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CONVICTS KILLED NEAR WATERVILLE

Collapse of Bull Pen Causes Death to Four and Injuries to Twelve

CAPTAIN J. E. HOSKINS IS DUG FROM DEBRIS

Well-known Greensboro Man, Caught in Bull Pen With Prisoners, is Carried Down Mountains and Narrowly Escapes Death—All Convicts Were Negroes, One of the Dead Being Will Green, of Raleigh. Story of Tragedy as Reported From Scene.

Capt. J. J. Laughinghouse, superintendent of the state prison, was today awaiting anxiously a report from Clerk T. W. Fenner, who yesterday afternoon left for Waterville to investigate thoroughly the killing of four convicts and the injuring of several more in the slide of a bull pen in which 25 convicts, leased by the state of North Carolina to the Transcontinental Railroad Company, were confined. Until Mr. Fenner reaches Waterville the penitentiary authorities will have to be content with second-hand information of the tragedy. Immediately on receipt of the news yesterday, Captain Laughinghouse instructed those in charge of the prisoners to use every means possible in giving relief to the injured.

The prisoners were sent to the mountains only last Monday by permission of the governor and counsel of state, who acted on authority of the legislature, which has been encouraging the construction of railroads by allowing companies to lease convicts.

The following details of the tragedy appeared in the Charlotte Observer of today:

Newport, Tenn., June 18—Four convicts were killed, 12 seriously injured, and 14 convicts and three guards slightly injured today in the collapse of a bull pen near Waterville, N. C., in the heart of the Smokies, where two railroad companies are engaged in a war for the monopoly of the only remaining mountain pass to the east. The convicts were all negroes, the property of the state of North Carolina, and were being worked in connection with the construction work of the Transcontinental Railroad.

The men killed were Albert Wynn, of Goldsboro, serving a sentence of 10 years for receiving stolen goods; Will Green, of Raleigh, serving sentence of four years for murder; Henry Paul, of New Bern, serving a sentence of three years for larceny; Clarence Walker, of western North Carolina, serving a sentence of seven years for larceny. All four men had only a few months of their time to serve, one or two being due to leave the camp in August.

Major Wynn, of Goldsboro, convicted at the same time as his brother

er who was killed, and Sylvester Parham, serving a 30-year sentence for murder, are not expected to live.

Capt. J. E. Hoskins, of Raleigh, who was in charge of the prisoners, went down with the pen and had to be dug from the debris, suffering several painful injuries. Guards J. E. Nichols and Ed. McKerney had narrow escapes from death, but were only slightly injured.

Ready With Injunction. Last week the convicts were brought into the mountains and it was announced that they were being worked by the state of North Carolina as their contribution toward the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad. The Tennessee & North Carolina Railroad which is running its trains to within two miles of the scene of today's accident, claims the right-of-way on which the Transcontinental road had started work and were ready with an injunction, so it is stated, to restrain the convicts from further work.

The convicts were located in the very heart of the Smokies, where their camp looked down into the Pigeon river, 150 feet below. The pen was 30x80 feet, the piles acting as supports being about six feet in height near the edge of the trail and 28 feet in height to the rear. The building was constructed of heavy logs and it was the great weight of the top which caused it to collapse.

Slides Sixty-five Feet.

This morning, just after the men had gotten up the rear piles began to slip and the heavy building slid forward, pinning the men between the giant rafters of the ceiling and the rafters supporting the flooring, where the timbers came together the men were terribly mangled and the four met instant death in this way. Trees prevented a greater fall and the demolished structure came to a standstill about 65 feet down the side of the bank.

Not a man in the building escaped injury. An old negro preacher serving sentence for arson, standing on the bank, gave the alarm, but it was too late. The building was divided into two parts, one for the pen and the other for the kitchen.

Locked Up in Pen.

The convicts, together with one guard, were locked up in the pen, the prisoners all wearing the ball and chain, and another guard sat just inside the kitchen door, rifle in hand, with his eye glued to a hole which permitted him to see every movement taking place within the room. At the time of the accident part of the prisoners were playing cards, the four who were killed, it is said, being engaged in a game at the time. Captain Hoskins was standing in the doorway of the kitchen when the crash came and was carried down with the timbers. J. E. Nichols, the guard locked up with the convicts, crawled the entire length of the building and finally became wedged in between two rafters and it was an hour before he was extricated.

Help Arrives on the Scene.

Immediately after being free, Captain Hoskins sent one of his trusties to Waterville, two miles away, over the roughest kind of road, and the mountain men came from all directions and helped move the debris off the men who were pinned beneath them, their escape being made impossible because of the ball and chain.

The Tennessee & North Carolina Railroad offered every assistance, running a special train from Crestmont to Waterville with Dr. J. Walter McMahan, one of their surgeons. The Tennessee & North Carolina Railroad also brought Drs. Holland and Bingham of Newport, and Cates of Hartford, and later J. E. Craddock, superintendent of the Champion Lumber Company mills at Crestmont, which company owns the Tennessee & North Carolina Railroad, sent food to the camp for the physicians, prisoners, and helpers, and finally this road ran a special train into Newport for the dead in order that the burial could be made before the remainder of the convicts were carried over the mountain to the railroad, from which place they were tonight started back toward Raleigh.

Unusual Spectacle.

The four victims were interred in a hole 7x10 feet just a few feet above the scene of the accident and the unusual spectacle of white men

(Continued on Page Two.)

President and Mrs. Taft.



President and Mrs. Taft will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of their marriage today. The reception to be given in celebration of their marriage will probably be the most largely attended social affair ever given in the white house. More than three thousand invitations have been sent out.

RECEPTION AT WHITE HOUSE

President and Mrs. Taft Celebrate Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Wedding

AFFAIR ON THE LAWN

Celebration Began This Morning With the Arrival of a Delegation From Cincinnati and Luncheon at Chevy Chase Club—Reception Tonight on the White House Lawn—Presents From Every Section of the Country—Great Preparation for the Reception.

Washington, D. C., June 19—President Taft and Mrs. Taft celebrated their silver wedding today. Twenty-five years ago William H. Taft married Miss Helen Herron at her father's home in Cincinnati. Taft was a young lawyer, Miss Herron a school teacher. Today, in the white house, they celebrate a quarter of a century of married life, during which Mr. Taft became United States judge, commissioner of the Philippines, secretary of war and president.

The celebration began this morning with the arrival of the delegation from the Commercial Club, of Cincinnati, thirty-five strong. The visitors reached Washington on a special train. Many of them called at the white house soon after arriving. Others waited to greet the president at luncheon, arranged in his honor at Chevy Chase Club. The reception comes tonight. If the weather is good the reception will be held on the grounds at the rear of the white house. If rain interferes the president and Mrs. Taft will receive in the blue room as at winter receptions.

Both inside and out every preparation has been made for the reception. Every angle and corner of the white house has been festooned with electric lights, and a searchlight mounted nearby to play upon the fountain, near which the president and Mrs. Taft will receive. Six thousand lights were used in preparation.

(Continued on Page Two.)

BURNED IN MID-AIR AMBULANCE CO. IN CITY

Frightful Results of Aeroplane Motor Explosion

CAPITAL CITY TO HAVE NEW ORGANIZATION OF NATIONAL GUARDS

Supplies Are Coming

Organization Will be Known as Ambulance Company No. 1, Will be a Part of the Regular Militia and Will be Detailed With State Troops—Drs. Horton and Stevens Commissioned First Lieutenants—To Enlist 43 Men—Vaccine for Members of Guard.

CHAMBER COMMERCE TO MEET TOMORROW

Tomorrow evening at 8:30 o'clock the chamber of commerce will hold its regular meeting in its rooms in the Holloman building and will receive a report from its president, Mr. Henry E. Litchford, and from its 12 directors, who were a few days since appointed by the president, who gave special care to their selection, with a view of looking after the varied and important interests here. It is hoped that members of the chamber of commerce will be prompt in their attendance tomorrow evening, as it will be the first regular meeting since the notable re-organization was effected in the new auditorium. Great interest and confidence are manifested in the organization, the membership of which is growing daily.

It does seem queer that most people who live on the sunny side of Easy street are away from home so much.

Be a philosopher, but don't be one of the moony kind who ponder over life's mysteries instead of trying to earn a living.

WITNESSES ON STAND TODAY

Express Agent and Freight Agent Test in Million Dollar Suit

NEW YORK DEPOSITIO.

A. H. Hillman, New York Jobber, Deposes as to His Business and the Influences at Work in Metropolitan Morton and Hardy Say Representatives of Wells-Whitehead Company Examined Packages Shipped by Plaintiff.

After a recess since Friday at 2 o'clock, the United States court was convened again this afternoon at 12:30, and immediately more depositions and witnesses were heard in the suit of the Ware-Kramer Tobacco Company against the American Tobacco Company and others for \$2,000,000 damages. Until noon for dinner at 1:20 only one deposition was heard, that of A. H. Hillman, a tobacco jobber of New York. This afternoon witnesses from Wilson were put on the stand by the plaintiff.

Mr. Hillman, in his deposition, said that he had been engaged in the tobacco business for 11 years, that before the organization of the Metropolitan Tobacco Company, there were 250 or more independent jobbers in the city of New York, but since the organization of that company, only two jobbers have been left, he being among the others driven out by the Metropolitan Company. When this company was organized, he said, the products of the American Tobacco Company in the city of New York amounted to 60 per cent of the total, but since the organization of this concern, the American Tobacco Company sells 90 per cent of the products. Mr. Hillman said that he had handled a number of the products of independent concern, naming the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company as one—but when he built up a good trade in these, the American Tobacco Company would buy the factories. It was impossible, he thought, for a tobacco jobber to do a successful business without handling some of the products of the American Tobacco Company. He had been forced out of business by the concentration of products into the Metropolitan Tobacco Company, notwithstanding the fact that he had worked harder to maintain his trade.

On cross-examination, Mr. Hillman said that he preferred to handle goods manufactured by independent concerns. He also said that the American Tobacco Company has a suit against him for the alleged infringement of a patent right. He is now manufacturing tobacco and stuff in New York.

At the afternoon session two witnesses, from Wilson were placed on the stand. These were J. E. Morton and J. R. Hardy. Mr. Morton is the freight agent at Wilson, and he was placed on the stand to prove that the Wells-Whitehead Tobacco Company and Wells-Finger Tobacco Company factories were located near the depot and that freight shipped from the Ware-Kramer Tobacco Company was plainly visible to employees of these other concerns as it passed by and was kept at the depot. He said that representatives from the Wells-Whitehead Company examined packages of freight shipped by the Ware-Kramer Company.

By Mr. Hardy, the express agent, it was endeavored to prove that he turned the addresses on express packages so that they could not be seen, but that representatives of the Wells-Whitehead Company, with pad and pencil, came to the office, examined the shipments and secured information. He protested against this practice to W. M. Carter, he said, and Mr. Carter had it stopped.

Judge Lane Holds Second Week of Court Relieving Judge Webb.

(Special to The Times.) Asheville, N. C., June 19—Solicitor Robert R. Reynolds has received the information from Governor Kitchin to the effect that Judge Lane has been assigned to this district to hold the second week of the special two weeks term of superior court for the trial of criminal cases in Buncombe county, which is to convene July 3. Judge J. L. Webb will hold the first week and would continue to preside but for the fact that he has to hold the Haywood county court July 30. Mr. Reynolds was also informed that Judge Lane has been assigned to this district for a period of six months from July 1 to January 1. It is understood that Judge Lane will take a house here for the summer.

Killed in Election Riot. Vienna, June 19—Eight persons were killed and two others injured when troops fired a volley into a crowd of election rioters. The mob stoned the troops and the latter replied with rifles.

REINA HARRIS IS RELEASED

Alleged Swindler Gives \$2,500 Bond For Appearance Next Friday

WOMAN STYLING HERSELF GYPSY FORTUNE-TELLER SWINDLES RALEIGH WOMEN OUT OF LARGE SUMS—SECURED \$800 FROM MRS. ANNIE O. EATMAN AND \$200 FROM VIOLA WATSON, A COLORED WOMAN—REQUISITION PAPERS FORWARDED TO MARYLAND GOVERNOR.

Reina Harris, the erstwhile clairvoyant, who swindled a number of Raleigh women out of large sums of money, and who was arrested in Baltimore Saturday, gave bond in that city yesterday in the sum of \$2,500 for her appearance before a magistrate on Friday next. In the meantime requisition papers have been forwarded to the governor of Maryland, and unless the woman does like the proverbial Arabs, she will doubtless be brought back to Raleigh to explain to her accusers the mysteries of her art.

The alleged clairvoyant was arrested in Baltimore on Saturday, this information being received here Saturday night. She left Raleigh some time in April, after pulling off several huge swindles and causing distress in more than one family. The woman has a number of aliases, some of her names being Madame Hunter, Mrs. Jefferson, and Mrs. Slayman. In Raleigh she was Reina Harris, the Egyptian fortune teller, and she operated in a tent on Fayetteville street, near the express office.

It was impossible to learn today the number of her victims, because it is a characteristic of most persons who are stung to suffer in silence, rather than allow the public to learn how they had been duped. While this has no connection with the story of this swindler's operation, it is a matter worthy of comment that persons sound in mind and body will allow themselves to be imposed upon by almost any old thing who rigs up in variegated garments and tells them real or imaginary things that have most likely occurred in the lives of thousands of people. There were three fortune-tellers at one time in Raleigh this spring, and all of them undoubtedly "made a killing." Whether any other than Reina Harris actually swindled victims out of large sums could not be learned today.

Mrs. Annie O. Eatman, a widow, who lives on North Bloodworth street, was victimized out of \$800 by this woman. The alleged gypsy represented to Mrs. Eatman that her son was in trouble in another city and on this representation secured \$200 at one time and the other \$600 at other times. Mrs. Eatman was, of course, told that the clairvoyant would have the boy released. As a matter of fact the young man was not in any trouble in another city.

Another Victim.

Viola Watson, a colored woman. (Continued on Page Eight.)

BANK OF TARBORO SHORTAGE \$125,000

Mr. J. K. Doughton, state bank examiner, after spending Sunday in Raleigh, left today for Tarboro to continue his investigations into the affairs of the Bank of Tarboro, whose cashier, L. V. Hart, committed suicide and whose assistant cashier, Braxton Husey, is in jail on the charge of wrecking that institution. Mr. Doughton will be in Tarboro at least a week. Instead of the stealings of these two men amounting to \$100,000, as was at first believed, it is now thought the total will amount to \$125,000.

Packers Must Stand Trial.

Chicago, June 19—Judge Carpenter, in the United States district court, denied the motion of J. Ogden Armour and nine other Chicago packers, for a re-hearing of their motion to quash the indictments charging violation of the Sherman anti-trust act. This means the packers must stand trial.