

Annual Vacation of Otto Wood, Crafty Convict, Ends

Captured in Mooresville, Tells Where He Has Been Since Escape. No Grudge Against Man Who Married His Wife

Statesville, Dec. 7.—Otto Wood, North Carolina's craftiest convict, ended his annual vacation in the face of a high powered rifle at Mooresville this afternoon. Wood escaped two weeks ago from the North Carolina state prison and since then has visited his family in Winston-Salem and friends in other parts of the state.

At noon today he came into Statesville and rode leisurely through the main streets, stopping once for a traffic signal. He was observed by persons who knew him and a wild chase ensued on the part of Iredell officials. These gentlemen made the one mistake of going in the wrong direction. One hour later Chief Woodliff of the Mooresville police force says he threw a rifle on him and found him very affable and agreeable. Wood says the police did not make any show of firearms.

Hated to Leave Raleigh

"Why didn't you leave North Carolina and stay gone while you had a chance?" Wood was asked in the Iredell county jail this afternoon.

"Oh, I like North Carolina; it's a good state, besides all my people live here," was the patriotic answer. "The real reason I didn't light out for West Virginia was on account of my mother. She asked me to come back and give up, and that was what I intended doing as soon as I had gone to Charlotte to see friends and back to Winston-Salem to see my babies again."

"I hated to leave down at Raleigh. They have been good to me there the past six or seven months, but I was worried about my children and wanted to see that they were being well treated. Since my wife married again I didn't know what was going on."

Easy to Get Away

"How did I get away? That was easy. I had clothes under my prison clothes, so when I got a chance to get into the box car where I had been loading tile I just took off my prison clothes and rode out."

"I went down to Raleigh yards, walked down through the main streets of Raleigh and across to where I could get a freight to Selma. From Selma I went to Florence and from Florence back to Wadesboro. I rode a freight into Winston where my babies are."

Wood spent two days with his family in Winston, according to his own statement, and then went to Roanoke. From Roanoke he went to Bluefield, W. Va., Huntington, W. Va., and from there to Bramwell, W. Va., where his mother lives. It was there he said he received the inspiration to come back to North Carolina where he thought there might be people who would like to see him.

Went Riding With Girls

"I came back into North Carolina by the way of Galax. Spent the night and Sunday in North Wilkesboro."

"Where did I stay? Oh, with friends. During the afternoon I was out riding with another fellow and a couple of girls."

"Nice girls? Sure, I call 'em nice." "There is one thing, I wish you would say for me, buddy. Some fellow named Huffman in Raleigh told the Greensboro News that I was on my way to Greensboro to get another Jew. I never said any such thing and I would like for the people to know I didn't."

"Sure I read the papers all the time. Picked up the Greensboro News at Florence the morning after I got away. They had a picture of me on the front page. Didn't think much of the picture. Ain't near as handsome as I am."

The golden front teeth of the captured man flashed as he enjoyed his own humor.

Tired of Roaming

"Do you expect to have another vacation next year?"

"Oh, I don't know; I ain't got sense enough to be scared of anything, but somehow I am getting tired of this sort of life. Always running from something. I kinder think I'll go back and settle down and some day the people of the state will realize I didn't kill that man. The doctors operated and he never came out from under the ether. He didn't have anything

but a little scalp wound and I know that didn't kill him. Four or five years from now the people will realize all that," he added with unconscious pathos.

"It's my babies and my old mother that gets me worried when I am down there. Mr. Fou and the new warden are good to me and I hate to be leaving there on account of them, but since my wife married again I can't keep up with my mother and my babies."

"Mind my wife marrying again? No. I told her mother that I felt she was doing the right thing."

"That fellow she married needn't have left town when I left down at Raleigh. I don't hold any grudge and wouldn't do him any harm." Again the gold teeth flashed.

Wood is comfortably housed in the Iredell county jail awaiting state prison officials. He says that he won't break out tonight as he likes the fellows around the place. Numerous people in the city tonight are locking their cars for the first time.

During the early afternoon the noted convict held open house at the jail. Word that he had been captured spread around town and literally hundreds crowded through the corridor of the jail to get a glimpse of him. From banker to bum they all passed the cell of the captured convict and all pronounced him an affable fellow. The sheriff discovered what was going on and put a stop to it. Raleigh with its bandit has nothing on Statesville.

Wood was making his tour in a Dodge sedan which he says belongs to a friend in Huntington. He is wearing a brown sweater, riding breeches and puttees.

HYMAN - TILLEY ARSON CASE BEGINS IN STUART

Greensboro and Mt. Airy Men Hope to Prove Innocence Through Alibis

Stuart, Va., Dec. 5.—The trial of Leon and Charles Hyman, of Greensboro, and D. E. Tilley, of Mount Airy, on charges of arson will be called next Tuesday morning in the Patrick circuit court. The three accused are under \$5,000 bond each and face two indictments. One of them is a formal charge of arson and the second charges that they conspired to set fire to the Patrick Jobbing company, Inc., at Stuart for the purpose of collecting insurance.

The case will be stoutly resisted by the three men who are hopeful of being able to convince the jury by alibis that they were not in Stuart when the fire broke out on the night of August 4 and that they could not, therefore, be guilty of the offense.

The state claims that the Hyman brothers organized the stock company among themselves, procured a stock of general merchandise, rented a storehouse near the railway station and then insured the stock for \$38,000. The fire broke out on the eve of the formal opening and at least one of the Hyman brothers expects to show that he was in Winston-Salem, N. C., providing for refreshments on the morning for those who called to see the new enterprise.

The state will have a "mystery" witness who is expected to tell of the actual cost of the goods and through him it is expected to show how the fire was started. The fire broke out at the height of the drought. Stuart's water pressure was so low at that time that no effective work could be done in checking the flames which damaged other property.

Another case of interest on the Patrick docket is the ouster proceedings against J. D. Walker, a member of the board of supervisors, whose removal is sought on the ground that he undertook to do road work for the county in violation of his oath of office.

Old Fiddle From Garret Is Worth \$10,000 to Detroit

Urbana, Ill., Dec. 5.—An old broken fiddle, brought down from the garret to be repaired for their son to practice on, has brought Mr. and Mrs. Phil Menges an offer of \$10,000 from F. B. Cherloski, Detroit violinist. On the back of the violin, which cost the Menges \$25, is a label which reads: "Antonio Stradivarius Cremona Sis Pacebat Anno 1716," and in one corner in a circle containing a cross are the initials "A. S." which appear on all the master maker's violins.

FARMERS UNION IS OPPOSED TO 5-MONTHS TERM

Would Expedite Trials by Abolishing Lawyer's Speeches

Raleigh, Dec. 4.—Farmer-Labor organizations will quiz candidates for state and congressional offices again in next spring's primary campaign to "get a line on their views as to agricultural and industrial problems."

The State Farmer's union, in a resolution adopted at its closing session today, authorized the preparation of a questionnaire in cooperation with the state federation of labor. The two organizations put out a questionnaire in 1920 which added fire to the gubernatorial campaign when Cameron Morrison and Robert N. Page answered and O. Max Gardner refused. They did not quiz the candidates in the 1924 campaign.

Officers Re-elected

Before adjourning, the farmers passed another resolution pledging themselves to fight "propaganda" against the child labor amendment, and re-elected officers for the ensuing year.

In a meeting that hung over until near midnight last night the farmers worked out most of their resolutions, going on record in opposition to the proposed extension of the state wide school term from six to eight months; advocating the abolition of lawyers' speeches to the jury as the most effective method of expediting trials in superior courts, and proposing the establishment of a state printery to supply free text books to public school children. The resolutions also advocated the Australian ballot, readjustment of the present system of taxation, a referendum on war, and requested the corporation commission to refuse the rate increase asked by the Western Union Telegraph company.

On the subject of the judiciary, the farmers demanded the expedition of trials rather than the creation of new courts. In proposing the abolition of lawyers' speeches before juries, they suggested that the attorneys address themselves briefly to the judge, permit him to explain the law in all its applications to the case and let the jury take the case and bring in a verdict according to the evidence and the law.

What kind of question the proposed farmer-labor questionnaire will get from next spring's candidates for public office cannot be forecasted this early.

WANT PARDON OF LAST OF ALLENS

New Governor of Virginia Will Be Asked to Extend Clemency

Danville, Va., Dec. 7.—A movement has been started to secure executive clemency for the last remaining members of the Allen clan of Carroll County still in the penitentiary serving long terms for their part in the historic courthouse tragedy which took place in Hillsville in March, 1922. Sidna Allen and Wesley Edwards are the two men in the penitentiary and it is in behalf of their liberation that petitions are soon to be circulated throughout Virginia addressed to Governor-Elect Harry Flood Byrd.

No effort will be made to secure action by Governor Trinkle. Three years ago he pardoned Sidna Edwards and Friel Allen, but declined to give freedom to Sidna Allen and Wesley Edwards. It is thought useless to re-present the matter to Governor Trinkle since his expression of views on that subject. The attitude of the incoming Governor is not known but there is reason to believe that some form of encouragement must have been given to relatives who have never failed to work for the liberty of the men and who, coming from mountain stock have probably felt their imprisonment more keenly than convicts from urban centers.

Claude Swanson Allen and Floyd Allen were the only two of the six ringleaders to die in the electric chair. It was a bullet from Floyd Allen's gun that sent Judge Thornton Massie to his death as he sat on the bench just after sentencing him to a year in the penitentiary for a minor offense. Shooting became general and several of the court officials lay dead when the smoke of battle cleared.

Most of the members of the Allen clan who it has always been felt went to the courtroom expecting trouble escaped, only to be recaptured.

FAMOUS RANCH TO BE SUBDIVIDED AND SOLD

Has 24 Miles Frontage on Pacific Ocean and Contains 18,000 Acres

Santa Monica, Cal., Dec. 5.—Passing of the last frontier in the southern California coast district is heralded in the announcement that the Malibu ranch, near here, consisting of 18,000 acres, is to be sub-divided into home sites.

The ranch has approximately 24 miles of frontage on the Pacific ocean and is the only original Spanish land grant of a century and a quarter ago to remain intact.

Strife marked the history of the 'albu since 1804, when the king of Spain set his seal to the first grant. At present more than a score of cowboys ride the range of mountains and beach, caring for 5,000 head of cattle roaming the vast tract.

To whom the king of Spain granted the land in 1804 probably will remain a mystery, for the original grant has long been lost, but authentic records of 1805 indicate that the ranch was given to Don Jose Dartolone Tapia by the Spanish governor of California.

Don Tapia ruled his acreage with an iron hand, frequently driving off invaders. He died in 1828, leaving the ranch to his widow and two sons. His will containing one of the strangest paragraphs in California's history, declared indebtedness to the padre of San Fernando mission to the extent of \$300 "more or less, or any sum they claim." Directing the payment he also gave the fathers three pounds of sugar, a valuable bequest in those days.

The Tapia family held the ranch until 1848 when they sold it to Don Leon Victor Prudhomme for \$400, half of which was paid in "metallic currency," the rest in "goods at current prices."

Prudhomme was not satisfied with the title and he reduced his fortune in legal tithes with the United States government until, in 1857, he lost the ranch in settlement of a \$1,400 grocery bill to Don Mattio Keller, of Los Angeles.

In 1870, Keller's heirs sold the tract for \$10 an acre to Frederick Hastings Rindge, late husband of May K. Rindge, present owner and director of the property.

Rindge came west in 1870 in search of health. He bought the 18,000 acres amid the jeers of early settlers, who branded his ranch of mountains and beaches "Rindge's ridiculous purchase."

Regaining his health, Rindge began pursuing a pet vision, now about to be realized—that the huge acreage would become prettily designed home sites—but his struggle to keep the original grant intact forced him to build a \$500,000 railway at his own expense to prevent condemnation proceedings by western railway lines.

Recently, after a long court battle, 150 acres were condemned for a military highway from the north. Mrs. Rindge bitterly opposed the highway contending that it would destroy portions of the beach and would not conform to the proposed landscaping design.

Drunken Hog Leads Way To Large Still

Hattiesburg, Miss., Dec. 5th.—A drunken hog led to the discovery of one of the most complete stills found in South Mississippi. In recent months located at the plant of the J. J. Newton Lumber Company.

The moonshiner had coupled up his improvised still with the steam house of the lumber plant, and in that manner was able to obtain steam, water and power.

A hog staggered across the yard in front of the general manager's office and the authorities were notified. It was feared the hog was mad. Deputy Sheriff Ward Camp responded. He took one look at the porker and started an investigation. He walked about the big yards and when he neared a certain point the hog made a rush at him. The animal stood guard over the spot, but was too intoxicated to put up much of a fight.

Camp continued his investigation and found a complete 100 gallon still. The lid of the outfit had been sealed with a clay mixture. Finger prints found in the clay may lead to the identity of the moonshiner.

Tobacco Co-ops Laying Plans For Another 5-Year Sign-Up

1,000 SOLDIERS LOST NINE YEARS ARE FOUND

Exiled to Chinese-Mongolian Border and Forgotten, They Founded Five Villages

Budapest, Dec. 5.—The unexpected return of a Hungarian soldier, being thought long dead, has cleared up the mystery surrounding the disappearance of 1,000 soldiers of Austria-Hungary nine years ago, known to have been captured by the Russian army in the Carpathians in 1916 and reported as having been sent to Siberia, all trace of the men vanished years ago, and they were thought to have perished.

Now, by the return of the soldier, it is known that the 1,000 have settled in the bleak territory to which they were sent, founded five villages and traveled well on the way to the development of 400,000 acres of land allotted to them by the Soviet government. Furthermore they have married Tartar, Mongol and Chinese wives, and are so well content with their lot that they will remain permanently in their new homes.

Soon Forgotten.

The villages of the prisoners are on the side of the Amur river, near the Chinese-Mongolian border. They were exiled to the place by the old Russian government and were soon forgotten. Slowly they turned their attention to agriculture and various other trades. Most of them were former Hungarian army officers, nearly all university graduates. Among them is a university professor, three doctors, an architect, two Catholic priests, a rabbi, all others masters of valuable trades.

The foundation of these villages came with the Russian revolution. The prisoners had two choices; one was not to recognize the Red government and suffer further punishment as prisoners; the other choice was to join the Red army. Although all of them were against the Soviet idea, still the latter choice was better for them.

They joined the army and they were placed in the same battalion. The Reds gave them about 400,000 acres of land, agricultural machinery, domestic animals and everything the farmers need, and they were to guard the border from Mongolian and Chinese attacks.

That was the beginning of the villages. They built houses, agricultural buildings, brick factories and a flour mill. Within a short time they had formed a small industrial center in a territory where only wild tribes existed.

Hold to Language

They all married Chinese, Mongolian, Korean and Russian girls, but an interesting thing is that they didn't forget their mother language. Not that, but they created a new European civilization. They built churches and schools where the Hungarian language is spoken. Even their wives are adopting this language.

Money is a thing unknown to them. Business is done by the ancient methods of exchange. Most of their output is sold in Vladivostok where their business also is transacted in the exchange of their products for articles they need.

Horse Stealing Passing, But Association Finds Other Work

Jacksonville, Ill., Dec. 5.—While horse stealing has shown a steady decrease with the passing of years, the Anti-Horse Thief association still flourishes.

A fraternal, protective and detective organization, composed of men banded together for the mutual protection of their property, it has more than 50,000 members in eight middle-western states.

Just when the first lodge bearing the name was organized is not certain, but the first of which there is any record was organized in Clark county, Missouri, in 1854. A. C. Reid, who resides near here, has been president of the organization 32 years.

The association does not limit its activities to capturing horse thieves. During the last year, some of the 500 members of the Jacksonville sub-order had property, including chickens and hogs, stolen to the value of \$1,200. Approximately \$700 worth of this was recovered.

Have Now Named Their Goal And Set Their Own Terms For 1927-1931 Sign Up

Raleigh, Dec. 7.—Tobacco farmers in three states who have practiced the new method of cooperative marketing for the past three and a half years have set their seal of approval upon the orderly selling of tobacco by definitely committing themselves to a re-sign up of a majority of the growers from 1927 to 1931.

The Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association has now received a total of close to 500,000,000 pounds of tobacco since it began operations in 1922 and it is a fact that the money already received by its members for the tobacco delivered during that period is well above the average price paid for tobacco during any five years in history with the one exception of the World War period.

Virginia dark-fired growers are now demanding a 75 per cent sign-up of all the dark tobacco in their state. They have already signed up 7,000,000 pounds or 17 per cent of the total production in Virginia. The tobacco farmers of the old belt of Virginia and North Carolina are planning reorganization on the basis of a 65 per cent control contract and the South Carolinians who have benefited greatly from the association during the present season, are this week commencing the active campaign for signers which has a sign-up of 65 per cent of all tobacco in the South Carolina belt as its definite goal.

In none of these three belts are the farmers willing to carry on an association without a majority sign-up of the growers and in the old tobacco belt of North Carolina and Virginia as well as in South Carolina provision is made in the future contract, approved by the representatives of the membership, that should the sign-up fall short of 65 per cent, signers shall have the privilege of withdrawing their names during a definite period. Provided withdrawals do not reduce the percentage below 50 per cent of the production of the belt, this 50 per cent or more will organize into an association. Otherwise there will be no association.

The reorganization of the tobacco growers of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina is being carried on strictly by type pools in the various belts of the States, according to secretary M. O. Wilson of the Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association who emphasizes the fact that each group of tobacco growers will organize as a separate unit but with the specially reserved right to federate with other groups and to determine through its own elected directors in session with those from other pools the terms of federation.

That this movement is one that is being undertaken entirely at the hands of the farmers, that the tobacco growers who have experienced both the advantages and difficulties of cooperative marketing for three years have named the terms of their new contract and that presentation of the contracts and the organization work for the marketing association which are to function at the expiration of the present contract are being carried on entirely by the organization committees in the various sections are facts which show clearly that the cooperating tobacco farmers are determined to build themselves an association which shall assure them further price protection for another five years.

No action has been taken up to this time by the growers of Eastern North Carolina and the Sun Cured growers of Virginia. Action may come later from one or both of these groups.

George S. Norfleet in Serious Condition

Winston-Salem, Dec. 7.—George S. Norfleet, prominent in business and fraternal circles lies at his home here desperately ill, caused by a stroke of paralysis, which developed soon after he arrived home Sunday from a business trip North. Mr. Norfleet is Past Grand Master of the North Carolina Grand Lodge of Masons and Past Grand Commander of the Knights Templar, and is well known throughout the State. His right side is affected as well as his speech.