank of France, Bank of England or the federal reserve bank in the United States, Germany was told.

It must complete the payment of four billion dollars by May 1.

The commission gave Germany until April 1 to submit a proposal to pay the balance of the four billion dollars otherwise than in cash. Germany may submit a plan for a foreign loan by April 1, the proceeds of which shall be payable to the commission. The commission announced that Germany had virtually refused to pay the balance, asserting the four billion dollars had been fully paid.

## Much Money in This Country Held For German Account

Washington, March 16.—Inclusion by the allied reparations commission of the American federal reserve banks as an optional depository for German indemnity payments brought from treasury officials tonight the statement that the commission possibly had two purposes in view:

First, to enable the German government to call upon "vast credits" which it is said to hold through private agents in the United States.

Second, to employ in favor of the allied governments the tremendous difference in exchange rates.

Information gathered by the reserve banks was said to show that since the armistice Germany has been amassing credits in the United States national banks, holding the funds in the names of individuals. No approximate estimate of the amount could be obtained, but officials said the sum would run into many millions. This money, it was said, was presumed to be for use in Germany's future trade, much of which would center in the United States.

There had been no intimation given the United States government that its banking system might be employed as the reparations note forwarded to Berlin today suggested, officials stated. The mere fact that the government's banks would serve as practically neutral territory so far as reparations were concerned, was not accepted as the full reason for the commission's proposal, although the reserve banks have acted as depositories for several foreign governments since the beginning of the war.

Some \$30,000,000 is now held for foreign governments, the weekly statement of the federal reserve board shows, and to receive a deposit from Germany, although a technical enemy, would mean only the placing of that additional credit to the nation designated by the commission.

Officials gave no explanation of methods employed by the Germans in building up their supply of funds in this country. It was said that their government has used similar tactics in Holland, in the Scandinavian countries and more lately in London after assurance had been given by the British that the deposits would not be confiscated.

In some quarters it was believed that allied intelligence agents had discovered the existence of the German funds here and that the commission had acted on the feeling that Germany would use the money in indemnity payments. The suggestion also was made that Germany might attempt to borrow in the United States, in which case the shipment of gold to Europe would react favorably on the exchange situation, now strongly against all of the allied nations. No information has reached the treasury, however, it was said, that would indicate Germany had sought or would seek loans through private financial houses here.

## Got The Poor House Fame

Mrs. Taylor, the only woman who ever went over Niagara Falls in a barrel, has gone to the poor-house. It is reported that she has no friends. We suppose that people got tired of hearing her talk. If you stop to think of it, it would be a good deal of a trial to live in the same house with the only woman who ever went over Niagara Falls in a barrel.—Asheville Times.

## REPUBLICANS DEALING OUT THE PIE

**Several North Carolina Politicians Seated at the Pie Counter**

Washington, March 19.—The first batch of recommendations for federal positions in North Carolina reached Washington yesterday, it was learned from authoritative sources, when Frank Linney, of Boone, was recommended by National Committeeman Morehead, for district attorney for western North Carolina, succeeding Stone-wall Jackson Durham, of Gastonia, who is serving as a temporary official since March 4. Linney's name will go to the president within the next week or ten days and President Harding will immediately give him a recess appointment.

Other recommendations which have reached Washington include the following:

John T. Benbow, to be postmaster of Winston-Salem; Brownlow Jackson, to be North States Marshall for Western North Carolina; J. Byron White, to be postmaster of Greensboro; O. R. York, to be postmaster of High Point.

All except Linney came by mail. Morehead presented the papers of the Boone man in person and there is no doubt that he, along with the others, will be named without more than the customary delay.

While Gilliam Grissom's recommendation for collector of international revenue at Raleigh has not yet been filed, there is no doubt that he will be named for the place now held by the present collector.

## All Democrats to Go.

Despite rumors to the contrary, it is known that the Harding administration intends to remove practically all Democrats who hold their positions thru political preferment just as soon as the various heads of departments are able to reach a decision and the state organization in the several states make their recommendations to the president.

In the case of North Carolina one of the close personal and political friends of President Harding, stated that there was no intention whatever to allow the Democrats to hold positions during the next year or so simply because they had received commissions for four years shortly before the late election last November. It was contended that to do so would mean that the Democrats would be given a powerful club to disorganize whatever organization is left in the South and would block any plans which the Republicans have for organizing and electing congressmen and other Republican office holders in 1922.

North Carolina was given as an example. There are nearly 75 prohibition enforcement officers, clerks, etc., on the payroll and assigned to North Carolina. All of these men, it is claimed, are Democrats and political influence was used to get them appointed. The Democrats are not blamed for this because the Republicans are going to do the very same thing. But what the Republicans want done is to have the Republicans recommended and the president appoint Republicans to these places.

## \$40,000 For Loss of Both Limbs

Raleigh, N. C., March 16.—Supreme court opinions today contain the Parker vs. S. A. L. railway case, a personal injury action which gave to the plaintiff one of the largest judicial rewards on the records in the state. The verdict is upheld.

Mrs. Jennie S. Parker, of Halifax county, a woman of 44 years, was in an automobile last year which was struck by a Seaboard freight train. There was conflicting testimony as to the contributory negligence of the plaintiff. Then the defendant held that the roads were not under their own, but under the government direction.

Mrs. Parker was 44 years old when injured. She was first knocked down by the train, and as it backed over her leg above the knee, she was badly injured by the loss of that leg. Then for some mysterious reason the train came back and ran over her other leg, cutting it off between the ankle and the knee. As she narrated her testimony on the stand it was necessary for the attending physicians to give her a hypodermic injection. She sued for \$100,000 and the jury gave \$40,000.

Chief Justice Clark writes a very mild opinion, but says he thinks the trial judge was more than fair to the company. Justice Walker dissents. He thinks the company was culpable because the road was not under its own management. And he would give a new trial if for no other reason.

## EUROPEANS THINK U. S. LAWMAKERS ARE CRAZY

**Freak Bills Introduced in the State Legislatures Are Taken Seriously Abroad**

The Hague, Feb. 25.—Readers of the Dutch and other European newspapers these days frequently get the idea that various state legislatures in the United States are conducted along the lines of slapstick comedies.

Each bit of freak legislation, whether introduced with serious intent or merely to cause a laugh which emanates from these various state governing bodies, is printed with all seriousness on this side of the Atlantic.

If a senator in a state legislature decides to make the bill of a political opponent appear ridiculous by introducing another along the same lines that goes the opponent's one better and is preposterous, the purport of the bill is cabled abroad by a European correspondent in New York or Washington and is reprinted, throughout Europe.

These dispatches are generally featured or played up in the European press, and many European editors have told the correspondent they are convinced that most American lawmakers are crazy.

The fact that these measures are merely introduced and have little if any possibility of passing, is seldom reported, with the result that many European newspaper readers are convinced that, here and there in America there are places where, for example, persons are sentenced to live several months with their mother-in-law if found guilty of snoring.

## Millions of Cigarettes Burned In France

Paris, March 15.—American cigarette smoke obscured the northern horizon of Paris for 48 hours this week when 99,000 pounds of cigarettes originally brought here for the United States army were burned.

Relays of 13 policemen were needed to keep off raiders who had ardent desires to burn the cigarettes, one at a time, in the usual manner.

It was an American Red Cross sacrificial fire—lighted under compulsion.

There were 632 metal-lined cases of cigarettes burned. They were condemned by French authorities and destroyed according to law. They were part of two lots rain-soaked in shipment through faulty metal lining in the cases. Many cases, not too badly damaged, were salvaged when the French authorities could be convinced that a moist cigarette would be more welcome than none at all to some smokers.

## TROUBLE OVER APPOINTMENTS

**North Carolina Republicans Object to Yankee Sent Down Here.**

Washington, March 19.—Formal protest was filed with Secretary of the Treasury Mellon Friday by National Committeeman Morehead against the appointment of L. M. Shuck, of Maryland, as revenue agent in charge in North Carolina. It has been charged that the two Republican senators from Maryland had succeeded in having Shuck named to the position in North Carolina. The place pays over \$4,000 a year, with liberal expense account, and the Charlotte man wanted to know why Maryland senators were taking part in North Carolina patronage affairs.

Secretary Mellon assured Mr. Morehead that the appointment was made before he took charge as a member of the president's cabinet and that an immediate investigation would be instituted and Mr. Morehead would be advised later as to the status of Shuck. If Shuck was named by Md. senators it is a foregone conclusion that he will be removed. It is a safe bet that a honest-to-goodness North Carolina Republican will be named to succeed Shuck at an early date.

While at the treasury department Mr. Morehead discussed with the secretary the question of having the office of collector of interterritorial revenue for western North Carolina restored. Mr. Mellon told Mr. Morehead that as soon as a new commissioner of internal revenue is appointed the question would have his personal attention. It is believed certain that the office will be reopened and that it will go to Winston-Salem.

When Russia brings her corn producing lands up to the standard of America's corn lands she alone will be able to supply the world's cereal need with the exception of waste and rice.