

SLAYS FAMILY HE DIDN'T INTEND TO

Florida Man Had Slight Grudge At One Man Who Formerly Lived In House Where His Victims Lived.

Tampa, Fla., May 29.—With the confession last night by E. F. Levine, 38, a fisherman, that he murdered five members of the Merrell family with a hammer as they slept early Friday morning, police tonight were trying to link the slaying with a similar crime here last June when four persons were murdered with an axe.

"I did it! I killed them! I thought they were the Ryles family! God knows why I did, I must have been crazy."

That was the gist of the giant "roustabout's" confession, while Levine stood handcuffed, perspiring and shaking in the dimly lighted morgue with the dead forms of his victims arranged around him.

His eyes closed time after time, his lean fingers dug into the flesh.

"I don't remember," he muttered. "It wasn't nothing much. I was just crazy, crazy."

Faced by the bodies of his victims, Levine broke down at the morgue and admitted killing Herman Merrell, 48,

Commissioner's Sale.

By virtue of power and authority conferred upon the undersigned commissioner by a judgment of the Superior Court of Surry County in a special proceeding entitled Alice Davis vs. Howard Davis, et al. I will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder on the premises on

Thursday, June 23, 1927, at 1 o'clock, P. M.

the following described real estate, to wit:

A lot in the town of Mount Airy on Main Street, beginning on west side of Main street corner of the Globe Warehouse lot or the original road, runs with said line 4 1/2 west 600 feet; thence North 45, a line parallel with Spring street 115 feet to the Estes line; thence with the Estes line to Main street; thence with Main street to the beginning, including the dwelling home of the late J. H. Davis and out houses and other improvements on said lot.

Terms of sale: One-third cash, balance one and two years.

This May 24, 1927.

FRED FOLGER, Com.

As Others See Us

The following personal letter from Rev. J. W. Frank, to the editor of The Mount Airy News, is so highly appreciated that we are taking the liberty to print it. Rev. Mr. Frank has spent many years in Japan as a Missionary to that country, and at the present time and for years he has been paid his salary by the Central Methodist Church of this city.

Seven years ago, when Mr. Frank was here on a visit and preparing to return to the East after his vacation, we suggested to him that as the Methodist people of this city were paying his salary on the foreign field it appeared to us to be appropriate that he keep in touch with them through the local paper by sending a letter occasionally for publication. Mr. Frank took kindly to the idea, and now for seven years he has used The Mount Airy News as a medium for his letters back home.

How well all this has worked he tells in his personal letter which follows:

Uwajima, Ehime Ken, Japan.
Mr. J. E. Johnson, Editor,
Mount Airy, N. C., U. S. A.
Dear Mr. Johnson:

I enclose manuscripts for two ar-

a carpenter; Mrs. Merrell, 38, their two sons, Ralph, 11, and Buddy, 3, and their daughter, Mildred, 5. A five-weeks old baby sleeping with its mother, was struck by the hammer wielder and its skull crushed, but it was still clinging to life tonight.

Levine killed the Merrells "by mistake" he said in his confession. He meant to kill Ed Ryles and his family, he admitted.

Ryles lived in the Merrell home until three weeks ago when he moved.

The family murdered last June were the Rowells. The police believe there is significance in similarity of the names. Bee Dee Rowell, his grandmother, 94 years old, his niece, 16, and Charles Alexander, a roomer at the house, were slain while they slept.

"The two crimes were similar in many respects. Both, police say, were committed by a life-handed murderer.

Levine was arrested late Friday afternoon with Leonard Thompson, but Thompson was absolved of all blame in Levine's confession.

At the time of their arrest both had been drinking denatured alcohol, and later Levine admitted he also was under the influence of a drug.

A newspaper reporter claims credit for the confession after Levine had held up under almost constant questioning a night and a day. Late yesterday afternoon the reporter learned that two men had been to Mrs. Lizzell Banta, a fortune teller, about noon Friday to inquire "who was the murderer and if we'll get in any trouble about the murders."

The woman was taken to the police station last night and from a row of prisoners picked Levine and Thompson.

ticles for your esteemed paper. You have been very kind to accept for publication what I have written during the past seven years. I shall soon see you in person and tell you how much Mrs. Frank and I have enjoyed reading your paper. Aside from any desire to be complimentary, I wish to say that I consider your paper most ably edited. You certainly found your right calling. If my contributions have not been worth the price of the paper and the heavy postage you have had to pay I shall be glad to make good when I see you.

From the enclosed article you will see that we are to sail from Japan on furlough in July. So I request that you cease sending the paper to my address in Uwajima after the issue of June 16. If convenient, you might mail the issue of June 23 to Mission House, 24 Kakayamate Dori, 2-Chome, Kobe, Japan. Again, you might mail the June 30th issue to me addressed On Board Empress of Asia, Yokohama. I shall wait to see all the subsequent issues till our arrival in Mount Airy about the last of August. So if I may have access to your file after my arrival, very good; or, if you do not mind, you might put into the postoffice addressed me at Mount Airy. Mr. Sparger or my son can care for the mail till we call for it or send for it, as we are asking that our other papers be directed there. We have not definitely decided where we shall locate for our year of vacation. No place would seem so much like home as Mount Airy, where we had such a pleasant time during our previous furlough; but we may decide to locate where we can attend school.

We were delighted to receive Miss Cora Earp's Easter greetings, with a most interesting note on the back of it. We are so glad to be thus remembered by her. We ought to write to her separately; but we will just ask you to say to her that we thank her for her thoughtfulness, and would remind her that she has not been forgotten by any means. Often the sight of The News reminds me of her and her desk in the office, as well as the other faces and surroundings about the place. But I presume I will have to revise my mental picture when I behold the changes which have taken place since I last looked in on you all.

I still recall the pleasant evening spent in your home when you had me to dinner, and when I had the pleasure of meeting your daughter so accomplished in vocal music. I presume she is making a great reputation in voice culture. My regards to the good wife and the children, especially to the son associated with you in business who so obligingly assented to your proposition to send me your paper here in Japan.

With an affectionate farewell till we meet, I am, as ever,

Yours most affectionately and cordially,

J. W. FRANK.

It is gratifying to learn that young Lindberg shows as little disposition as his mother to turn a great scientific feat into a mere showman's advertisement. In this he also establishes a new and refreshing ideal.—Reidsville Review.

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Notice Trustee's Sale of Land.

By virtue of authority vested in the undersigned trustee in a certain deed of trust executed the 19th day of Sept., 1924, by Minnie Cox and J. A. Cox for Sophia Samet to secure an indebtedness of \$2,000.00, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Surry County, N. C., in book 89, page 255, default having been made in the indebtedness therein secured and at the request of the holder, I will sell for cash, to the highest bidder, at public auction, in front of the Bank of Mount Airy, Mount Airy, N. C., on

Saturday, June 11th, 1927, at 1 o'clock P. M.,

the following described real estate: Beginning at a stake on Spough street in the town of Mount Airy, N. C., on the corner of lot No. 20 of the sub-division of the W. T. Purvis property as sub-divided by the Atlantic Coast Realty Company on June 2nd, 1923, by L. W. Barber, engineer, and runs with the line of lot No. 20 N. 89 deg. W. 190 feet to an alley; thence with said alley N. 40 deg. E. 56 feet to the corner of lot No. 23, Sophia Samet's corner; thence with her line and the line of lot No. 23 S. 38 deg. E. 190 feet to Spough street; thence with Spough street E. 4 deg. W. 56 feet to the beginning. The same being lots 21 and 22 of said survey.

Sale made to satisfy a balance of \$1,480.00 principal, interest and cost of sale to said.

This the 5th day of May, 1927.
EDW. H. LINVILLE, Trustee.


Finishes Sentences, Celebrates, Killed

Greenville, June 1.—Abner Stepp, 40, white man of this township, met instant death near the county convict camp as a result of a dynamite explosion.

Stepp had just completed serving a six months' sentence for violation of the liquor laws and was to have been discharged upon his return to camp last night.

According to reports of the accident, Stepp procured some of the dynamite being used for road work and set out to celebrate the end of his sentence. He lighted the fuse on one of the sticks of dynamite and it exploded before he could throw it away from him. The concussion also exploded a box of dynamite nearby and Stepp's body was thrown twenty feet into the air.

Another convict nearby was painfully injured by the explosion but it is not thought that the injuries will prove fatal.



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