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# MILLIONAIRE SHOT BY GIRL WILL RECOVER

## Woman Held for Shooting Millionaire Claims That He Assaulted Her

# STOKES ACCUSED CHOKING GIRL

## Demands Money and Signature—Stokes Denies Writing Any Letters to Woman—Says Door Was Locked When He Entered and Shot When He Refused to Accede to Demands.

New York, June 9.—The condition of W. E. D. Stokes, the millionaire proprietor of the Hotel Ansonia, and widely known horseman, who was shot Wednesday night by two young women in their apartment, was such this morning that his physicians say he will likely recover. The young women, Lillian Graham, an actress, and Ethel Conrad, an illustrator, formally charged with the shooting, were taken to police headquarters this morning on the verge of collapse. Three Japanese servants in the apartment house in West Eightieth street, where Stokes was shot, are held as witnesses.

Miss Graham and Miss Conrad will be arraigned in court late and held to await the result of Mr. Stokes' injuries. A further examination will be made to ascertain whether the two bullets still remain in the millionaire's ankle and thigh.

Torrence J. McManus, Mr. Stokes' attorney, says that his client went to the girls' apartment on receiving a message from Miss Conrad, to obtain some letters. Stokes denies that he had ever written any letters and when he reached the apartment, his counsel says, the door was locked behind him and "Miss Graham immediately drew a revolver and, pointing to a pad on a desk at one side, she said: 'Give me \$25,000 and sign this agreement.'"

Mr. McManus says that Stokes refused and that "thereupon Miss Graham fired two shots at him." Stokes got the revolver away from Miss Graham, who then, according to Mr. McManus, called upon Miss Conrad to fire. Miss Conrad, Stokes' lawyer says, also fired, and as the millionaire backed into the hallway three Japanese servants set upon him.

Miss Graham, in a statement, says that Stokes came to her apartment and demanded letters which he admitted writing. When told that she had no letters, Miss Graham alleges that Stokes "turned on me in a perfect fury and caught me by the throat and began to choke me."

Miss Graham then alleges that, fearing violence at his hands, she shot at him, whereupon Stokes wrenched the pistol from her and shot at her. Miss Graham says nothing about the charge made by Stokes' counsel that Miss Conrad fired a shot.

Stokes says he met Miss Graham and her sister, Mrs. John Singleton, of Los Angeles, some time ago here. He only knew Miss Conrad slightly.

### Merchants Association Meet.

The regular, monthly meeting of the Retail Merchants Association Wednesday night in the office of the Secretary was largely attended. This organization has now nearly fifty active members and it is growing. The association is doing good work. The merchants are working in harmony and beneficial results are expected for the year 1911.

The most important feature of this association is the credit rating system that is now in vogue. At these meetings the merchants are freely discussing all matters that tend to protect themselves from those who "forget" to pay their bills. They don't hesitate to call names and each merchant thus gets the benefit of the others' experience.

J. Leon Williams, Secretary and Attorney for the association, was appointed a delegate to attend the annual convention of the North Carolina Retail Merchants Association which will meet in Hendersonville, N. C., June 20, 21, and 22. He was instructed by the association to invite the North Carolina Retail Merchants Association to meet in New Bern during the summer of 1912.

### Trade Report.

Richmond, Va., June 9.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say for Richmond and vicinity:

Trade conditions generally are irregular, however improvement in some lines is noted. The long drought which had so retarded crops throughout the district has been broken by rain and improvement in crops is reported. Reports of the cotton crop from North Carolina are more favorable, however curtailment in production by the mills still continues. Peanuts show advance in prices, the 1910 crop being well used up. The usual between season dullness is noted in the wholesale dry goods and shoe market, however fair filling-in orders are reported. Demand for other than hardwood lumber is poor and many mills are curtailing. Drugs, chemicals and furniture supplies are active. Distillers and blenders of liquors report a falling off in orders. Provisions are in fair demand, buying being stimulated by the reduced price of some commodities. Vegetables are generally late and inferior. Retail trade shows some improvement. Collections are slow.

### Married An Indian.

Boston, June 9.—Miss Loretta Colombo, a Boston society girl yesterday became the bride of Chief Wolf Wams, full blooded Navaho Indian. The romance leading to marriage dates from the time the girl in her teens spent some time on her father's ranch in San Antonio, where the Indian was foreman. She was attracted to the Indian who was a Catholic and who had been converted by the missionaries.

# DEATH ROLL GROWN TO OVER HUNDRED

## Number of Dead in Mexican Quake Greatly Increased

# TOWN OF TONALA ENTIRELY DESTROYED

## Disaster Is Greater Than Was First Reported—Many Remote Places Not Heard From—Number of Dead Will Never be Known.

Mexico City, June 9.—Rolling from coast to coast through Mexico, yesterday's earthquake brought death to at least 150 persons according to latest reports received here. The area of the quake's destruction is rectangular with its northern boundary less than 50 miles from the capital, and a southern boundary cutting across the lower part of Guerrero.

The death roll grows as belated reports come in. The number of casualties in Mexico City, as compiled by the police, remains 63. Fifty-nine corpses have been taken from ruins in Ocotlan Jalisco.

It will never be known how many perished in villages in remote parts of the seismic zone. Catastrophes in those parts are taken as a matter of course. For instance, Tonalá, Jalisco, was wiped out, to all outward appearances, but the deaths there can not be accurately numbered.

Not many persons were killed in the city of Colima, but a considerable amount of damage was done.

# JAMESTOWN WOMAN MEETS TRAGIC DEATH

## Supposed to Have Been Murdered by Burglars

# WIDOW OF PROMINENT PHYSICIAN OF LEXINGTON

## With a Stocking Tied Around Her Neck, Another Crammed Into Her Mouth, and Her Hands Tied Behind, Her Body Was Found.

Charlotte, N. C., June 9.—With a stocking tied around her neck, another crammed into her mouth, and her hands tied behind her, the body of Mrs. Ida Hill was found at the home of her mother, Mrs. J. H. Ragdale, at Jamestown, Guilford county, yesterday. The murder is supposed to have been committed by burglars.

Mrs. Hill is the widow of Dr. Joe Hill, who was a prominent physician of Lexington, N. C. He died about 4 months ago. Mrs. Hill was on her way from Philadelphia where she was treated in a sanitarium following a nervous breakdown after her husband's death. She was accompanied from Philadelphia by her sister, Miss Jennie Ragdale, who is a member of the faculty of Bryn Mawr College. Miss Ragdale was in the house when the murder was committed.

Lexington, N. C., June 9.—The people of Lexington were shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden death of Mrs. Hill.

# RIGHT PARTIES ARE HELD IN MURDER CASE

## Woman Denies Taking and Hand in Killing, Saying Merkle is Guilty

# WRITES NOTES IN THE JAIL

## Pair Communicate With Each Other and Notes Will Figure in Trial—Woman Insists Merkle Killed Harding for Love of Her and in Self Defence, Buried Him and told Her to Keep Dreadful Secret.

Norfolk, Va., June 9.—Charles Merkle makes a complete denial of Mrs. Minnie Murdock's story of the killing of Harry Harding at Mason's Creek, in which the woman admits her presence in the house when death occurred early last Wednesday morning and declares that Merkle told her he had to hit the man with an axe to save his own life.

Mrs. Merkle does not say of her own knowledge that Merkle murdered Harding, but she does insist that he was there in the man's last moments of agony; that he admitted he committed the deed in self-defense for love of her, and that Merkle dug the grave, buried the body and prevailed upon her to keep the secret for his sake.

Merkle does not accuse the woman or implicate her further than to say that the two discovered the body Saturday night and that she knew that the man had been murdered by somebody.

The man sticks to the story that he gave to the newspaper representative Tuesday morning after his arrest, deviating only on one point. He says that after he made his statement he remembered that he and Mrs. Murdock did not sleep at the Mason Creek house Friday night, but spent the night together at the I. X. L. rooming house, corner of Church and Cove streets.

This statement is in accordance with the story of the proprietors of the I. X. L.

Mrs. Murdock, while implicating Merkle through the medium of his own alleged confession to her, reiterates her own innocence and maintains that the murder took place while she was asleep in bed. Harding's death throes, she contends, awakened her about 3 o'clock in the morning.

A reporter talked with Merkle and Mrs. Murdock this morning in the Norfolk county jail at Portsmouth and obtained from them statements that conflict even more than the original stories, in view of the woman's admissions, and it is evident, in the face of the woman's latest version, that the county is going to experience considerable difficulty in proving first degree murder.

Merkle has engaged Attorney Dan Coleman to defend him. Mr. Coleman has handled a number of murder cases with success and he is going to fight to the end for Merkle. This morning he entered a general denial for his client.

Attorneys Eason and Lanson will defend Mrs. Murdock and will endeavor to establish her innocence of the actual killing by putting her on the stand to tell all she knows.

Notes that were written by Merkle and the woman in jail will figure for the county at the trial. These notes are now in possession of the authorities. The colored turnkey received the notes from the prisoners and while the contents were imparted the notes were turned over to Jailer Dennis. This is in accordance with all prison rules.

According to Mrs. Murdock's own statement, Merkle on Monday night after the arrest wrote another note telling her to stick to the story that they had agreed to tell, and he said he would do so. She said she wrote back a note telling him that she would do all she could for him and would get a lawyer. She said she had been advised that the note was not delivered, but that its contents were made known to Merkle.

Following is the statement made by Merkle today:

"I am innocent of Harding's murder and the only thing I know about his death is that Mrs. Murdock and I discovered his body at her house last Saturday night and we buried it in the yard.

"It was impossible for me to have killed the man on Tuesday night or Wednesday morning because I slept in my room at the I. X. L. in Norfolk, on Tuesday night. My room was paid for there up to last Saturday and I occupied it as late as Friday night. On Friday night, when I got there about midnight from my work at Ocean View, I found Mamie (Mrs. Murdock) there and we spent the night together in that room. On Saturday morning I returned to Ocean View, where I was taking my meals.

"That same night she came down to see me at the View and tell me that she was afraid to stay at the house alone, and she asked me to spend the night with her. After I finished work we went to her house together and on arriving there we found the body of Harding on the bed. He was dead, had been killed, his head was wrapped in bags and there was blood on his face and head. That positively was the first time that I saw the man dead and I swear that I did not have anything to do with his death.

"I am positive that Harry Harding was not dead Tuesday or Wednesday, for I saw him Thursday alive on the Ocean View pavilion, where I worked. I talked with him and he told me that he had lost his position at the cane rack. That is the truth.

"I occupied my room at the I. X. L. every night last week up to Saturday morning. I was certainly there Tuesday night, and I was there Wednesday and Thursday nights, too. I did not finish work at the View until 11 o'clock at night and it was always late when I got to Norfolk and went to my room. I would have kept the room longer had we not gotten into this mess over finding that man's dead body Saturday night. I hoped to get the money and pay for another week.

"In my first statement I did say that Mamie and I spent the night Friday at her house. Afterwards I remembered that it was in Norfolk in my room at the I. X. L. that we spent that night. Except for this my first statement was true and I am honest when I say that I do not know anything about the murder of Harding.

# AUGUST 8TH IS SET FOR DECISION IN FARM SCHOOL

## At Meeting of Board of Trustees of Farm Life School--It Was Decided That Bids From Various Townships Were Not Ready for Presentation--No Step Taken As to Location of School--Many Speakers

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Craven County Farm-Life School was held today at the court house for the purpose of receiving bids from the various townships desiring this school.

Meeting was called to order by Mr. A. D. Ward, chairman of the board of trustees, D. P. Whitford, T. M. Arthur, M. D. Lane, Clyde Morton, T. A. Marshall, W. E. Moore, O. H. Wetherington and A. D. Ward being present.

Mr. E. M. Green stated Eighth Township had a rather haphazard sort of way of doing business. Stated that Mr. R. A. Nunn was out of town. Asked trustees for an extension of time in which to make a bid.

Mr. G. V. Richardson thinks if No. 8 township was to stay in the same fix it is in now that it would be satisfactory to the other townships. Under the impression in his township that it would not be located in No. 8 Township.

Can't compete with No. 8 if money is to be a consideration, and taking the very spirit of the law that No. 8 township should keep "hands off."

Mr. Jas. A. Bryan understands that No. 8 has not had time to canvass, and asks that the selection be deferred. Other reasons than money, why it should come to New Bern, the center of the county. Law does not discriminate. Advantage to get it here, the same in town on Sunday.

to go to church, attend lectures, etc. Eighth township pays three-fourths of the taxes of the county. People who have this to pay should have something to say about the location of it.

Mr. Bland, of No. 1 Township. Colleges don't make farmers. Wouldn't want his boys to get too much "town" in their education. Quite a time had been set apart to make the bids. Agricultural fellows who follow the plow pay the tax.

Mr. Jas. A. Bryan said value of county property was \$8,000,000; New Bern over \$5,000,000.

Cove City was represented and their representative said that if money was to be a consideration that they would have no water at all. Have good soil and water and he invited the Board to visit their town and see their site. In close touch with Trenton and they are very anxious to patronize the school.

Mr. McKeel, of Clarke's Brick Yard, said they had 'em all beat to death on health. Has accomplished more in last ten years than all the other small towns. More money spent for labor.

Mr. E. M. Brinson: Don't see how any decision can be made today. 8th Township is for the school regardless of location. A farmers school designed primarily for the country. Whenever you put it in Craven county it near railroad it will be in easy reach.

(Continued on page 4.)