



# The Yadkin Ripple



Truth, Honesty of Purpose and Untiring Fidelity To Our Country and Our Flag Is Our Aim and Our Purpose

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## Charges Five of Family With Conspiracy and Murder In Death of Girl

### LUTHER TILLEY SAID TO HAVE SHOWN HOW BODY WAS LAYING

### Coroner's Jury Charges Tilleys With Conspiracy, Murder

Although Luther Tilley, held in jail at Wilkesboro as a participant in the murder of Leoda Mae Childress, is alleged to have denied entering the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Tilley, on the day the girl was killed there, he nevertheless gave a demonstration of the exact manner in which the girl was lying on the floor when found, for the benefit of a number of local people who were gathered in a local store a few days after the murder, it was learned Wednesday.

In addition, he was said to have described the condition of the disordered room and to have expressed his opinion that Leoda did not commit suicide but that Taft Norman, one of the earlier suspects in the case, killed her and placed her body in the position in which it was found when the crime was discovered.

At the time he was said to have given the demonstration he and his father, W. W. Tilley, were in a local store and were answering questions propounded by a group of curious gathered there. Mr. Tilley was quoted as having expressed his belief that the girl committed suicide.

Solicitor John R. Jones, who has worked night and day in an effort to solve the murder, stated Tuesday while in Elkin that a letter had come to light which had been written to Tom Childress, father of the murdered girl, about a year prior to her death. He said the letter was in reference to Leoda Childress having caused trouble between a man and wife. Although Mr. Jones would not commit himself as to the writer of the letter, it was learned Wednesday morning from a reliable source that the letter was written by Mrs. Luther Tilley.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Tilley were arrested shortly after the hearing at Wilkesboro Saturday by Sheriff W. B. Somers, and placed in jail. They are charged with conspiracy and murder, as are their sons, Luther and Clyde, and Luther's wife, Mrs. Minerva Tilley, who were in jail at the time. The couple were taken into custody on the street near the courthouse, they having left the hearing before the coroner's jury arrived at a verdict.

It was learned Wednesday morning that date for a preliminary hearing has not been set, and it was intimated that such a hearing would be waived by defense counsel.

Solicitor Jones, who was confined to his bed Wednesday with a cold, stated here Tuesday that he has much evidence of a damaging nature that has not yet been divulged. He was quoted as saying that the state has a fine case. However, none of the defendants in the case have as yet had an opportunity to testify in their own defense, and their side of the story has not yet been told. Each of the accused is said to have an alibi.

#### EARLIER REPORTS

Wilkesboro, February 3.—The arrest of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Tilley, their two sons, Clyde and Luther, and Mrs. Luther Tilley was ordered here today by a coroner's jury following a final hearing into the death of Leoda Mae Childress, 20, who was murdered at the home of W. W. Tilley, near Benham, on December 30.

The jury directed that they all be charged with conspiracy and murder of the Childress girl. The coroner's verdict came as the culmination of sensational evidence which tended to show that the entire Tilley family was mixed up in the murder and that the home of Hill Cox, brother-in-law of Leoda Childress, had been burned down by Luther Tilley in an effort to destroy letters written to Mrs. Cox by the murdered girl.

Evidence was also presented which showed that Luther Tilley was seen running from the W. W. Tilley home a few minutes after the girl was

### Mrs. W. W. Tilley Was Carrying Knife When Arrested Saturday

Mrs. W. W. Tilley, when arrested in Wilkesboro Saturday, together with her husband on a charge of conspiracy and murder of Leoda Childress, their foster daughter, was carrying a knife, it was learned from Sheriff W. B. Somers, who made the arrest.

Mr. Tilley was not armed, as had been reported here, the sheriff said. The knife Mrs. Tilley was carrying was of the pocket variety.

### PROMINENT MAN OF BOONVILLE PASSES

Madison Monroe Angell, 77, passed away at his home at Boonville Wednesday night at 9 o'clock, following a long period of ill health. The deceased was a member of one of the most prominent families of Yadkin county and was well known throughout the county. He was a lifelong resident of Boonville and for a number of years operated the Angell Hotel. He was a member of the Boonville Baptist church.

Funeral services were held Saturday morning at eleven o'clock from the Boonville Baptist church in charge of the pastor, Rev. J. P. Davis, assisted by Rev. Mr. Coram.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Bertha Koontz Angell, five daughters and three sons; Mrs. J. J. Richards, of Dobson; Mrs. R. A. Spake, of Asheville; Mrs. A. L. Bunker, of Mt. Airy; Miss Ola Angell, a member of the local school faculty; T. C. Angell, of Boonville; E. L. Angell, of Winston-Salem; A. M. Angell, of St. Louis, Mo.; 11 grandchildren, one sister and one brother, Mrs. Jane Davis, of Elkin and Winston-Salem, and Dr. J. L. Davis, of Kingsville, Missouri.

killed and before anyone had been into the house.

A preliminary hearing for the five Tilleys, three of whom have been held in jail for some time, will be held before Magistrate A. E. Spainhour. Date of the hearing has not been set.

The first witness to be called when the hearing got under way in the courthouse at 10 o'clock was Nate Tharpe, one of the two men who were first upon the murder scene the day of the killing. Mr. Tharpe stated that after receiving a telephone call for help, he immediately rushed to the Tilley home, and that upon entering the yard he saw Luther Tilley running away from the house through a nearby field. Luther was running fast, Mr. Tharpe stated, and had a double barreled shotgun in his hand.

Upon entering the home with Kelly Brown, who arrived upon the scene as he did, he found the girl's body upon the floor. Going back into the yard he said he walked to the edge of the yard and called to Luther: "Luther, come here quick! Someone's killed Oda!" Tilley made no reply, Tharpe said, and it was "some little time" before he came to the house after calling to someone in the woods who turned out to be Levi McCann and his son Jim.

The three then came to the house but Luther refused to go in.

Detective F. G. Sides then took the stand to tell of having a talk with Luther Tilley in jail Sunday. Luther said then that he was within 175 yards of the house at the time of the killing. He said the dogs had jumped a rabbit which ran in that direction while he was hunting with Mr. McCann and Jim McCann.

Asked why he turned and went the other way when Mr. Tharpe called to him he said he was scared to come back because he feared Tharpe and Brown would shoot him. Tilley also stated to his questioners that he was afraid to enter the house although he was armed with a double barrel shotgun.

Questioned about his actions later in the day, Luther was said to have replied that he went home and placed his arms around his wife and

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### Murdered Girl and Those Charged With Her Death



Large drawing is of Leoda Mae Childress, whose mysterious death at the home of her foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Tilley, of near Benham, on December 30 has resulted in the arrest of (1) Clyde Tilley, (2) Luther Tilley, brothers, and (3) Mrs. Luther Tilley on charges of conspiracy and murder. Mrs. Luther Tilley, who has refused to be photographed, is also charged directly with the murder of the girl in another warrant. Luther Tilley faces a second charge of murder in connection with the death in June, 1927, of Andrew Eldridge. In addition to the three Tilleys pictured above, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Tilley, parents of the two men, are also being held in jail.

### ELLIS WILLIAMS, 92, CLAIMED BY DEATH

### Successful Farmer Of This County Passes Away Saturday

Mr. Ellis I. Williams, 92, known to his many friends as "Uncle Ellis", passed quietly away Saturday morning at 3 o'clock at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Hall here, where he had made his home for the past ten years, together with his wife, "Aunt Alecie" Williams.

Mr. Williams was born in Yadkin county and had spent most of his life in the county. He was a successful farmer, living near King Knobs school house, for many years until ten years ago when he and Mrs. Williams came to Yadkinville to live. Both have been in feeble health for some time. Mr. Williams, however, did not take his bed until a month ago. His condition had grown steadily worse since that time until the end came.

He is survived by his widow and four children, Mrs. W. A. Hall, of Yadkinville; Mrs. H. D. Williams, of Yadkinville, route 2; Mrs. D. F. Hutchens, East Bend, route 3; John E. Williams of Chicago. Also 26 grandchildren; 43 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. This makes five generations, something very unusual.

Mr. Williams had been a life long member of the Quaker church at Forbush and was greatly devoted to the church and was always anxious about the church work and his old friends, religious and political, as long as he was able to inquire about them.

Mr. Williams was the last and youngest of a family of ten children. He was born in 1842. He served the Confederacy on public work, of which there were many projects in Yadkin county, including several iron forges.

He was married to Miss Alecie Wooten on January 10, 1869. She survives him, the two having lived together for the past sixty-five years. To her numerous friends she is familiarly known as "Aunt Alecie" and at her advanced age of 94 years she is able to be up part of the time and still is able to see well enough to read moderately well.

The funeral was in charge of Rev. Charles H. Hutchens and Rev. Lucy Vestal and interment was in the church graveyard.

The obituary was read by Mrs. G. W. Edgerton of Yadkinville.

### Hill Luther Dies At Winston Home

Hill Luther, 48, died at his home in Winston-Salem at 5:59 o'clock Tuesday afternoon following a serious illness since January 10, which climaxed a long period of declining health.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1:30 o'clock Thursday afternoon from Pine Chapel Moravian church, by the Rev. J. P. Crouch and the Rev. B. A. Culp. Interment will be in Yadkinville Cemetery.

Mr. Luther had been a resident of Winston-Salem for 18 years, and was connected with the Arista Mills, until ill health forced retirement three years ago.

Mr. Luther lived in Yadkinville for three years and is well remembered here.

He was a native of Randolph county, born April 26, 1885. He was a member of Yadkinville Methodist church.

Surviving are the widow, who before marriage was Miss Pearl Hutchens and two brothers, Brack Luther of Draper, and Lacy Luther, of Fort Bragg.

### Jurors Are Drawn For Criminal Term

Jurors have been drawn for the next term of criminal court for Yadkin county, which convenes on Feb. 26, with Judge Wilson Warlick presiding. The jurors are as follows:

G. W. Prim, O. W. Martin, R. C. Pardue, E. A. Fleming, Mayberry Pinnix, U. J. Shore, W. M. Jentry, F. O. Wooten, L. S. Shore, M. A. Vestal, J. A. Pinnix, W. L. Hinshaw, J. J. Vestal, Arthur Wood, H. D. Moxley, W. F. White, P. W. Davis, W. F. Dickerson, Chas. H. Hutchens, Kye Johnson, L. R. Prim, J. B. Long, O. W. Vestal, Jr., D. F. Bell, D. B. Holcomb, A. C. Davis, R. T. Hobson, J. A. Chappell, A. V. Finney, V. M. Swain, A. L. Brown, C. G. Bryant, J. A. Mason, J. F. Matthews, W. A. Russell, C. D. Holcomb.

### Banner Pinnix Dies From Pneumonia

Banner Pinnix, 46, passed away at his home in Buck Shoals Township yesterday afternoon at one o'clock, following a short illness with pneumonia.

Mr. Pinnix was a well-known farmer of that section. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Alice Pinnix and ten children, ranging in age from two to 19 years.

Funeral arrangements had not been made yesterday afternoon.

### YADKIN MAN BLOWS OFF TOP OF HEAD

### Crockett Barber, 62, Commits Suicide Sunday Afternoon

Crockett Barber, 62-year-old tenant farmer, living just west of Brooks Cross Roads, committed suicide Sunday afternoon by blowing off the top of his head with a 12 gauge shotgun.

Other members of the family said they were in the house asleep but were awakened by the report of the gun. Rushing to the yard a son found the body by the side of the smokehouse, his body in a pool of blood and his brains scattered on the ground. Part of his head and hair was some 20 feet up in a locust tree lodged on a limb.

Dr. W. G. Leak, Yadkin county coroner, could not be located and W. E. Rutledge, Yadkinville, was appointed a special coroner to investigate the death. There was no reason to believe he had been killed by anyone else and an inquest was deemed unnecessary. The body was removed to Mackie & Hinshaw's undertaking parlor where it was prepared for burial.

Burial followed in the cemetery at Mountain View church, near the home, Monday afternoon. He is survived by his wife and three children.

### John B. Phillips, 58, Passed Away Sunday

John B. Phillips, 58, one of Yadkin county's best-known citizens, passed away early Sunday morning at his home at Baltimore, this county, after a brief illness. He was stricken about 1 o'clock Sunday morning and passed away just before dawn.

Mr. Phillips was born and reared in Yadkin county and for many years had been one of its most influential citizens. He was a former member of Yadkin county board of road commissioners and for a number of years was secretary of the Yadkinville school board.

Surviving are the widow and three sons, Grady Phillips, of Boonville, and Bennet and Coleman Phillips, of East Bend, route 3.

The funeral was held Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock, at the home and at Baltimore M. F. church at 11 o'clock. Rev. C. B. Way, Rev. C. H. Hutchens and Rev. D. R. Williams conducted the services. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

### EXPERT IS WARNED NOT TO TESTIFY IN ELDRIDGE MYSTERY

### He States Luther Tilley Wrote Andrew Eldridge Note

### PROBABLE CAUSE

Another note, equally as mysterious as the two which have featured the Childress-Eldridge murder case, came to light Friday morning during the preliminary hearing for Luther Tilley and Winfield Stanley before Magistrate A. E. Spainhour, at Wilkesboro.

Tilley and Stanley, charged with the death of Andrew Eldridge in June, 1927, were bound over to superior court without benefit of bond.

The note, which was unsigned and printed in pencil on a scrap of ruled paper, was placed between the screen door and front door of the home of E. B. Brooks, handwriting expert of Winston-Salem, who has given damaging evidence in the case against Luther Tilley and Stanley. The note read as follows:

"If you know what is best for you you won't tell who wrote that note. And you won't show this note. You think you dam sharp."

Mr. Brooks testified he found the note Saturday night following the coroner's hearing at Ronda Wednesday a week ago in which he was a witness.

The Winston-Salem handwriting expert, when placed upon the stand Friday morning, testified that the note presumably left by Andrew Eldridge the day he disappeared from home in 1927, was written by Luther Tilley.

### Mouth Health Survey To Be Held In State

Members of the North Carolina Dental Society will make a Mouth Health Survey of the public schools of the State during the next few days. These gentlemen are giving their time without any remuneration but as their contribution toward improving the health conditions of our children.

It is expected that 700 dentists will visit the schools on these days and during this time they will inspect the mouths of at least two hundred thousand children for dental defects. This is the greatest concerted effort ever to be undertaken in the health annals of the state.

It is reported that undernourishment ranks first in the physical defects of our children, and inasmuch as under nourishment is reflected in the mouth of the child by improper development of the teeth, the dentist has an unusual opportunity to find if this is true.

If the child is found to have dental defects the parent will be notified of such condition, and it is hoped they will take the child to their regular dentist and have these conditions corrected.

As many of the schools in Yadkin county will be visited as is possible during this short time.

### Yadkinville Bank Plan Is Approved

Raleigh—State Banking Commissioner Gurney F. Hood today approved a plan for reorganization of the Bank of Yadkin at Yadkinville which has been operating under restrictions since the banking holiday.

The bank will resume operations under the plan at the end of 30 days, the period allowed for filing of objections after announcement of its intention to reopen.

On January 10, 1934, the bank's statement showed assets of \$204,600.95 but a reappraisal to eliminate slow, doubtful or worthless assets reduces the appraised value to \$139,707.39.

The plan provides unsecured depositors waive 50 per cent of their unsecured deposits and the bank in return set aside the \$94,893.36 of eliminated assets to be administered by three trustees for the benefit of waiving depositors.

All common stock will be assigned to the trustees for a period of five years, also for the benefit of waiving depositors, the stock to be sold at the end of that time if all depositors have not been paid in full.