

The Yadkin Ripple

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NO. 22

SWINDLERS NET NEAR MILLION

Atlanta Gang Mecca for Slippery Gang of Crooks, Starts a Cleanup.

MURDER IS PART OF GAME

Bankers and Business Men Among the Victims Lured From Many States—Raid Reveals Bogus Brokerage Offices—Police Accused.

Atlanta, Ga.—That a dupe is born every minute and that no scheme is so fantastic that it does not find some one—hard headed business man in many cases—to fall for it, has been proved to the satisfaction of everybody in Atlanta through revelations made during the hearing by a council committee of the activities here of a million dollar bunco gang, who operated, it is charged, either with the connivance or through the colossal ignorance of the police department.

The hearing also has proved that no section or locality is exempt from its crop of dupes. Men with money to contribute to the support of the gang that operated in Atlanta have come to this city to be fleeced from Reading and Philadelphia, from Maryland, Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee, Louisiana, Florida, Ohio, Indiana and Texas. Indeed, Texas was very good to the Atlanta seekers for easy money. Especially was one W. R. Manning, a Gappa young man of Dallas, Tex., kindly disposed to the con men.

And it has been shown that when money is at stake even murder is not too high a price to pay in order to keep it and retain liberty. Here is the death roll of Atlanta's bunco gang:

Doctor Blanchard, son of a former governor of Louisiana, who committed suicide in Memphis after losing his roll.

W. C. Dukes, banker of Milan, Ga., who came to Atlanta to confer with the gang on an easy money proposal and mysteriously disappeared.

Ed Mills, member of the gang, roommate of Floyd P. Woodward, alleged leader, who was shot and killed by Woodward because, it is alleged, Mills was tipping the police off to the operations of the gang.

Charles Dorsey, taxicab driver, who, it is said, knew too much about the Mills killing.

Ruth Gobel, another witness, was disposed of when Woodward married her.

Left Their Rosy Hopes Behind. Here is a partial list of the men who came to Atlanta with rosy hopes and who left—if they were able to get away—heartbroken and pockets empty:

W. D. Hill, an aged Confederate veteran, former ordinary of his county at Clarksville, Ga., who lost about \$2,000.

J. A. Nations of Asworth, Ga., who lost \$3,500 at the Cecil hotel here in a game that was framed by Mark Tillery, recently captured in Texas, brought back to Atlanta and turned over to Solicitor J. C. Ewing.

Tillery was reputed boss of the local game at one time.

W. R. Manning, from Dallas, Tex., lost \$7,000.

George W. Wiley of Whitehall, Va., lost \$10,000.

D. R. and W. M. Bland of Drew, Miss., who contributed \$10,000 to the game.

M. E. Holley of Alken, S. C., lost \$11,000 and would have lost more had he been able to get checks cashed, but a banker friend tipped him off just in time to keep him from losing \$30,000 more. This was a stock deal, in which his supposed winnings had run up in the hundred thousands.

C. T. Madefca of Reading Pa., who lost \$27,000, at one time had a big apparent winning, but in the end the paper profit disappeared and he went back to Pennsylvania sadder but maybe wiser. In this deal one of Atlanta's best-known citizens aided the operating gang.

One comparatively old man came to Atlanta from Indiana, lost his money and is still here. His story was one of the many already told during the four weeks of investigation of the easy money syndicate of Atlanta.

There was an Ohio banker who came to this city, fell in with smooth talkers and attempted to get checks cashed for approximately \$20,000, but all the gang got him for was \$2,000.

Chicago Man Involved. There is the case of Albert H. Thompson of Chicago. Thompson is being sought on a larceny charge and it is thought that he is in Cuba. Solicitor John Boykin refuses to divulge for the present the details.

Thompson's indictment was a surprise, for his wife was known to be wealthy. The Thompsons have a fine home in Asheville.

The raids started as a result of the fleeing of Holley of Alken out of \$11,000. He and a companion made a noise that all Atlanta heard. Officers were sent to see him, and he and his companion laid a trap for Abe Powers, the alleged steerer in the game. The detectives told them to go on out and meet Powers and they would follow. That was about the last they heard of the detectives, but they met Powers by agreement and seized him. A passing policeman was halted finally and Powers went to jail.

Then started a search for the headquarters of the gang. The detectives the next day were piloted to the building in a downtown locality, where the South Carolinians said they had been robbed. But search as they might, the officers could not find the foot.

Raid Reveals Broker's Office.

The next day they appealed to the solicitor and he led a personal raid of the building. The room was found at once and he seized all the paraphernalia. The place was fitted up with all the elaborateness of a stock broker's office in New York. There were blackboards, fake telegraph instruments, fake money, and everything else needed. It looked like there was all the money in the world there, but investigation revealed that only the cover bills were good. The rest was green paper.

That was the beginning. Within the next few days the solicitor raided three places operated by the gang, in one case using axes to break in. In this place were found all the instruments needed for marking cards, crooking dice; fake money, several hundred dollars of real money in the safe; crap tables; and before the night was out many visitors, who had been taken into custody had to tell what they knew or go to jail.

The raids were followed by many prosecutions. The gang had seen that the jig was up and most of them had disappeared. Gradually they are being rounded up and brought back to Atlanta. Abe Powers and eight of his confederates have been sent to the penitentiary, but carelessness at the prison farm was utilized by Abe Powers and he is at large again. Many others are under arrest and some have given bond. Among those indicted and soon to stand trial will be Ira Fort, who was mixed up, it is said in the Madeira swindle. A feature of this prosecution is found in the fact that the solicitor himself has offered big rewards for the capture of the various "con" men, and paid some of them.

The search continues the country over for Floyd P. Woodward. He is held up as the "Master Mind" of the gang. Since his escape he has written a letter back to Atlanta in which he charges that he had paid out \$2,000 as a bribe at one time to Solicitor Boykin; had paid large sums at other times, a cut in of his receipts to Joseph Ewing, a lawyer formerly connected with Boykin's office before he became solicitor; and who, according to Woodward was the go-between for Boykin.

These charges by Woodward, the hall fellow, who was friendly with everybody in town, went hunting with Chief Pooles, gave diamond rings and phonographs to councilmen and dispensed money with a liberal hand, have given the police a club to hit Boykin. So they charge that Boykin knew as much of the operations of the gang as they did, or more.

One feature of the investigation has been the testimony of Joe Ewing, lawyer, then Councilman Al Martin and Floyd P. Woodward run one of the "dens" together; Martin for whiskey and Woodward for gaming; and that at this place hundreds of gallons of liquor had been delivered by a young man now in Birmingham. Another allegation was that Aldine Chambers, who led the campaign in Georgia for Palmer when he was seeking the presidential nomination, had worked to recruit the gang by getting men out of the federal penitentiary for this purpose.

Texas Victim Gets Angry. There is the case of young Mr. Manning of Texas, who started out in his testimony before the committee very bravely, but witted toward the end under a rapid fire cross-examination.

Manning had told his story. He had asserted that Chief of Detectives Lamar Poole and Lieut. Shaw had permitted swindle operators to escape after he had furnished information that should have resulted in their capture.

Then he was confronted suddenly with a letter signed W. R. Manning, in which an offer was made to drop all prosecution of the swindlers concerned provided that they would return his money. He vehemently denied that he had written it, branding it a forgery.

During the cross-examination he repeatedly contradicted himself; lost all his sang-froid, became angry and offered to make it a personal matter with one of the lawyers for the defense.

He told the committee that he missed his train in Atlanta and that as his wife was visiting her people and there was no room for him there he decided he might as well remain in Atlanta. He declared he had been picked up at

Financial Report of the Town of Jonesville, N. C.

Disbursements, 1919

5 5	Bivins & McDaniels	for stone	\$131.98
	Sol Wagoner	street work	2.00
5 15	Bivins & McDaniels	cement	531.20
5 17	M W Evans	locust posts	5.40
	R L Lovelace	commissioner	4.30
5 31	"	on bonus	25.00
	Bivins & McDaniels	work and stone	302.23
6 21	"	"	250.00
7 5	R E Brown	street work	5.75
	R L Lovelace	comm.	3.31
7 7	"	"	1.44
7 12	Bivins & McDaniels	street work	100.00
	W E Elliot	rebate on poll tax	1.50
7 14	R L Hemric	work and lumber	9.63
	K M Thompson	local register	12.00
7 15	R L Lovelace	cement walk estimation	6.00
7 16	M W Evans	street work	7.25
9 9	R L Lovelace	on bonus	15.00
9 29	Ed McDaniels	bridge	12.00
10 15	R W Call	fine returned	7.20
11 8	Thomas Williams	street work	8.70

Disbursements, 1920

1 5	J A Clampet	error tax 1919	1.69
	Elkin National Bank	on note	300.00
	R L Lovelace	making out tax books	20.00
1 7	Sol Wagoner	street work	7.50
1 17	Wesley Bullard	"	1.80
	R L Hemric	commissioner	1.76
2 2	K M Thompson	local register	10.00
	R L Hemric	com.	3.84
3 11	R L Lovelace	report to State Tax Commissioner	5.00
4 3	R L Hemric	com.	3.02
5 5	Elkin National Bank	interest	7.14
5 8	R L Hemric	Sam Warren fine	5.00
5 22	A L Triplett	st work	12.65
	R L Hemric	on bonus	35.00
7 13	Elkin National Bank	interest	13.50
7 17	A D Stout	st. work	17.00
7 30	W M Swaim	tiling	7.50
	K M Thompson	local register	2.75
8 2	R L Hemric	com.	3.45
	R L Lovelace	salary	7.00
8 2	G C Messick	office rent, etc.	48.00
8 10	Elk Printing Co.	tax books	9.25
9 16	Will Shugart	top soil	12.50
	A D Stout	st. work	57.35
	Sol Wagoner	"	14.00
11 18	A D Stout	"	3.25
11 20	R L Hemric	"	6.20
	State Tax Commission	"	4.20
11 21	W C Triplett	street work	3.00
1 5	R L Lovelace	making out tax books	20.00
1 24	Elkin National Bank	on note	100.00
1 8	S M Vestal	pistol for town	16.00
	A D Stout	st. work	54.75
1 13	Elk Printing Co.	tax books	4.75
1 15	R M Osborn	st. work	12.50
	W C Lewis	jail fees	1.55
	Telegram to Raleigh	"	1.00
1 26	Carolina Cross Arms Co.	"	6.80
2 8	R L Lovelace	expense to Raleigh	23.66
2 15	Elk Printing Co.	station	4.50
11 3	Rufus Dowell	st. work	4.20
11 12	"	"	1.00
11 28	Enoch Cockerham	street work	5.00
11 13	A D Stout	bridge at Wolfe's	3.50
11 14	Rufus Dowell	hauling sawdust	1.00
12 13	R L Hemric	com.	11.90
12 13	Jonesville Supply Co.	street work	4.05
	Elkin Livery Co.	street work	43.50
	R L Lovelace	com.	5.25
	R L Hemric	com.	2.93
12 24	"	"	10.50
12 29	"	"	6.80
7 5	Bivins & McDaniels	on J W Mathis	10.80
7 17	"	check in full	84.47
3 17	Elkin National Bank	on note	131.74
3 18	J F Hendren	fees	10.00
10 21	Poby Bates	town ordinance	10.00
7 18	R L Hemric	com.	18.00
7 19	"	"	.60
12 10	"	"	1.00
9 6	"	bonus com.	18.13
12 18	"	com.	7.13
12 29	"	"	7.15

Disbursements, 1921

1 15	"	"	3.50
2 17	"	"	2.92
	Elkin Light Company, from May 5, 1919, to March 1, 1921,		431.25
	Total		3,147.08

Receipts, 1920

8 2	Received of A D Stout, mayor, fine money	\$ 50.00
9 16	"	50.00
9 2	"	30.00
11 21	"	22.00
11 26	"	10.00

Great Floods in Parts of West

Sections of Colorado were visited by a disastrous flood last Saturday.

The flood was caused by cloudbursts throughout the eastern half of the state and there was great loss of life and the damage will run into millions.

Pueblo suffered great loss in life and property. Many houses were washed away and the streets in the business section of the city were covered with mud two feet deep when the waters subsided. Damage to property is estimated at four million dollars. The Colorado State Rangers took charge of the city to prevent looting and the Red Cross is rendering aid to the homeless.

Many buildings were fired by lightning and the loss from fire was heavy.

Many other sections of Colorado and Kansas were flooded with great loss of life and property and doctors and nurses have been rushed to the stricken districts.

Deplorable Accident At Winston-Salem

Messrs. E. A. and W. J. Tesh, brothers, and Shirley Summers, colored, were instantly killed, and Thomas Tesh, brother of the deceased white men, was probably fatally injured when an automobile in which the men were riding was struck by an N. & W. train at a crossing in Winston-Salem last Friday afternoon.

The accident happened at a grade crossing in the northern part of the city. The men were on their way to their home in the country from their work in the city. The colored man had just entered the car, the white men having offered him a "lift" on their way home.

The double funeral of Messrs. Tesh was held at Marvin church Sunday morning and burial was at Ziegler's graveyard.

Riots in Oklahoma

Tulsa, Oklahoma, was the scene of a riot last Wednesday, about 100 persons being killed.

The trouble started from the arrest of a negro charged with attacking a white girl, and subsequent attempts of negroes to rescue the arrested man.

5.25	12 28	"	"	"	31.00
2.93	12 28	"	"	"	138.00
10.50	12 29	"	"	"	147.00
6.80	2 17	"	"	"	67.33
10.80	7 3	"	"	"	58.50
84.47	7 15	cement walk tax from owners			5.00
		"	"	"	110.17
		"	"	"	208.18
	7 19	"	"	"	50.00
		"	"	"	12.00
	8 2	"	"	"	9.00
	12 10	"	"	"	6.00
	11 13	"	"	"	238.11
	12 24	"	"	"	59.73
	12 29	"	"	"	209.80
	12 29	"	"	"	136.00
	1 17	"	"	"	35.26
	2 2	"	"	"	76.80
	4 5	"	"	"	60.56
	8 2	"	"	"	44.00
		J S Mayberry, cement tax			25.00

North Carolina, Yadkin county:

I, R. L. Lovelace, Clerk and Treasurer of the Town of Jonesville, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct statement of all the receipts and disbursements of funds for the Town of Jonesville from May 5th, 1919, to May 5th, 1921.

This May 26th, 1921.

Uncle David Hobson Celebrates Birthday

Sunday, May 29th, marked the eightieth anniversary of Uncle David Hobson's birthday, of Yadkinville, Route 2, in honor of which his friends gave a birth day dinner on the lawn of his home.

At nine o'clock in the morning people began to arrive from Winston-Salem, Clemmons, Yadkinville, East Bend and the immediate community, and by 12 o'clock forty cars and nine wagons and buggies were parked on the grounds. A table 108 feet long was erected in the shade of the beautiful oaks, which was filled to overflowing with the very fat of the land.

After some introductory remarks by Rev. S. F. Morton, of Winston-Salem, John H. Eaton spoke of the life and influence of Uncle David in the community and offered a prayer thanks for the bountiful spread, such as the good women and pretty girls of Yadkin county can prepare, Mrs. Frances Hoots Dinkins, of Winston-Salem, made some photographs of the scene, after which some four hundred people ate to their hearts content.

Uncle David has in his immediate family, living, five children, fifteen grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

As the day faded into night, reluctantly one by one left for their homes, wishing their genial host many happy returns of the day.

Mail Clerk Steals From Mails

A. O. Mitchell, clerk in the Greensboro postoffice, was arrested, tried and bound over to Federal court under a \$1,000 bond last Friday, for rifling the mails in the office. He admitted his guilt.

For about a year special delivery letters, containing money had been stolen from the Greensboro office, and up until Thursday all efforts to locate the rifter had been futile. Thursday the postoffice inspectors set a trap by posting some special delivery letters containing marked money. The inspectors then hid themselves and watched Mitchell pocket the packages.