

Joyner Tragedy Stirs Temper of Citizens

Nerve of Sheriff Johnston and Cool-Headed Citizens Prevent Violence to Brute Admitting Crime

Arthur L. Joyner Brutally Murdered

Body of Murdered Man Was Thrown Into Creek Near Hollister

All told, six men have been jailed, part of whom have been released on bond, in connection with the brutal murder of Mr. Arthur L. Joyner, well known jitney driver of Hollister, while Cheatham Evans, a mulatto is still in the State prison for safe keeping and who is charged with being the principal participant in a foul murder that has caused more excitement and comment in Nash and Halifax counties than any similar tragedy recorded in many years.

Briefly stated the facts as far as can be ascertained are as follows: On Saturday night last the Evans negro after carrying his family to Hollister from the A. W. Cooper farm in Nash, later sought Mr. Joyner and had him to make a trip to Evans' home under some pretext. It is stated that two other negroes got on the car in Hollister near the Bank corner and they left town for the Evans home, a distance of some fifteen miles. The failure of Joyner to return home at the appointed hour caused a search to be instituted for him on Sunday morning. This search continued all day and deep concern was felt for the jitney driver's safety. Throughout Sunday night no clue as to his whereabouts could be learned.

On Monday morning while citizens of Hollister in company with Deputy Sheriff Ross, of Halifax, were on the road between Fishing Creek and Hollister they encountered Cheatham Evans and he was taken in custody. A search of the negro revealed the fact that he had Joyner's watch and knife, but Evans contended that he had received them from another negro, George Brown. The apprehension of the Evans negro was soon noised about Hollister and in other portions of Halifax and soon a crowd gathered and as a matter of precaution, the officers phoned Sheriff C. L. Johnston, of Nash, to come to J. N. Taylor's store and bring the prisoner to Nashville. By the time the Nash County Sheriff reached Taylor's store quite a crowd had gathered and threats of violence and the determination of the crowd not to let the negro be brought away caused Sheriff Johnston to phone to Nashville for help while cooler heads in the crowd succeeded in keeping order and prevented a lynching. The ever-increasing crowd and menacing attitude of the situation as Sheriff Johnston was trying to get a statement from the negro several times came near the breaking point and a call for troops was sent in to the Governor's office.

After several hours of coaxing Evans made a statement in which he implicated Ernest Lee, Tom Lee, George Brown, as accessories, while Walter Evans and other negroes' names were mentioned in connection with the crime.

During his statement to Sheriff Johnston and others who were endeavoring to ascertain some clue as to where the missing man was and what had become of the death car Evans made many contradictory statements, however, he stated that Ernest Lee fired the fatal shot and that Joyner's body had been thrown into a small creek about three miles from Hollister. Of the car Evans denied any knowledge of its whereabouts, however it developed that when he was arrested the death car was but a short distance from the main road where Evans was taken in custody.

Mr. C. W. Cope, of Hollister, and who had rendered valuable service to Sheriff Johnston and others in keeping the crowd quiet, asked the crowd to follow him to Hollister where the names of the other negroes implicated would be given and he also stated where the body of Joyner was said to have been thrown in the creek. Possibly more than three hundred men followed Cope and Deputy Sheriff Ross back to Hollister in a search for the body and to arrest the other parties implicated. The search proved futile and the crowd began returning to Taylor's Store. By this time the Wilson Machine Gun Co., with Capt. Denny in command arrived but all evidence of violence

to the negro had practically subsided. A detachment of soldiers carried Evans to Raleigh while the Lee negroes, Brown and Lynch were taken to the Nash and Halifax county jails. Later in the afternoon search was resumed in the vicinity of Hollister and the body of Joyner was found in the same creek stated by Evans, but on a different road. When taken from the shallow water there was a frightful wound inflicted with a gun, the load of which had crashed through the mouth of Joyner while another wound from a large calibre pistol was located on the right shoulder of the dead man.

Other developments quickly followed resulting in the finding of a blood-stained gun in the house of Evans while on the grass in front of his house was found an empty shell and wadding, from the same, other shells and large cartridges also being found in Evans' house. The gun was taken to Raleigh and placed before Evans, who admitted it was his, but stated that the shot was fired by Ernest Lee, who then gave him the weapon and he put it back into the rack over the door; that the actual shooting occurred in his (Evans) yard, after which the body was carried to the place found.

The dead man has resided in Hollister about seven years and leaves a widow and five small children. He was highly regarded and the interest in the horrible affair in connection with his death has wrought up the people of all that section. He is a son of Mr. D. E. Joyner, well-known planter of Nash and has one brother residing in Nashville, Mr. Ronald Joyner associated with the Nashville Motor Co.

The remains of the dead man were brought to Nashville on Tuesday afternoon and interred in the local cemetery, a large crowd of several hundred people from Halifax and Nash being in attendance. The deceased was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and a Knight of the K. K. At the burial service eight members of the K. K. K. wearing their white robes made their appearance, gathered about the grave and depositing a wreath of flowers thereon, knelt in prayer, after which they disappeared.

Date of County Meeting Has Been Moved Forward

The date for holding the regular monthly meeting of the Nash County Tobacco Growers' Association has been changed from the fourth Saturday in each month to the first Saturday, the next regular meeting being scheduled to be held in Nashville next Saturday, August 2nd, at 2:00 o'clock P. M., and the members of the Association are urged to bear this date in mind and be in attendance.

A very interesting and instructive programme has been arranged for this meeting and participating in the deliberations and discussing various phases of activities in general will be the Nash County Home Demonstration Agent, the County Welfare Officer, Supervisor of Schools, while Mrs. E. C. Price, who has had considerable experience in rural and community work in Franklin County, will impart information of a highly important and interesting nature. It is desired that the farmers and their wives be present at this meeting, which promises to be of incalculable value.

Young People Enjoy Very Pleasant Evening

Misses Nannie and Pattie Alford delightfully entertained quite a number of their young friends on Friday evening last in a very enjoyable affair at their home on Railroad street. During the evening many interesting games were played, interspersed with vocal and instrumental music. Refreshments were served and this part of the evening's pleasure also proved a feature. Among those present were Misses Ruby Batchelor, Agnes Ross, Alice Vick, Mary Olive Jones, Celia Griffin, Iris Boddie, Grace Collins, Margie Griffin, Blanche Benson, Evelyn Whitley, Nell Strickland, Elizabeth Strickland and Maers. Alton Price, Alvin Bowen, Bill Batchelor, Louis Joyner, Willie Rose, Percy and Clyde Taylor, Bill Collins, Herman Baker and Walter Roberson.

A Beautiful Flower Is Plucked From The Garden.

Fond recollections of the beautiful life of Mrs. J. B. Vick linger in the minds of the people of the Dutch section, for when this good woman passed to her eternal reward on the 10th, inst., there was deep and genuine sorrow among the people of that vicinity who loved and esteemed most highly this mother in Israel whose life has been a benediction to those with whom she came in contact. The blow is the more keenly felt by her bereaved husband and the surviving children, these being Mr. A. L. Vick, of Nashville; Jesse Vick, Jr., and Mesdames Anna Griffin, Rosa Ellen, Daisy Griffin, Pearl Whitley, Bertha Overby, Ida Coggin and Miss Pattie Vick, who mourn an irreparable loss. Two brothers also survive, these being Messrs. George W. and Calvin W. Ward, of Nashville.

As an appreciation of the deceased the following tribute and lines have been contributed by one who knew her very intimately:

A deep sorrow hung over the Dutch community on Thursday, July 19th, when with saddened voice it was announced that Mrs. J. B. Vick was dead. Mrs. Vick was a woman of beautiful character and was possessed of a kind and generous disposition. It was but natural that she was adored in her home and loved by a large circle of friends. We all miss her, but we realize that this is only another instance when the Master walked in his garden and gathered the fairest flower to transplant to his upper and better Kingdom.

Mrs. Vick is survived by a loving and kind husband, nine children and twenty-one grand-children. I never saw a lovelier home, each child was perfectly devoted to her and she to them. It was hard to give her up, but God knows best.

"How often, O, how often in days that have gone by Have I seen the children gather with love and sympathy. God send His saint upon earth With songs of sadness and of mirth. That she might touch the hearts of men And bring them back to Heaven again. Dark grows the windows, quenched is the fire; Sound fades into silence; all footsteps retire. No voice in the chamber, no sound in the hall. Sleep and oblivion reign over all." —A Friend.

Settling the Big Issues.

It is unfortunate that the question of the Ku-Klux Klan should have been considered by Democratic National Convention. The matter of dealing with the Klan is in no sense political, and reference to the body in a party platform is wholly beside the point. If the organization is or becomes a menace to society, proper action against it can be taken by the various States of the Union. The Federal government, so far as we can see, has nothing whatever to do with it.

Bitter discussion of the Klan in the national convention has done the party no good. It is certain that antisemitism have been engendered which will be reflected in the presidential campaign. If the aim of the Democratic party was harmony within its ranks, it has gone about securing that harmony in a very peculiar way. The delegates opposed to mentioning the Klan by name in the party platform have won, but there is a hollow victory. It makes little difference whether it is referred to as a "secret society" or as the Ku-Klux Klan; the mischief has been done in considering the matter at all. The net result of all the discussion is that old hatreds have been stirred as it never was before since its organization.

In the matter of the League of Nations, the party has acted more wisely. Newton D. Baker made a gallant fight—so gallant that one almost wishes he could have won—but it was a fight prompted by the heart and not by the head. Membership in the league may be the proper course for this country to pursue, but the people must be educated to belief in it. The party that embraces the league in its platform at this time is headed to disaster. It is much better to submit the question to the country free of any suspicion of partisanship. —Richmond Times-Dispatch.

For several weeks the concrete bridge over Tolnoot Swamp on the Nashville-Wilson highway has been completed and there remains but the construction of the abutments (which would be a matter of only a few hours) when the bridge could be thrown open and the terrible and dangerous detour through the swamp abandoned. There is general complaint coming from the people of that section of the inactivity of the County Highway commission in seeing that the work is completed. There is no plausible reason for this delay.

Local and Personal.

Mesdames A. W. Fittell and Harry Fagan are spending a few days at Pamlico Beach.

Hubert C. Cooley, of Wilmington, is in the city on a visit to his old home and relatives.

Mr. Theodore Hassell, of North Wilkesboro, spent a few days in the city this week visiting friends.

Mr. Garland Taylor returned to the city Wednesday after a stay of a few days at Wrightsville Beach.

Miss Nannie Williams has returned from Wake Forest where she has been attending Summer school.

Miss Ethel Farmer, who has been attending Summer school at Chapel Hill for the past six weeks, has returned home.

Mrs. James MacGill and Miss Elsie Applegate, of Richmond, are visiting Mrs. Guy E. Bissette, sister of Miss Applegate.

Miss Ruth Mayo has returned to her home in Washington, N. C., after a visit of several days in the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Paddison.

Mrs. R. H. Moore and daughter, Miss Pattie Lyon, of Rocky Mount, are in the city visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Jenkins.

Miss Frances and Hattie Walker, of Burlington, have been in the city for the past several days visiting the family of Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Baker.

Clifton Harper, well known young Nash County man who has been associated with a paper manufacturing concern at Hopewell, Va., spent Saturday and Sunday here visiting friends and relatives.

Judge S. F. Austin motored to Sanford to spend the week-end and was the guest last Sunday of Rev. L. E. Jones, former pastor of Nashville Methodist Church, but now of the Lee County city.

Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Collins, Mrs. Pell Batchelor and Mr. Julian Cockrell have returned from a motor trip to Washington City. They were accompanied home by Mrs. Jack Collins and Miss Elizabeth Collins, who will spend several days in Nashville visiting relatives and friends.

Mr. Guy E. Bissette has returned from a very pleasant fishing expedition in company with Mrs. R. M. Collins, of Kinston. At Jacksonville they had a great time rousting the fancy tribe from their lairs and greatly enjoyed the sport afforded by reason of the trip and experiences.

Don't forget to go out to Griffin Park to-morrow (Friday) afternoon and witness one of the most hotly contested ball games of the season, when the "Oaks" will take on the heavy sluggers from Stantonburg. A good game is promised, and the fans will have many thrillers coming their way.

Mr. Alvin Bowen, who for several months has been associated with The Graphic in the mechanical department, left early Sunday morning for Goldsboro where he joined Mr. and Mrs. Bunn, relations, and from thence motored cross-country to Lakeland, Fla., where they will spend two or three weeks before returning. Alvin's parents live at Lakeland.

Cards have been received in the city announcing the marriage of Miss Mary Stewart Riddick, former member of the Nashville High School faculty, to Mr. William Jesse Grimes, on Saturday, July 24th, the marriage taking place in St. John's Episcopal Church, Florence, S. C. The further announcement is made that Mr. and Mrs. Grimes will be at home after August 6th, at Hobgood, N. C.

Mrs. Harry M. Rouse and children, of Hopewell, Va., and Miss Emily Lincke, who has been spending some time in Mrs. Rouse's home and visiting other friends in the magic city, and Miss Margaret Day, also of Hopewell, arrived in Nashville Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Rouse is here on a visit to her mother, Mrs. A. N. Rouse, while Miss Day is the guest in the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. V. Lincke.

It makes no difference whether you are a Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Episcopalian or your affiliations are with any other denomination, you have a cordial invitation to be present at the special service to be conducted in Nashville Methodist Church next Sunday evening. This

service is to be conducted by visiting members of the Mens' Federation or Prayer Band of Rocky Mount, and it promises to be an occasion of greatest inspiration and helpfulness. Come, bring your friends. Ladies and children especially invited to be present and hear the story of life told by men who know of its besetting evils.

Mrs. I. B. Gardner, of Rocky Mount, was a visitor in Nashville yesterday and to her friends stated that within the next few days she will leave on an extended tour through Florida, Cuba and points of interest in South America. Mrs. Gardner states that the tour will cover a period of several months and from time to time will contribute brief articles of interest for publication in The Graphic.

On Thursday of next week the membership of Nashville Baptist Sunday School together with many of the parents and friends of the young people will motor to Silver Lake Park where they will enjoy their annual outing at this popular inland resort. The young people as well as the older folk are looking forward with interest to the occasion which promises to afford unlimited pleasure for all who attend.

Mr. W. H. Smith spent Saturday evening and Sunday in Washington, N. C., where Mrs. Smith is at the bedside of her brother, Mr. Sam Reed, who was frightfully injured in an automobile-bicycle collision some days ago and who has been hovering between life and death since the unfortunate accident. Reports from the hospital indicate some improvement in the condition of the injured man.

The Editor of The Graphic is indebted to his old friend L. N. Womble for the nicest watermelon thus far seen in Nashville and which was presented on Saturday last. This particular melon tipped the beam at fifty-eight pounds and was of delicious flavor, furnishing an abundance for quite a number of friends who shared in its destruction. Mr. Womble has quite a large area in his melons which will possibly find their way to the local market within the next few days.

The outstanding social event of the week was a Rook-luncheon given by Mrs. W. Y. Collier at her home on East Washington street Tuesday morning in honor of Mrs. James MacGill, of Richmond, Va., who is in the city on a visit to relatives. To Mrs. MacGill Mrs. Collier presented a lovely set of curtain ends and tassels, and Mrs. T. O. Coppedge, who made the high score prize, also presented this to Mrs. MacGill. Luncheon was served at 1:00 o'clock. Those playing were Mesdames MacGill, C. C. Cockrell, L. T. Vaughan, C. L. Benson, T. O. Coppedge, C. O. Ward, S. F. Austin, G. N. Bissette, E. L. Pool, O. H. Bracey, E. A. Burton, and A. A. Ross.

Activities At Stanhope Immediate Vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Pitts, of Spring Hope, visited friends in Stanhope last Sunday.

Miss Florence May, of Spring Hope is visiting her cousin Miss Love Morgan this week.

Mrs. D. B. Sasser and children, of Mt. Olive, is visiting her father Mr. Wm. Dickinson.

Miss Eula Perkins, of Richmond, Va., is spending some time with Mrs. N. B. Roberson.

The farmers of this section are very busy now burning tobacco and report very good crops.

Miss Irene Dozier, of Fountain, N. C., spent a few days with her friend Miss Annie Leigh Morgan.

Mrs. Mollie Richardson and daughter Miss Evelyn, of Spring Hope, spent Sunday with relatives here.

Mr. Boll Weevil has made his appearance in a good many places but no serious damage has been reported.

Miss Rachel Daniel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Daniel, has been very ill with ptomaine poison, but is much better now.

Misses Lula B. and Gladys Brantley who are attending Summer school at Chapel Hill, spent last week-end with home folks here.

Misses Nannie Finch and Robabelle Johnson, Messrs. Floyd Harper and Adolphus Johnson spent last week-end at Wake Forest with friends.

Farmers Plan Great Day On August 8th

State and National Figures Will Participate In Feature Programme Abounding In Interest.

Nash County Boy Makes Good At Hog Raising.

"When it comes to raising hogs my first experience has been very successful," said Cicero Sears, R. F. D. 4, Nashville, the other day. "The agricultural teacher at Red Oak High School formed a pig club last December and at that time I bought a gilt for \$30. On March the seventh she had two pigs which at one month old averaged twenty-four pounds. At four months old these same pigs averaged one hundred and thirty pounds in weight.

"Last week I was offered \$70 for my sow and week before last another party offered me \$30 for one of my pigs.

"This caring for my sow and pigs is a project a part of my animal husbandry instruction for the past school year. Am planning on keeping my pigs until after the fair at Rocky Mount."

Local School To Teach Vocational Agriculture

State College Graduate Will Direct Work of This Department.

Vocational agriculture will be introduced in the Nashville High School at the beginning of the next school term in September. Mr. T. W. Bridgers, a 1924 graduate of North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering, will have charge of the work.

Vocational agriculture is a course given in high schools and special agricultural schools of less than college grade, for the purpose of preparing boys fourteen years of age and over for the business of farming and for a more useful life on the farm. It also gives farmers and farm boys, who have stopped school, training that will help them to become more efficient in their work.

Each year approximately one-half of the pupil's time will be devoted to agriculture and the other half to academic subjects. During the first year a course in crops and soils will be given which includes a study of the following crops: Cotton, tobacco, corn, legumes, small grain, potatoes, grasses, garden crops, and soils and fertilizers.

In addition to the classroom work, each boy will be required to carry out the practical work on his farm or on some other farm of the community. The project work will be closely related to the classroom instruction. One of the chief aims of the project is to insure contact of the boy with the farming vocation in which he is being prepared.

Farm shop is also a part of the instruction in agriculture. In the shop the boys are taught to do the ordinary repair and construction jobs on the farm. Farm shop will be given each year throughout the four-year course. The shop work will be closely related to the instruction that is being given in the classroom each year. For example, if soils and crops are being taught the shop work might consist of tool sharpening, rope work, fitting handles, agricultural drawing, and making field and crop appliances.

In addition to the regular class work the teacher of agriculture may carry on at least two other types of instruction:

1. Part-time or short-unit courses in agriculture. These courses are given for boys who have dropped out of school and adult farmers. The courses will be given during the winter months and will consist of about ten lessons on any subject. The work will be based on the needs of the group.

2. Work among the farmers which consists of advice and assistance to individuals concerning farm problems.

Irish potato seed from the mountains of Western Carolina yielded 84 bushels of primes, and 10 bushels of seconds, and seed from Maine yielded 73 1-2 bushels of primes and 3 3-4 bushels of seconds in a test with Cobblers conducted by W. T. Harris of R. No. 3, Elizabeth City under the supervision of County Agent E. W. Walls. These yields were secured from one 11 peck bag planted in each plot.

Great Basket Picnic

Farmers of Nash, Edgecombe and Wilson Planning For Great Meeting.

Preparations are under way for a great gathering of farmers of Nash, Edgecombe and Wilson Counties and other adjoining counties at the State Test Farm, on Cokey Road, between Rocky Mount and Pine Tops, on Friday, August 8th, when many notables will be with the farmers to discuss matters of vital importance just at this juncture of farming and stock raising activities.

Among those scheduled to appear on a feature programme are H. W. Kilgore, Dean N. C. Agricultural College; Samuel R. Guard, director of Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation, of Chicago, Ill.; Hon. Fred P. Latham, of the State Board of Agriculture; Miss Elizabeth Kelly, president of the North Carolina Teachers Association, and other distinguished and experienced leaders in all phases of education, farming, stock raising, etc. The programme arranged for the occasion calls for an all-day meeting beginning at 10:00 o'clock, and at the conclusion of the morning deliberations, speech-making, etc., will be held a great basket picnic.

In the afternoon there will be field trips by specialists of Department of State College boll weevil demonstrator, instructive hog experiment for economical production of pork, fertilizer experiment with field crops: corn, cotton, soy beans, oats, sweet potatoes and Irish potatoes, and special research work pertaining to cotton dealing with this subject from the seed to the bale.

Farmers and their wives and children are urged to be present at this great gathering of the agricultural forces of Nash, Wilson and Edgecombe, as the day will be most profitably spent. All are requested to carry a basket with which to augment the great feast.

Narrow Escape From Death In Automobile Accident.

Sidney Griffin, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Griffin, of Nashville, is confined in the hospital at Rocky Mount and suffering with many injuries and bruises sustained in an automobile accident that occurred almost within the city limits on Friday evening last when young Griffin and another young man, Edward Griffin, son of Deputy Sheriff J. H. Griffin, were riding on a Ford touring car in which they were carrying three colored men to Mr. Griffin's farm a few miles in the country. Just after crossing Stony Creek bridge in the western suburb of the town and while traveling at a lively clip they saw another car approaching, with only one light burning thereon. Edward Griffin was driving the outgoing car and pulled the machine to the right to avoid hitting the one-eyed vehicle, when the car driven by Griffin crashed into the rear of a Ford truck parked on the roadside and on which no lights were displayed. The force of the impact hurled the Griffin car across the road and turning it turtle on top of Sidney Griffin and the three colored men, Edward Griffin being thrown clear and sustaining only slight bruises and a few cuts. He was unable to lift the car from those pinned underneath, however, while he was on his way back to the city for assistance, the negroes managed to extricate themselves and lift the car off Sidney Griffin. The latter had a frightful gash from forehead down to his mouth from which blood poured freely. His jaw bone was fractured and many bruises and other wounds about his body. He was rushed to the hospital at Rocky Mount and reports from the hospital indicate much improvement in his condition.

The party or parties driving the southeast car made no stop and thus far they have not been ascertained. In the car parked by the roadside was a white woman, wife of Norman Lucas. She suffered no injuries other than a severe shaking up. Her husband was away from the car and on the following night he was seen in the same vicinity acting suspiciously and was arrested upon a charge of having helped to take a large bag of his brother's money from the automobile and to place it in the trunk of the southeast car.