

Governor Pardons Sidna Allen and Wesley Edwards

After Serving Thirteen Years in Prison For Their Part in Hillsville Tragedy Two Remaining Members of Allen Clan Are Liberated.

CURTAIN RINGS DOWN ON COURT HOUSE TRAGEDY

Without any hint as to his intended action Governor Byrd, of Virginia, last week issued pardons to the remaining members of the Allen clan who were serving terms in the Virginia penitentiary for their part in the Hillsville court house tragedy enacted fourteen years ago—March 14, 1912. And the stroke of the Governor's pen to their pardon rings down the curtain to a tragic drama that has not been equaled in this part of the nation for its boldness and its fearful outcome, bringing death to a Jurist, county officials and spectators and later two members of the clan paying for their deeds in the electric chair. Two years ago two of the youthful members of the clan were pardoned by Governor Trinkle, and now Sidna Allen and his nephew, Wesley Edwards, have been liberated. Floyd Allen, over whom the fight in the court house started, and his stalwart and eldest son, Claude, sleep in their graves on a windswept ridge eight miles north of this city on the Fancy Gap road, having paid for their part by going to the electric chair. A neat granite monument marks the resting place of father and son, the graves being side by side and enclosed with a granite curbing, the mounds being covered with crushed granite so that the burial place retains a neat appearance without much attention from friends or relatives.

On the granite marker is a marble slab with the following inscription:

"Sacred to the memory of
CLAUDE S. ALLEN,
and his father,

Who was judicially murdered in the Virginia penitentiary March 28, 1913, by order of the Governor of Virginia over the protests of 100,000 Citizens of the State of Virginia."

"Placed here by a friend and citizen of Virginia."

On the front of the monument is the family name "Allen." On the left side is cut the name "Claude" and on the right side that of his father, "Floyd." Thus the monument stands as a reminder of the awful fate that these men met. From time to time there has been much comment over the inscription that was placed upon the marble slab. During the visit of Governor Trinkle to this city, when he met Governor Morrison at the good roads meeting here, the Virginia Governor stopped and viewed the graves of the two Allens. He had heard about the inscription and when he saw with his own eyes the full meaning of it he is said to have remarked that he expected to take some action to have the inscription removed, but almost daily people visit the graves and view with a shudder the spirit that lies behind the protest as will be voiced through the ages by the cold words engraved on the enduring marble.

On the day of the tragedy at Hillsville Floyd Allen sustained a broken leg and was unable to make his escape. Claude returned to his home at the foot of the Blue Ridge and remained in hiding for several days. Growing tired of having to dodge the officers he sent word by friends to Sheriff Haynes, of this city, that he was ready to surrender. So Sheriff Haynes in company with a Felt detective went to Claude's hiding place, took him in custody and carried him to Roanoke jail. All the other members escaped and in the meantime the father and son were tried and sentenced to be electrocuted. They had the ablest lawyers in the state employed and their case was carried through all the courts and once reached the Supreme Court of the United States, but without any avail to them. When all hope had been abandoned in the courts pressure was brought to bear upon Governor Mann to commute their sentence to life imprisonment. At that time they were confined in the death cell at Richmond. They were visited by large numbers of people of Richmond and other points and prominent

ladies of the state took an active part in their behalf. Almost all the ministers are said to have urged the commutation of their sentence and as the time for the execution drew nigh the Governor was visited daily by almost hysterical delegations composed of a large number of ladies. While Governor Mann maintained a strong stand against their pleadings yet the strain was terrible upon him and the day before the execution he left the city and made a trip to Baltimore. With his leaving the state the Lieutenant Governor assumed office, the next morning in the absence of the regular elected Governor. It was then that an appeal was made to the newly acting official that the Allen sentences be commuted. In the meantime the family of Governor Mann got in communication with him and he immediately returned to Virginia soil arriving at Alexandria, Va., just across the Potomac river from Washington City, in time to avert any action by the Lieutenant Governor. The day of the execution was one filled with anxiety and nervous tension. The execution was to have taken place at 10 o'clock in the morning, but the prison superintendent had been persuaded to postpone it until a later hour in the day pending action on the part of the Lieutenant Governor. But Governor Mann arrived on Virginia soil about noon of that day, and immediately phoned the superintendent of the penitentiary the following message: "This is Governor Mann. I am now on Virginia soil, and you will carry out my orders." And the father and son paid for their crime with their lives as the clock struck the hour of one.

Both men went bravely to their death without any show of fear. Floyd was electrocuted first and his son followed him five minutes later. Their bodies were brought to Mount Airy and buried Sunday afternoon, March 30, 1913, in the Jones burying ground near their home, in the presence of a vast throng, which was soaked with a cold, drizzling rain during the funeral services. Claude contended that he only shot in the defense of his father and during his stay in the death cell at Richmond ladies of that city presented him with a gold medal for what they termed his heroic act in standing by his father. At his death the medal was pinned upon his breast by friends. The caskets were opened at the grave and the medal was removed from Claude's breast and presented to his fiancée, Miss Nellie Wisler, as she wept at the head of the grave and holding in her hands a wreath of flowers for his mound.

The other members of the clan were hunted by the famous Felt detective force for months and they were finally captured and brought to trial. By that time sentiment seemed to have softened toward them to a certain degree and after a long legal battle in the courts they escaped the death sentence, but received sentences equivalent to life imprisonment. All the members on entering prison announced their intention of making model prisoners and all during the years they lived up to that declaration. Those who visited them regularly were convinced that they had reformed and during the past five or six years this change in them has ever been urged as a reason for their pardon, the argument being advanced that when a prisoner has become a reformed man beyond any doubt that after that time the state is not justified in heaping upon him more punishment.

Both Allen and Edwards have stated that they do not expect to return to their native settlement, but will obtain employment in or near Richmond, where they are said to have a large number of influential friends. The wife of Sidna Allen now resides at Hillsville, and she will join her husband in his new home. Wesley Edwards was never married, but has a widowed mother, a sister to Sidna and Floyd Allen.

Tropical animals in the London zoo last winter were provided with artificial summer sunlight by means of ultra-violet rays.

LAST OF ALLENS HAVE GOT PARDON

Famous Case in Which a Whole Court Was Shot up and Off-Scends Killed Came to Close.

Richmond, Va., April 28.—During a dramatic moment in the office of the governor here this afternoon, a file was written to the final chapter of a story which 14 years ago sent three court officials reeling into eternity during the famous "Allen gang" trial at Hillsville, and caused a nation to gasp with horror.

Sidna Allen and Wesley Edwards, two of the six principals in the tragedy after years of imprisonment for their part in shooting up the court on the memorable March 14, 1912, were granted conditional pardons by Governor Harry F. Byrd several years before their terms would have expired.

As far as the state of Virginia is concerned, the famous Allen case is closed history.

The pardons of the two men today recalled the tragedy of long standing in the mountains of South Virginia. A judge, the sheriff of the court, and the commonwealth's attorney of the court which was trying Floyd Allen, charged with a minor offense, were victims of the guns which barked from every corner of the court room.

Judge Thornton L. Massie, Sheriff Lewis F. Webb and Commonwealth's Attorney William M. Foster did not live to see order restored from the riotous mob spirit which terrorized the town after the court was thrown into turmoil by the unexpected raining of the leaden pellets of death into the tranquility of the small court room.

A juror, another victim, subsequently died from wounds when struck by a bullet as he sat in the jury box.

Trial followed. Floyd Allen and his son, Claude, were sentenced to the electric chair when convicted of stacking the court room in a conspiracy to shoot up the court, and for the murder of the three officials. Friel Allen and Sidna Edwards, both of whom were pardoned by Governor E. Lee Trinkle, also were convicted. Sidna Allen, brother to Floyd, and Wesley Edwards fled from the court room after the shooting. For months sheriff's posse scoured the mountainous country before they finally were captured in the midwest and brought to trial. Allen was sentenced to 35 years and Edwards to 27.

Birthday Celebrated at Westfield.

Westfield, May 3.—Sam Cook, one of the pioneers of Westfield, was honored by his six daughters, two sons, 25 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren to celebrate his birthday, an elegant dinner was served on the lawn, contributed by the children. It was a compliment to the family to make such a display. Mr. Cook is 79 years old and cheerful and fairly active. His home is the old Col. Tom M. tin place. It has quite a history, 80 years ago this was a place where mail was received before the days of stamps and ten cents had to be paid before the letter was delivered. Mr. Cook has given all his children good farms and when his last anniversary shall have been celebrated he will leave a reputation that might well be imitated by his neighbors and he will long be remembered by his help for the needy.

Rosale Durham lost his home by fire Tuesday. Mrs. Durham was at the spring washing and two children asleep in the house barely escaped. They lost everything and had no insurance.

Rats are playing havoc with young chickens, one farmer has lost 200.

The fine road to the Virginia line from Asbury to Willie Clark's lacks about a quarter of a mile of being finished and will be completed in 30 days.

Two Perish As Planes Crash High in Mid-Air.

Warsaw, Poland, April 29.—Three airplanes, flying over the cemetery rendering last honors to Colonel Serednicki, an air force inspector killed recently in an airplane accident, crashed in mid-air Tuesday. Two of the machines fell and a pilot was killed and two mechanics were injured.

The third plane did not fall, but the shock of the collision threw the pilot out of the machine and he was killed instantly when his body struck the ground.

CHARLOTTE BOY, 14, DEAD OF HYDROPHOBIA

Bitten by Small Dog Several Weeks Ago.

Charlotte, May 2.—After hours of agony and intense suffering, William Tynner, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Tynner, 25 West Park avenue, died in St. Peters hospital Friday from hydrophobia.

The youth was bitten by a dog a month ago, his parents remembered. At the time, they were influenced, they said, to believe there was no danger.

Other children in the neighborhood are said to have been bitten also. Among them is James Edward Brandee, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Brandee, 37 West Park avenue, who began the Pasteur treatment last night.

The dead boy first complained Thursday. He told his mother he had a headache and that his throat had a parched feeling. Nothing was done until he awakened his parents early Friday. He was in a delirious condition. He was rushed to a hospital where his parents were told that his condition was hopeless.

The dog which bit the children was killed several days after it had inflicted the wounds. It was not examined for hydrophobia.

Mr. Brandee said that as soon as he was sure his boy was out of danger, he was going to do all in his power to have a law enacted which would have every dog in Charlotte either vaccinated or shot.

Mr. Brandee added that his boy had shown no signs of having contracted hydrophobia.

MCDOWELL FIRE ASSUMES ASPECT OF CATASTROPHE

Men Conscripted for Battle Catawba Fish and Game Preserve Goes Up in Smoke.

Asheville, May 2.—A devastating fire which broke out in McDowell county Wednesday afternoon this afternoon began to take on the aspects of a catastrophe. Sweeping in a four mile path from the Buncombe county line, it is now within a little over a mile of Old Fort. The Catawba fish and game preserve is a total loss. Men to fight the red demon have been conscripted by the authorities, and the telephone system, which is usually closed on Sunday afternoon, was kept open until a late hour tonight in order to raise men.

Six hundred are now fighting the blaze. A large part of them have been forced to leave their homes against their will when county and government authorities combined to stamp out the flames. An untold amount of damages has been done, and at a late hour tonight no prospects of halting the advance of the fire before morning were seen by observers who reported to Asheville.

Valuable property is menaced by the flames, which the men have been unable to check. Two of the firefighters became entrapped late today between the advancing wall of fire and the flames from the backfiring. Four men were badly burned in rescuing them from the trap.

Late today the flames crossed the Buncombe county line and tonight were advancing hungrily into the finest timber in that section of the county. Appeals for aid have been sent to neighboring towns and it is expected that before morning more than a thousand men will be fighting the fire with scientific methods under the direction of the local foresters.

Officer Kills Self After Shooting Innocent Man.

Norton, Va., April 27.—Because he thought he had shot an innocent man, Ellis Dye, Wise county prohibition officer, is dead from a self-inflicted wound and his victim, George Hill, a farmer, lies in a hospital here in a critical condition.

Dye attempted to stop an automobile last Saturday with what he thought was a liquor shipment and fired several shots. When the car came to a stop it was learned that it was not a liquor car and that Hill one of the two occupants, was shot in the head.

After assisting the wounded man to the hospital, Dye returned home, told his wife he had shot an innocent man and turned his revolver upon himself and fired. He died late Sunday evening. Hill, who has a fighting chance for life, is conscious only at times, the hospital authorities say.

Talks By The County Agent

By E. E. White, Surry County Farm Demonstration Agent

Some inquiries have been made about repelling the bud worm from attacking the young growing corn. So far no satisfactory repellent has been found. The best advice to be given to control the pest is to have the soil thoroughly prepared, heavily fertilized, and then postpone the planting until the weather is warm. In this way the corn will grow rapidly and since the bud worm will attack for only a short period, then most of the corn will escape injury.

While soy beans is a good soil builder if properly inoculated yet it responds well to a supply of fertilizer. We are recommending 400 lbs. of 3-3-3 per acre. This is what we are putting on the six demonstration plots near Dobson and we think this will give satisfactory results. On rich soils which contains plenty of nitrogen you can leave out the ammonia but on thin soils the addition of 5 per cent of ammonia will be a great help to the crop.

If you are just starting to grow soy beans for the first time it is absolutely necessary to inoculate the beans so the plant will have the bacteria present to take nitrogen from the air and put it in the soil. You can get free cultures from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. I have one thousand application cards in the office to make requests for the free material. These can be obtained by writing me or getting them from the office at Dobson. You should get these at once for it takes the Department some little time to prepare the cultures.

Field soil inoculations can be easily made by obtaining from a field where soy beans have been grown and is known to have been successfully inoculated some of the soil which is the natural home of the bacteria. This is determined by examining the roots of the plants by finding the nodules on the roots. Such soil, well sifted can be applied to a new field through the fertilizer attachment of the drill. Use at least 200 pounds per acre. If you broadcast by hand use a large quantity and is best done early in the morning or late evening or on cloudy days for sunlight will soon quickly kill the bacteria and thus destroy the inoculation. The field should be harrowed immediately after broadcasting the material. Transferring the soil from a considerable distance is expensive and may introduce new weeds, diseases and insects. Sometimes inoculation material is carried on the seeds or by the dust and dirt present. If legumes are grown without inoculation they exhaust the soil like corn and tobacco, so be sure and make efforts to build the soil by taking advantage of the inoculation material.

There seems to be a new pest attacking the beans of the county. It has not entirely covered the county although some are reporting the presence of the Mexican Bean beetle destroyed their crop last year. The following is quoted from Farmers' Bulletin No. 1407—"The adult is a copper-colored beetle, bearing eight black spots on each wing cover, and is about one-fourth of an inch long. The larva is orange colored and is frequently described as "fuzzy."

This insect feeds on the plants of all kinds of table beans, cowpeas, soy beans, beggarweed, and others of lesser importance. The principal injury is done to the foliage, but in cases of heavy infestation green pods are destroyed.

Magnesium arsenate, used as a spray or as a dust is the most promising insecticide. Calcium arsenate combined with hydrated lime is also useful.

Heavily infested fields should be plowed under as soon as the crop is off, and the grower should not plant more beans than can be properly treated.

The Mexican Bean beetle can be controlled by the use of certain arthropod poisons. Lead arsenate and zinc arsenate which are reported to be useful in the West have been found to injure when tried on bean foliage to warrant their use under any conditions.

Magnesium arsenic spray
Magnesium arsenate 3 1/2 large
arcs 2 pounds, water 100 gallons;
for small areas 2-4 oz. magnesium ar-
senate, water 2 gallons.
"Since the Mexican bean beetle
feeds on the under side of the leaves

ENGLAND IN CLUTCHES OF COAL STRIKE

Million Miners Idle and 5,000,000 Other Workers Will Support Them.

London, May 1.—Complete paralysis of industry in Great Britain is a prospect of the coming week unless some agreement is reached for ending the coal strike which began today. One million miners are affected by the strike; they will be backed up, if the strike continues, by some 5,000,000 workers belonging to 225 trade unions.

The representative of the unions decided today to put all their strength to the task of helping the miners, for the issue is characterized by labor as no longer one between the owners and the miners, but as affecting all labor.

A proclamation by the king which gives the government almost unlimited powers and establishes a "state of emergency" which while not so far reaching as the proclamation of martial law, permits the authorities to use all the resources of the state to guard the nation's vital interests.

Troops Sent Out.

Already, as a precautionary measure dispositions of troops have been made in the coal mining areas of South Wales, Lancashire and Scotland. The organization for the maintenance of supplies is prepared to join with the government in hundreds of centers throughout the country in maintaining essential services while there are indications that the government itself is getting ready to take over the control of coal, both in the mines and aboard ships.

Yet in the midst of the overpowering gloom of a possible general strike there is a ray of hope, for it is unofficially asserted that labor delegates have intimated to the government that if a resumption of the negotiations were in immediate prospect even when the general strike was due to begin, Monday at midnight, the threat would not be carried out. Their contention was that owing to the lateness of the mine owners' offer conveyed to them last Friday evening, there was no time left for real negotiations.

Substance of Offer.

This offer was for a reduced wage on the basis of the settlement in 1921, namely a 20 per cent increase over the standard of wages prevailing in 1914. This was conditional on an eight hour day, instead of a seven hour day.

The miners absolutely refused to accept these terms.

Submarine Breaks Whale's Back in Crash.

Portsmouth, N. H., April 30.—A clash between the big navy submarine V-1 and a huge whale, in which the whale came off second best, was reported by the crew of the undersize craft on arrival here today from Key West, Fla. The whale's back was believed to have been broken by the impact in the collision, which occurred under water off Cape Cod. The V-1 was unhurt.

The V-1, one of the largest underwater craft in the world, was putting into Provincetown late yesterday, according to Lieut. Commander Sherwood Picking, in charge. Off Long Point the submarine submerged. As she was coming up the crew felt the boat strangely jarred. When they reached the surface a great whale, fifty eight feet long, was found lying about the bow of the V-1, lying partly on the bow.

The crew put three harpoons into the big creature and towed it into Provincetown so that the populace might see the submarine's first capture. Later the submarine towed the huge carcass out to sea and sank it.

It is necessary to direct the spray to these parts. This can be done by placing the nozzle, preferably at 45 degree angle nozzle on a 90 degree elbow, at the end of the spray rod. Where two nozzles are used to a row, one nozzle should be turned slightly forward so that the sprays will not meet too closely.

For gardens and very small patches a small compressed air hand sprayer may be successfully used.

The magnesium arsenate can be obtained from H. H. Smith and Mitchell Hardware Co., Mount Airy at 40c per pound, so if you are going to spray be sure and get your material early. Next week I expect to give some more information on the sprays and the insect. Usually the second year after infestation the bean crop is almost totally destroyed.