

Couple Held In City Jail To Await Result of Foul Assault

Ed Colen Admits Conspiring To Kill Robey Culler So He and Mrs. Culler Could Wed

Culler May Die of Fractured Skull

The prompt and efficient work of the police department of this city Monday night has brought to the bar of justice two persons, who must answer to a conspiracy that they hatched after months of planning that would do away with Robey Culler, young furniture workman of this city. His wife and her paramour in the crime, Edward M. Colen, are now in the city jail, while the husband of the woman is in Martin Memorial Hospital with his skull fractured in two places, the side of his face opened by a foul blow and his right eye perhaps permanently injured.

Monday night as the mail train crew was taking the train up to the "Y" to turn around they passed a man lying by the side of the track near the mirror plant. Their suspicions were aroused and on coming back toward the depot they stopped the train, got out and helped the man to his feet. At first they thought he was drinking, and when he was helped to his feet he started walking off. The crew and train went on to the depot, but a message was sent to the police station that a man was over about the mirror plant who perhaps needed looking after. Officers Brannock and Melton found him leaning against a post near the mirror factory about 10 o'clock that night. His face and shoulders were covered with blood and he could give no intelligent answers to questions of the officers. He would ask where he was and mumble about why he was so sick. His condition was seen to be serious and the officers carried him to the hospital. It was then found that he had met with foul play in some way.

Inquiries made by officers Snow and Brannock caused them to go at once to the home of Culler where they knew Colen boarded and roomed. On reaching there they found that Colen had gone to bed but he got up when they arrived. The officers questioned him as to his movements during the evening and this led to his making several statements that did not tally up. They then questioned Culler's wife and likewise she could not give a feasible account of their movements for the past few hours. The officers made a search of the place and found Colen's shoes concealed under the bed mattress, with much sandy soil on them. He was arrested by the officers on suspicion and when morning arrived his will power gave way and he told the officers all about the effort to kill Culler and that he and Culler's wife could marry. It was then that Mrs. Culler was arrested, although she has never admitted having anything to do with the crime.

Later the officers found on the railroad siding near the mirror plant a large freight car coupling pin which Colen used in his effort to kill Culler. It had blood stains on it and hair from the head of Culler was still clinging to it where it gathered as it was driven into the skull of the victim by Colen. In the city jail Colen says he had secured the heavy pin about two weeks ago for the purpose of going away with Culler and that many times since then Mrs. Culler had urged that he hurry and get the job done with. As late as last Friday he says she wrote him a note and handed it to him at the dinner hour telling him to be sure and get rid of Culler Saturday and certainly not later than Sunday.

Colen now talks freely about the affair and says that since the officers have got him cornered there is no use to try to lie out of it, and that he has nothing to hold back. He says that Monday night, after so much urging from the woman to get the job over with, he suggested to Culler that they walk up the railroad track and get some wood. He told Culler they could find some old cross the timber along the right of way which would make good stove wood. They started out, but before Colen left the house he went to a mill case and brought out the coupling pin which he had kept concealed for two weeks, put it in his hip pocket and followed along by the left side of Culler. They walked up the railroad track to the mirror plant; they then turned around and walked down the track to the curve below the chair factory. All the time Colen was try-

ing to get up the courage to deal the death blow to Culler. They turned around and Colen urged his victim to walk up above the depot a second time, which they did. The time came for them to turn around again and Colen saw that he must do the job then or not at all. He lagged a little behind Culler, and drawing the coupling pin from his hip pocket gave him a violent blow across the left side of his skull just back of the ear. Culler seems to have then swooned around facing his assailant and was then struck a second blow across his right cheek and eye. Colen says Culler never spoke, but stumbled to the side of the track. He threw the deadly weapon down, it striking a cross tie and leaving a dent in the wood which was found by the officers the next day.

When Colen got back to the house where Culler lived he says Mrs. Culler asked him if he had gotten the job over with. He assured her he had. And she again questioned him if he had done a good job of putting Culler away. He again told her how he had used the weapon with deadly effect. Colen undressed and went to bed and some time later a message was brought to Mrs. Culler telling her that her husband was in the hospital dangerously wounded. Colen said it was then that the woman blessed him out good for not having made a good job of putting her husband away. He says he wanted to make good his escape right then, but she cried and took on so that he saw he could not leave without everything being found out then. He thought he might make his way across the Canadian border and into the lumber camps of the north woods and elude any chase that might be started. But he had only an hour of time in which to make his plans and by that time the officers had him under question and afterwards in the jail.

Colen has made a lengthy statement to the officers of the details of the crime and voluntarily signed a written account of all that took place. He has employed no attorney to represent him and says he has no money to hire one. He volunteered the information to a News reporter that about \$15 was all the money he had and that wouldn't go far, he said. He says he has been making about \$3.50 a day, but had no

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ALEX GRAHAM TROTTER, JR. IS BURIED HERE

Funeral services for Mr. Alex Graham Trotter, Jr., of Charlotte, were held in the Presbyterian church in this city Monday at 3 p. m. and the remains laid to rest in the Trotter family plot at Oakdale cemetery.

The body of Mr. Trotter, who took his own life Saturday afternoon at the home of his brother Mr. Lawson Trotter at Pilot Mountain, was brought to the home of his mother, Mrs. A. G. Trotter, Sr., on Franklin Street Sunday morning. Mr. Trotter was a native of Mount Airy and grew to manhood here leaving about twenty years ago to make his home in Charlotte. He made good as a business man and for years had served as cashier of the Union National bank of Charlotte. Some months ago his health gave way and early in the year he was compelled to quit work on account of a nervous breakdown. He hoped to be able to resume his work by the first of May but grew worse instead of better and became very despondent. At the suggestion of his wife, his brother P. L. Trotter of Pilot Mountain went to Charlotte last week and on Friday brought him to his home at Pilot Mountain hoping that the change would benefit him or that he could induce him to enter a sanitarium.

Saturday afternoon Mrs. P. L. Trotter went to her husband's drug store for medicine for the sick man and her husband accompanied her back to the house. On their arrival they found that in a moment of dependency he had taken his own life. The tragedy occurred in the back yard of the Trotter home where they found the body and a shotgun. He left notes for his loved ones telling them he could not go on, that he could not get well and could not stand it any longer.

Mr. Trotter was less than 42 years

J. D. Smith, Jr., Makes First Hole-in-One

The much coveted honor of being the first one to make a hole-in-one on the Mount Airy golf course was won by J. D. Smith, Jr., Sunday afternoon. The shot was made on the third hole, which is par 3, 127 yards from the tee. The distance is short enough to reach the green with ease but to drop the ball on it without rolling off has proven a hard play. In making his hole-in-one Mr. Smith drove off from the tee with a masher-niblick, landing in front of the hole. The flag was in the cup and the ball gently rolled up to the hole and dropped into it by the side of the flag pole. Playing with him was the club's pro Jimmie Crichton and Dr. John Ashby.

Lions Club Formed For Mount Airy

Tuesday evening at six thirty, a delegation of Winston-Salem and Greensboro citizens representing the Lions Club of the two cities entertained a group of business and professional men at the Blue Ridge Hotel at which time a banquet was served, and a local Lions Club was organized.

W. F. Carter, Jr., was elected President, W. L. Monday, First Vice President, and J. D. Smith, Jr., Second Vice President and A. J. Wagner, Secretary.

The Executive Committee of the new club is at this time engaged in securing the few additional members necessary before they will have their first meeting at which time the charter for the new club will be delivered. The club is composed of public spirited young business men and it is the purpose of these men to sponsor any and all things leading to the better interest and future development of Mount Airy and Surry County.

The News is glad to have the opportunity of announcing the organization of the new club and to know that they will have a club composed of mostly young men.

Tuesday night at six thirty there will be another banquet at the Blue Ridge Hotel at which time Mr. Millikan, the District Governor of the Lions Club will be present, together with other visitors from Winston-Salem and Greensboro. This meeting will be held for the purpose of announcing the full membership of the club and to perfect plans for the charter meeting, the date of which will be set before this meeting adjourns. Next week the News will carry a full list of the members of the new club.

old and was a man of fine qualities, he was an untiring worker and loyal to his duties and his loved ones and his untimely passing is the cause of deep sorrow among those who knew him.

The following clipping from the Charlotte Observer as an expression of the esteem with which Mr. Trotter was regarded in Charlotte, the city in which he made his home: "H. M. Victor, president of the Union National bank in discussing the death of Mr. Trotter had the following to say:

"I was shocked and greatly distressed to get a telegram advising the death of Mr. Trotter. He had been in ill health for some months, having been out of the bank since January 10, suffering from nervous depression. He had gone to Pilot Mountain to visit his brother there and hoped to return prepared to resume his duties in the bank.

"He was a man of fine character and ability, reliable and correct in all his dealings and leaves all his affairs in good condition.

"I shall miss him as an assistant and a personal friend and companion.

"Mr. Trotter came with us as clerk in 1906, when the bank was started, and has always been a faithful and loyal associate. He was held in highest regard by all the officers, directors and customers of the bank."

Surviving are his wife, formerly Miss Elizabeth Grogan, of Winston-Salem; and little daughter Betty, of Charlotte, his mother Mrs. A. G. Trotter, one sister Mrs. C. L. Whitman of this city and one brother P. L. Trotter of Pilot Mountain.

Tender and comforting words were spoken by Rev. J. W. McFall who officiated at the funeral assisted by Rev. T. T. Jacobs.

Election Next Monday To Be Quiet Affair

Mayor Snyder Again Nominated of Democratic Convention

The election for city officials next Monday promises to be a quiet affair and so far as can be seen now there will be only the regular Democratic ticket out. The Democrats held their convention last Friday night and selected Mayor W. G. Snyder for its standard bearer in an intensely interesting convention. The attendance was not so large, many citizens of the city taking no part in the selection of the city officials. The names of J. D. Thompson and C. E. Cox were placed before the convention along with Mayor Snyder and when the vote was tabulated it was found that Mayor Snyder had received the nomination by a majority of one vote over the other two.

James F. Yorkley was unanimously declared the convention's choice for commissioner-at-large.

In the ward meetings that followed C. E. Cox and G. E. Welch were selected as the nominees for Ward one, and Dr. E. C. Ashby and D. S. Hodge for Ward two.

These candidates will be voted upon next Monday and their election is assured as there is no movement among the Republicans to put out a ticket in opposition to that named by the Democrats.

\$250 Reward For Capture of Ben Rigney Assailants

A cash bond of \$250 was this week posted with the Clerk of the Superior Court at Dobson by the father of Ben Rigney, which will be paid out to any person or persons who are responsible for the capture and conviction of the assailants of Ben Rigney. Not in the history of the present generation has there been a crime committed in this section which has so baffled the officers. At no time has there been the slightest clue that has led the officers to follow a course with any degree of certainty. Rigney was found dead in his bed one Sunday afternoon several weeks ago, with his skull fractured, but who struck him the fatal blow has never been learned.

Since the father of the young man has posted the bond an effort will be made to induce the state to increase it.

Why All the Fires in Empty Houses?

For the fourth time in a few weeks the local fire company has been called to fires which totally or partially destroyed empty houses about this city. Sunday night for the second successive Sabbath the company was called to fight a fire in a vacant cottage. So often have these occurrences gotten to be that the firemen are beginning to think it is the work of a gang of firebugs, or possibly some youths who set the houses on fire expecting a thrill from seeing the fire company rush to the scene. The officers are keeping a keen look-out for future fires of a like nature with a hope of getting some clue as to what has been the cause of so many of these kind of fires.

Car Crashes Through Plate Glass Window

A large plate glass in the window of the Acorn store was broken last Friday afternoon when the delivery truck of Cockerham's grocery ran through it. The truck was parked on the street and had another car hemmed in behind it. Some one asked that it be moved and a little negro boy standing by, jumped in the truck and volunteered to move it up. When he cranked the engine and put it in gear it dashed across the sidewalk and into the display window. The boy had no knowledge of how to handle the car and let it get away from him.

The mirror plant at once took the order to replace the glass and had to send to High Point to get one the right size. On returning with the glass the driver of the truck bringing it drove into a gas station at Winston-Salem for gasoline and as he drove in the glass struck the top of the station dragging it off the truck and breaking it into numberless pieces. A second glass was secured and in place Saturday afternoon. The grocery truck was insured and the insurance company will stand the loss of the first glass broken, the second glass being the loss of the mirror plant.

Dr. H. L. Robertson of Charlotte spent last week at White Plains with his mother, Mrs. Lottie Robertson.

Lee Eldridge Sentenced To 10 Years in Prison

Was Convicted of Manslaughter; Speeding Caused Death of Woman Victim.

The people of this county had it brought forcefully to their attention what it is going to cost to speed about over the highways and cause injury or death to people who are using them. A jury in the Superior Court Wednesday convicted Lee Eldridge on a manslaughter charge and Judge Moore promptly sentenced him to serve not less than 10 years in the state's prison, thus making it clear that the fast driver is sure to pay for his speed. Young Eldridge is the son of former county treasurer, F. S. Eldridge. They have been living in Mount Airy for several months and while here the boy purchased a Chevrolet touring car. One afternoon he was coming down the Fancy Gap road and just above town he ran over Mrs. Will Quisenberry, injuring her so seriously that she died in a few hours. Witnesses testified that he was driving at a fast rate, their estimates ranging from 40 to 60 miles.

The jury was divided at first and it is said that five of them wanted to acquit the boy, terming the affair an accident. A verdict was finally reached on a manslaughter charge on the condition that the judge be asked to extend all the mercy possible to the young man. This was done, but His Honor did not agree with the jury on that point. The judge has a wide latitude in imposing sentence for manslaughter, it ranging from four months to 20 years, and Judge Moore gave Eldridge 10 to 15 years in the state's prison. The long sentence has caused much surprise all over the county. An appeal was taken and the defendant will try to secure another hearing of the charge against him. In the absence of Solicitor Graves who was out of court on account of a throat trouble the prosecution was conducted by H. O. Wolts and W. L. Reece. Folger and Folger appeared for Eldridge.

The court adjourned Wednesday afternoon at the conclusion of the Eldridge case.

During the term many cases were disposed of, some of the more important ones being the following:

Lifford Higgins, for forgery was sent to the pen for two years. The embezzlement charge against J. W. Frazier, of Elkin, was continued until next court. Five bills were returned against him by the grand jury. His bond was reduced to \$5,000 and his friends hope to arrange it for him. He is now in jail at Dobson.

Ben Terry goes to the roads for two years for assaulting his father-in-law, H. T. Moore of Copeland.

The Wood boys who assaulted Bird Simpson some months ago drew road sentences for their offense. John will serve 3 months, Bob 10 months and Henry 18 months.

A true bill was returned by the grand jury against Duane Ward, of Galax, for manslaughter in connection with the automobile accident causing the death of the Greenwood and Mathis boys. The case was continued until the October court.

Grat Cave and Dock Steele, store breakers of Elkin are to serve 12 months on the roads.

Will Lakey was before the court charged with unlawfully putting out fire. The offense is one of final jurisdiction with a magistrate and the judge sent it back to the magistrate's court for final judgment.

Wilson Fulk is not to drive a car for six months and paid a fine of \$25 for reckless driving.

The heaviest fine of the term was assessed against Jesse Lawrence, charged with violating the prohibition laws, he paying \$500 into the school fund in addition to the costs in two cases.

June Marsh was out on a suspended sentence for housebreaking, and it was shown to the court that he was at his old game again and he was taken

in charge and sent to the roads for two years.

Charlie Jarrell goes to the roads for 12 months on a stilling charge. No effort to get the sentence changed to a fine was successful.

Ray Fortin, of Mount Airy, goes to the state prison for 18 months for housebreaking.

At the conclusion of its work last Thursday the Grand Jury submitted the following report of its work:

"1st. We have been in session four days, having examined all bills that came before us and made such pronouncements that we thought necessary and have transacted all business that came before us pertaining to our duty as said officers.

"2nd. We have visited the county home in a body and found buildings and grounds at the home in fair condition. There are 20 inmates, 13 males and 17 females, all seemed satisfied and pleased with their treatment.

"3rd. We have visited the county jail and found general conditions fair, except for the crowded condition in the cells; for better sanitary and health conditions we recommend that more cells be put in the jail.

"4th. We have visited the different departments in the court house and found the offices in fair condition, however, we found there was need of repairs in the boiler room, the drain pipe was stopped and water was running on the floor, toilet room in basement in bad condition, badly need of repairs.

R. A. GEORGE, Foreman."

Offices Moved

Attorney Geo. K. Snow has moved back into his former office in the Welch block on Main street. This building which was gutted by fire on the second floor some weeks ago has been repaired and the office rooms built back. The Home Building & Loan Association, of which Mr. Snow is secretary, will also have its office in the Welch block.

Joe A. Eads has moved into the office on Moore Street in the First National Bank building recently vacated by Geo. E. Marshall. This office has been used by Mr. Snow following the fire in the Welch block.

Death Claims Popular Young Lady

A pall of sorrow was cast over the hearts of the people of this city Sunday when it was learned that the soul of Miss Agnes Galloway had taken its flight to the spirit world.

Our people remember her as a sweet, smiling young girl and she was popular among a large circle of young people, and a loyal supporter of the First Baptist Church. About 18 months ago her health gave way and she entered Ambler Heights Sanitarium, Asheville, in an effort to regain her health. During her illness she was bright and cheerful and she bore her suffering with saintly patience.

The deceased was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Galloway, of this city, and the funeral services were conducted at the home Tuesday afternoon by the family pastor, Dr. I. T. Jacobs. Former girl friends served as flower girls and young men of her association acted as pall bearers.

Burial was at Oakdale cemetery where a bank of beautiful floral designs graced the last resting place of the remains.

Surviving are the parents and one sister, Mrs. Chas. Southerland, of Wilmington, and three brothers, Robert, Philip and Wingate.

Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Galloway of Charlotte, attended the funeral of their niece.

OLD LANDMARK GIVES WAY TO NEW BUILDING

The west end of the old Pace House on Franklin Street is this week being removed and the owner of the property, Mrs. Warren expects to build a modern bungalow on the vacant lot that remains.

The tearing down of this old landmark brings to the mind of many of the residents of the city events that are connected with the Pace House, and especially the front room of the section that is now being demolished by the workmen. It was here that late Sam'l G. Pace had his office; and it was here that the old-lander in the

Democratic party of a quarter of a century ago would meet on cold winter nights and sit by Sam's stove and plan and scheme for the campaigns of the party. And it was here that Spire Pace held his trials and married the couple that came to him, the older citizens of the city and many can recall many events that were discussed and determined upon in that office of Sam Pace's and the removal of the building is not without its regrets among many who held it in reverence on account of past associations.