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NEW BERN, N. C., TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 1911

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## CORONER'S VERDICT ON HARDING CASE

Jury Renders Its Decision in  
Onion Patch Case

## AXE OR OTHER BLUNT INSTRUMENT USED

Jury Says That Minnie Lee Murdock  
or Charles Merkel or Both of  
Them Killed Harry O.  
Harding, Near  
Norfolk.

Norfolk, Va., June 13.—The coroner's jury investigating the case of Harry O. Harding, whose decomposed body was a week ago found buried in an onion patch in the rear of the Masons Creek "cottage" of Mrs. Minnie Murdock, late yesterday returned a verdict, "that Harry O. Harding came to his death by having his skull crushed by an axe or other blunt instrument in the hands of Minnie Lee Murdock, or Charles Merkel, or both of them."

Mrs. Murdock and Merkel are held for trial charged with the crime.

### Body Recovered.

Several launch parties left New Bern yesterday morning for Wilmington's Point, in search of the bodies of Messrs. J. J. Willey and J. H. Morris, who were drowned at that point Sunday afternoon, while in bathing. Among the searching party was a crew from the revenue cutter Pamlico, who after a couple hours dragging recovered the body of J. Hubert Morris, which was immediately put aboard Mr. Baxter's boat and brought to New Bern, where it was placed in the undertaking establishment of H. W. Simpson, who prepared it for burial and this morning was shipped to Greensboro, where the funeral services and interment will take place.

The remains were accompanied home by Mr. J. C. Morris, father of the deceased. The body was recovered within thirty feet of where it sank and was in fairly good condition, only a few nibbles by crabs were to be found on the face.

The searching party returned this morning to the scene of the tragedy in hope to recover the body of Mr. Willey.

### Lorimer is Ready to Fight.

Washington, June 13.—Senator Lorimer, of Illinois, will remain in Washington until the vote is taken on his case following the investigation of his election when he will return to Chicago. He announced his willingness to appear before the committee in his own behalf whenever the committee fixes a date. The Senator is preparing to fight the case vigorously. He said he has retained as his counsel former Judge Elbridge Haney, who looked after his interests in the previous Senate investigation.

Subpoenas for a number of prominent men to testify here in the new Lorimer investigation have been issued and a special officer at the office of the Senate, Sergeant-at-Arms, is now on his way to Chicago to serve them. It is understood that among the men to be summoned are Lee O'Neill Brown, Democratic leader in the Illinois House; Edward Hines, president of the Edward Hines Lumber Company, of Chicago; Edward Tilden, whose name was connected with the \$100,000 fund alleged to have been collected for use in electing Senator Lorimer, and Clarence S. Funk, an officer of the International Harvester Company, whose disclosure of an attempt to have the corporation subscribe to the alleged fund was a feature of the investigation by the Illinois Senate.

The Lorimer Investigating Committee has not yet definitely fixed a date for its next meeting.

### THREE GIRLS LASH MAN.

Ply Whip on Farmer Who Enraged Them by Beating His Horse.  
Seaford, Del., June 13.—Beating his horse and driving at a furious pace on High street Sunday evening while the street was thronged, James Harper, a Maryland farmer, was dragged from his carriage and whipped severely by three young women, who were enraged at the way he was beating his horse.

The girls first called to Harper to stop beating the animal, and he stopped to answer them, whereupon the horse balked. Seeing his predicament, the young women made a rush for the carriage, snatched the whip, pulled Harper from the vehicle, and laid the lash on him. He begged for mercy. He made humble apologies, but, seeing the police coming, he ran, leaving his team. His face was covered with welts from the blows he received.

Bertha Carolyn Williams, Died at 3:25 yesterday afternoon. Bertha Carolyn, the 19 months old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene H. Williams. Funeral services will be conducted from the Tabernacle Baptist church this afternoon at 5 o'clock by Rev. A. C. Shuler. Friends and relatives take notice.

## U. S. SENATORS DIRECT VOTE OF PEOPLE

Joint Resolution to Amend  
Constitution Passed

PASSED SENATE  
BY VOTE 64 TO 24

The Bristow Amendment Giving Federal Government Supervision of  
Such Elections Adopted  
44 to 44, Vice-President  
Casting Deciding Vote

Washington, D. C., June 13.—The Senate last night by a vote of 64 to 24 passed the resolution amending the Constitution to provide for election of senators by direct popular vote.

The Bristow amendment giving to the Federal government supervision of such elections, was adopted, 44 to 44, the Vice-President casting the deciding ballot. The House already has passed the resolution.

### A Splendid Show.

One of the most unique novelty acts ever seen in this town is booked at The Athens first three days this week, where the "Patte Sisters" are appearing. The house was filled to overflowing last night, and every body spoke in highest terms of the vaudeville and pictures. The pictures shown at the Athens are the latest Association makes shipped in the State and are shown on the "Silver Light" screen and Edison latest machine, rendering them flickerless, and as perfect as can be seen anywhere in the world. The management of the Athens leave no stone unturned to give their patrons the best of everything, and the public appreciates this fact in a substantial way. New Bernians are proud of The Athens, as they should be and it is known all over the South as being the most thoroughly equipped theatre in the country. Everybody was comfortable last night notwithstanding the extreme heat. Nearly a score of large fans kept the auditorium delightfully pleasant.

### Fire Dead in Storm.

New York, June 13.—Five are dead, five persons missing and property loss of \$1,000,000 is the result of a two-day storm which raged over New York and vicinity.

## \$900.00 FOR MURDERER OF MRS. HILL

Governor Kitchen Offers  
\$400 of the Amount

## GUILFORD PEOPLE WILL GIVE \$500

No Clue to Murderer of Mrs. Joel Hill,  
Who Lost Her Life at The Home  
of Her Daughter, Mrs. J.  
S. Ragsdale, in  
Jamestown.

Raleigh, N. C., June 13.—Rewards to the amount of \$900 have been offered for the arrest of the murderer or murderers of Mrs. Joel Hill, who was killed while sleeping at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. S. Ragsdale, in Jamestown, Guilford county, last Wednesday night.

Governor Kitchen has offered \$400 reward and the citizens and authorities of Guilford county have offered \$500, making the total \$900.

The murder of Mrs. Hill, who was the widow of Dr. Joel Hill of Lexington, is still shrouded in mystery. Mrs. Hill was returning from Philadelphia and had stopped over at Jamestown with her daughter. Some time during the night Mrs. Hill was murdered, members of the family finding her dead body about 5 o'clock Thursday morning. There was not the slightest clue as to who committed the crime.

Governor Kitchen has offered \$150 for the capture of William Lawrence, colored, who is charged with the murder of his wife, Vick Lawrence, on May 27.

### FIRES AT HUSBAND IN TAXI

St. Louis Woman Angered by Presence  
of Blonde Girl in Machine.

St. Louis, June 13.—Mrs. Amelle Gardener, sitting last night at a window of her home, in Eugene street, spied a taxicab and recognized her husband perched beside a blonde young woman.

Mrs. Gardener quickly emptied a revolver from the window, but Mr. Gardener sped on. All shots missed her position at the window and awaited the homecoming of her husband. He arrived without his companion half an hour later.

The dispute that followed attracted a policeman. Mrs. Gardener was charged with discharging firearms, and he with disturbing the peace.

### Girls Trial Postponed to Wednesday.

New York, June 13.—Lillian Graham, a chorus girl, and Ethel Conrad, an illustrator, charged with shooting W. E. D. Stokes, proprietor of the Ansonia hotel, in their apartment last Wednesday night, were arraigned yesterday but because of the inability of Stokes to leave the hospital their preliminary hearing was postponed until Wednesday.

On the plea of their counsel, Magistrate Freschi consented to the release of the girls on \$25,000 bail each. Although confident of raising the required bail, no bondsman was present and they were remanded to prison.

The two girls were held on an affidavit of Policeman Tulley in which he stated that when he arrived at the apartment of Miss Graham he found Mr. Stokes lying on the floor and that the millionaire accused the two of trying to murder him. The policeman stated that Miss Graham exclaimed: "Oh, I shot him," and that Miss Conrad said: "Oh, Lillian, you did not shoot him; I shot him."

Family trees are known by the family name.

## BODY OF BABY UNDER GARAGE FLOOR

Alleged Mother of Infant a  
Social Favorite

## MOTHER AND DAUGHTER ACCUSED

Thomas, W. Va., Stirred by Arrests  
of Prominent People—Prisoners  
in State of Collapse When  
They are Taken to  
The Jail.

Parsons, W. Va., June 13.—Two loose floor boards in the garage at the home of Mrs. Ona Merrill, at Thomas, this county, led to the discovery of a crime, which has stirred the town and which promises sensational developments. Beneath the floor was found the body of an infant child, of which Mrs. Merrill's daughter, Miss Nora Merrill, is alleged to have been the mother. Mother and daughter were brought to the county jail here last night, charged with causing the baby's death.

Miss Merrill, pretty, vivacious, and active in church work, recently withdrew from social gayeties of the town in which previously she had been a leader. This, along with the standing of the family, started gossip. Several days ago, Dr. Minford was called to the home, and it was whispered that there had been an accouchement.

When Dr. Minford called later to attend his patient he was astonished to find the baby missing. He was told that had been placed in the care of a relative. Investigation proved this to be untrue, and the authorities were notified. Officers appeared at the residence, and despite indignant protests, began a thorough search of the premises. Two loose boards in the floor of the garage excited suspicion. Beneath them was found a child's body with clothes wrapped about the head and a shoe string wound tightly around the neck.

The arrest of Mrs. Merrill and Miss Merrill followed. Though both were in a state of collapse, they were brought to the county jail. They have retained strong counsel.

In connection with the case residents of Thomas point out that about six weeks ago a young man, prominent in the social life of the region, left hurriedly. In explanation of his action it was given out that he was "going West."

### Tomorrow Flag Day.

Tomorrow, June 14th, the millions of flags will be floating throughout Uncle Sam's vast domain. That is the day on which, next to the Fourth of July, patriotic Americans will give expression to their love and reverence for the Stars and Stripes. It will be interesting to know that the originator of "Flag Day" was a southern girl, Miss Mary Louise Dalton, the daughter of a Confederate soldier, Dr. W. R. Inge Dalton. Her death, which occurred in St. Louis, her home town, in June 1907, deprived the Missouri Historical Society of its librarian. (She was a lay member of the Daughters of the Confederacy and also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. By a strange coincidence, Miss Dalton was buried on Flag Day. Great honors were shown her both by the Daughters of the Revolution and by members of the G. A. R., some of whom acted as pall-bearers. It was through Miss Dalton's personal efforts that the "Flag bill" was passed, prohibiting the desecration of the American flag by using it for advertising purposes. It was from this movement that "Flag Day" sprang, as the bill provided for the annual celebration of Flag Day on June 14th.

### CAR KILLS TWO IN AUTO.

Troy, N. Y., Couple Lose Lives Near  
Albany, and Son is Injured.

Albany, N. Y., June 13.—William H. Slattery, of Troy, a traveler for a New York city firm, and his wife were killed on the old Troy road Sunday, when one of the big trolley cars of the Albany and Southern line struck their automobile, cutting it in two, four miles east of Albany.

The car was in charge of Thomas Slattery, aged 21, a son of the victims. Mr. and Mrs. Slattery were in the rear seats, and they were mangled to death.

Young Slattery was badly cut and bruised, but not fatally hurt.

### First Illness Fatal to Nonagenarian

Allentown, Pa., June 13.—After having lived ninety two years without a day's illness since his boyhood David Schoudt, Allentown's veteran Democrat died today from blood poisoning, the result of cutting a corn several months ago.

He never missed an election and holds the unusual record of having attended every Allentown fair since that institution was established sixty years ago.

## SUNDAY EXCURSIONISTS ARE DROWNED

Four Girls Perish When  
Squall Upsets Boat

## W. A. TOOMEY VICTIM AT ATLANTIC CITY

The Finding of Toomey's Body by  
Bathers Caused Excitement—  
Three Young Men on Fishing  
Excursion Drowned

Near Bangor.

Appleton, Wis., June 13.—Four girls were drowned, and five other occupants of a small sailboat narrowly escaped a similar fate Sunday when a squall struck the craft on Little Lake Butte des Morts and capsized it.

The victims were members of a picnic party, given by the owners of a store for its employes. The remainder of the party stood helplessly on shore, only a short distance from the yacht, and witnessed the drowning.

The dead are Miss Elizabeth Green, Miss Gertrude Kuschel, Miss Madge Brill, and Miss Ruth Pollock. The four girls were held under water by the sail of the boat.

Bangor, Me., June 13.—The bodies of three young men, who started out Sunday for a fishing excursion, were brought back to the city today. They were drowned in Sunkhase stream when their canoe overturned.

The trio, Harry Shirland, Harry Pelkey, and Colbert Curtis, were all residents of Castigan.

Atlantic City, June 13.—W. A. Toomey, of Philadelphia, was drowned while bathing in the surf here Sunday. His body was discovered off Michigan avenue and terrified a group of bathers, whose screams attracted the life guards. A beach physician employed a galvanic battery in a vain effort at resuscitation.

The fact that body was found floating face downward, and the fact that it did not sink suggested to a physician that the man might have been stricken with heart disease. The man had hired a bathroom before the noon hour and entered the water about three city blocks above the point where the body was found. The effects of the man in his clothing supplied his name.

## 10,000 GAL- LONS LIQUOR IS CAPTURED

Officers at Hendersonville  
Make Successful Raid

## WAS FOUND IN HEART OF CITY

Located in Storeroom of a Building on  
Main Street—Goods Consists of  
Best Quality to Kind Guar-  
anteed to Kill—Looking  
For Owner.

Hendersonville, N. C., June 13.—About ten thousand gallons of booze, valued at many thousands of dollars, were seized here yesterday afternoon. This wholesale stock of liquor was found in a storeroom on Main street, in the heart of the city, and consisted of high grade liquors, beer, wine, etc.

Police Officers Garson and Maxwell raided the place under authority of a town ordinance passed by the commissioners last Friday night.

No opposition was offered the officers when they demanded admittance although at one time there seemed a likelihood of strenuous opposition. A deputy is now in charge while it is said the owners of the liquor expect to be allowed to ship it out of town without objection from the authorities. This point is by no means settled, as the authorities have made no statement in the matter. The place was in charge of O. N. Carson, who, however, is but the agent of others, said to be well known Asheville liquor men.

Carson was arrested and placed under heavy bond for his appearance before Mayor Stator on Friday. He may also be charged with retailing.

It is expected the identity of the real owners of the liquor will be revealed at that time. While this is the biggest single haul of liquor ever made in Hendersonville, it is said there will still be a little left here after this is shipped away.

### Apex Suffers Fifty Thousand Dollar Fire.

Raleigh, N. C., June 13.—The thriving town of Apex, eight miles from Raleigh, suffered a \$50,000 fire this morning.

The business section of the town was almost wiped out and was the cause of one fatal injury. Graham Herring, telegraph operator at New Hill, saw the fire at his home town of Apex, and attempted to board a passing freight train for the fire. When he went to swing himself on to the car he lost his hold and fell under the train, one leg being ground off under the wheels and other injuries sustained from which there is no possibility of his recovering, according to statements made from Rex hospital here, where he is being treated.

The fire started about 1 o'clock yesterday morning in J. W. Jinks' produce market and Smith barber shop. It spread rapidly to the building occupied by the Merchants and Farmers' Bank, H. C. Olive & Co., W. H. Harward Co., the Baucem Drug store, the store of R. J. Howling and the residence of S. V. Hudson, postmaster. The town is without water system and the people devoted their efforts mostly to getting goods and furnishings out of the buildings as they became endangered. The bank's money and papers were protected by vault. Most of the losses are protected by insurance.

Burglar Lost Game and Did Not Rob  
Helena, Mont., June 13.—Mrs. Chas. V. Holmes played seven up with a burglar in her home to see whether he should carry out his intentions. She won and the burglar left without taking a thing.