

MURDERED ON EVE OF HER MARRIAGE.

All Theories Of Accident Or Suicide Of Hendersonville Girl Are Dismissed.

Special to Charlotte Observer.

Hendersonville, Sept. 11.—Information reached the police late tonight to the effect that Miss Myrtle Hawkins was last seen near Lake Oseola, where her dead body was found Sunday morning, in company with a young man. The description of this man was given the police and a search is now being made for him. It is expected that a large reward will be offered for the murderer and detectives will be wired for.

Hendersonville, Sept. 11.—Haunted and made mad by the ever-present vision of the child he had brutally murdered almost on the eve of her wedding day, the killer of Miss Myrtle Hawkins, the beautiful young girl whose body was found decomposed in the water of Lake Oseola Sunday morning, committed an error of judgment which has put the police hotfooted on his trail. For the girl was murdered; she did not commit suicide; neither was her death accidental. She was destroyed in the quiet woods overlooking the lake, or in some spot nearby.

For three days the little body lay where it had been thrown, exposed to the fierce shafts of the sun and beaten by the rains from an angry sky. The murderer, haunted by the picture of the child so still underneath the tree revisited the scene of his awful crime and in the dead of night took the thing that once was a mother's delight into his arms, tumbled it into a buggy and drove wildly through the dark woods along the public highway, until he reached a bridge at Lake Oseola, where he hurled the body into the lake. The bushes show where it crashed through them on its way to the waiting waters, and lashing his horse furiously the murderer hastened from the girl's swaying bed. He believed he had thrown his burden from him and probably breathed more easily.

But here are the facts: Miss Hawkins was an expert swimmer; she was almost an athlete; had she fallen from the rock, where she was seen alive last, into the shallow and rock-free waters beneath it, would have been no task for her to have regained the shore. The water in the lake is not over 4 feet deep.

Her death was not accidental and she did not commit suicide, for the body was in the water not 24 hours, and she disappeared from her home Thursday morning, according to her family's statement.

There is absolutely no doubt whatever that the girl was murdered shortly after her disappearance and the body later thrown into Lake Oseola. On this point the evidence is positive. It had long been a habit with the dead girl to walk from her home through the beautiful woods and quiet paths to the lake and to the home near there of a lifelong friend, Mrs. Beatrice McColl. She visited her friend on Wednesday last and returned to her home that evening, the family insists, and about 11 o'clock Thursday morning left her home for the last time. She was seen no more until dragged from the waters of the lake Sunday morning.

If the family of Miss Hawkins are correct, if they have no ulterior motive in stating that Miss Myrtle did return home Wednesday and did leave again Thursday, the mystery deepens, for Wednesday evening, shortly after dusk, the screams of a woman in dire distress were heard proceeding from a thickly wooded bluff overlooking the lake. These cries were heard by several people of excellent reputation, but their origin was not discovered. If Miss Hawkins did return home that Wednesday night and did not leave again until Thursday morning, the cries did not proceed from her urgent need of help, but their cause has not yet been found.

Taking the girl's family's statement as correct, therefore, Myrtle left her home Thursday morning and disappeared absolutely. It was her almost daily habit to visit her friend, Mrs. McColl, near the lake and she usually took some book along with her. She would stop at different favorite places along the thickly wooded path, which was secluded and but little frequented. She was murdered, but not robbed nor assaulted, some time Thursday and the body left until it was taken to Lake Oseola, which was undoubtedly done some time during Friday or Saturday night.

It is expected that a large reward will be offered for the murderer and detectives will be wired for.

Hendersonville, Sept. 11.—The path through the woods and through the beautiful North estate, by which Miss Hawkins always walked to the lake, is now being minutely examined. It is hoped that a still more definite clue will result from this close examination.

If the girl did disappear from home on Thursday morning, why was not a general alarm given at once, is a question the bereaved family alone can answer. A definite and quiet search was instituted, it is known but the police were not notified.

It is stated that some opposition existed to Myrtle's approaching marriage to Mr. Hal Cooper, a young business man of Johnson City, Tenn., a visitor here last, so far as is known, about six weeks ago. Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins, it is stated, had some idea that their daughter may have eloped with Mr. Cooper and disliking any publicity, instituted a search of their own without the aid of the police.

The dead girl's home life was ideal. She was devoted to her mother, especially, who is so completely prostrated over the tragedy that her recovery is in some doubt. Mr. Hawkins is one of the most substantial business men of this section and his home in Flat Rock is one of the best there.

The body was in a most horribly decomposed condition. Identification was possible only by means of her wearing apparel and articles of jewelry.

The motive and the exact identity of the killer are complete and absolute mysteries, but it is not believed they will be mysteries for long, for when the child-murderer drove through the black woods that night with his dreadful burden he committed an error of judgment which the police believe will lead to the electric chair.

There was no bruise on the delicate body apparently, but there was every trace of chloroform having been used to aid in bringing about that death.

Maccabees to Boost Rates.

Port Huron, Mich., Sept. 12.—The special session of the Great Camp of the Knights of the Modern Maccabees, called to take action on the proposed increase in assessment rates, opened today with every prospect of a lively meeting. Like other fraternal insurance orders the Maccabees has reached that stage of its career when an increase in rates appears necessary to meet losses resulting from the maturity of the first class of certificates issued to the early members and carrying old age annuity as well as death benefit. A considerable element of the membership is strenuously opposed to the increase in assessments. Their representatives will introduce a resolution to meet the loss not by a raise in rates but by abolishing a number of highly paid offices that are declared to be sinecures and by otherwise reducing the expenses of maintaining the order.

Advertised Letters.

The following uncalled for letters remain in the Concord postoffice week September 11, 1911:

Men.

W. M. Autman, E. C. Alexander, J. T. Blackwelder, R. P. Boon, Mitt Cress, Thos. C. Dorton, Rev. A. C. Elom, Lewis Hunter, John Houston, A. H. Haistig, Albert Lorings, Sigford Love, R. M. Patterson, J. F. Pless, J. D. Roseman, George Rose, Bert Weaver, Mr. Walter.

Women.

Mrs. Gertrude Black, Eula Carson, Effie Cagle, Mrs. Sallie Clinton, Annie Douglas, Sallie Erwin, Mrs. Hattie Gilmore, Mrs. Rosa Garret, Mrs. Maggie Harris, Mrs. Matilda Layn, Mrs. Nancy Mitchell, Mamie Pritchard, Mrs. Sallie Sloup, Odessa Williamson, Ella Walker.

When calling for the above please say "advertised."

M. L. BUCHANAN,

Postmaster.

Discuss Deeper Waterways.

Richmond, Va., Sept. 12.—The betterment of waterways throughout the entire country, but mainly those in the eastern part of the United States, is the subject to be discussed by the 1,000 delegates who assembled in Richmond today for the annual convention of the Atlantic Deeper Waterways Association. The purpose of the convention is to pass upon measures that may best bring about the deepening of such waterways and to promote the project for a chain of inland waterways from Boston to Beaufort, N. C., and thence to the Keys of Florida. Several of the links in the proposed interoceanic route are already completed or under construction.

To Hold Up the Price of Cotton.

Montgomery, Ala., Sept. 12.—The state commissioners of agriculture, together with representative bankers, farmers and business men, met in conference here today to consider plans to aid in holding up the price of cotton. All of the cotton growing states were represented at the conference.

THE MAINE ELECTION.

Indication Late Last Night That Prohibition Lost—Majority Against is 1,400.

Portland, Me., Sept. 11.—Unofficial returns late tonight indicated that prohibition has been voted out of the constitution of the state of Maine by a majority of about 1,400 votes. About 25 small towns had not been reported and the vote of these, together with errors incident to the collection of returns by telephone, still left the exact result in some doubt. Some 120,000 votes cast their votes on the question. With the 25 towns missing, the vote was 99,873 for repeal and 59,563 against a change in the constitution.

As had been predicted, the cities were the chief strongholds of the repeal faction, but the majority of 12,000 in the total city vote was barely sufficient, according to the latest available returns, to offset the vote of the rural communities.

Although today's vote did not equal that of a year ago when the Democrats swept the state, which for years had been a Republican stronghold, the election was without question, one of the most interesting contests the state has ever known. There was not a home in any section of the state which had not been flooded with literature sent out by both sides, while the voters were waited upon by personal workers and harangued at public gatherings, to cast their ballots for or against repeal as the case might be. The result was that hundreds of voters had not visited the polls for years, with the possible exception of last year, were recorded today.

Little excitement marked the voting. Although the polls in some cities were crowded during much of the time, it was an orderly crowd and gave the officials little or no trouble.

Since 1857 Maine has had a statute prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors and since 1884 prohibition has been a part of the constitution. In that year, 1884, the question of placing prohibition in the constitution was put before the people and prohibition won by a majority of 45,988, carrying every county in the state. Following this the attacks of the anti-prohibitionists ceased for a time only to be renewed in later years. The Democratic party last year made the question of reestablishment to the people a plank in its platform. The Democrats swept the state in the election and the legislature, aided by some Republican votes, voted to put the matter before the people.

Real Star-Spangled Banner.

Baltimore, Md., Sept. 12.—Old Defenders' Day, the anniversary of the battle of North Point, where the Marylanders made a successful resistance to the British invasion in 1814, was observed as a legal holiday in Baltimore today in accordance with custom. It was the battle of North Point that inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner," and one of the interesting features in connection with today's celebration was the unfurling of the original flag that inspired Key to write the national hymn over the ramparts of historic Fort McHenry.

Chance for Walsh.

Leavenworth, Kas., Sept. 12.—More than ordinary interest attaches to the meeting of the Federal parole board which met here today. It is expected that before the meeting adjourns action will be taken in the case of John R. Walsh, the aged Chicago banker who is serving a term in the Leavenworth penitentiary for violation of the banking laws.

Mr. Walsh has now served one third of his sentence of five years and since all of the outstanding indictments against him have been dismissed he is eligible to parole.

Labor Men Meet in Omaha.

Omaha, Neb., Sept. 12.—Delegates from many of the cities and towns of Nebraska assembled here today on the opening of the fourth annual convention of the State Federation of Labor. Sessions will continue for several days. Workingmen's compensation and legislation relating to woman and child labor are the chief topics slated for discussion. The report of Secretary-Treasurer W. A. Crisman shows that more than 100 organizations with a total membership of about 11,000 are now affiliated with the federation.

Honor Christian Endeavor Founder.

Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 12.—Rev. Francis E. Clark, founder of the Christian Endeavor society, was a guest of honor at a convention held here today by the Ontario and Quebec branches of the organization. The gathering was held in honor of Dr. Clark's sixtieth birthday anniversary. This afternoon the delegates journeyed to the town of Aylmer, the birthplace of Dr. Clark, and held a memorial service at the grave of his mother.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Some of the People Here and Elsewhere Who Come and Go.

Mr. W. G. Means is attending Stanley court.

Capt. L. A. Brown is spending the day in Salisbury.

Mrs. A. H. Probst is visiting relatives in Newella.

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Barnhardt are spending the day in Charlotte.

Messrs. M. J. Cori and W. A. Foil are attending Stanley court.

Mr. B. D. Eford, of Albemarle, is a visitor in the city today.

Mr. Fred Linker, of Blawett Falls, is a visitor in the city.

Win Brower left this morning for Durham, where they will enter Trinity College.

Mr. J. W. Probst, of Birmingham, Ala., is visiting at the home of Mr. M. A. Probst in No. 11 township.

Mr. George L. Deaton, of Texas, is visiting Mrs. M. G. Deaton.

Messrs. William Sherrill and Ed.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Correll have returned from Mebane, where they have been visiting relatives for a fortnight.

Rev. S. N. Watson has gone to Pineville to attend the meeting of the Cabarrus-Mecklenburg Baptist Association.

Miss Alice Mabrey has returned to her home in Albemarle, after visiting Miss Gertrude Lafferty for several days.

Miss Helen Wilkinson left this morning for Greensboro, where she will enter Greensboro Female College.

Miss Lettie Shoaf returned this morning to her home in Lexington, after visiting Miss Laura Ridenhour ten days.

Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Brock and Mrs. R. W. Johnson have returned to their home in Charlotte, after visiting at the home of Mr. J. N. Brown.

Mr. W. M. Fetzer left yesterday afternoon for Fishburne Military Academy, where he will begin his work as teacher in that institution.

Miss Pearl Fort, Mrs. S. J. Ervin and Messrs. Robert Fetzer and Irving Graham attended the freshman reception at Davidson College last night.

Mrs. R. A. Brower left this morning for Laurinburg, where she will remain until after the marriage of her sister, Miss Dora Smith, which will take place Wednesday of next week.

The case against L. D. James, charged with shooting Frank Pennington has been continued until Saturday on account of the absence of Messrs. L. T. Hartsell and H. S. Puryear, who are in Albemarle attending Stanley court.

Mrs. Mary Joyner, an aged lady who lives on Cedar street, was found dead in bed this morning. Mrs. Joyner was 76 years of age and had been in feeble health for several months. She is survived by five children. The funeral will be held at Arlington Mecklenburg county, tomorrow.

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THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Mrs. J. D. Lentz Will Remain Librarian and Will be Assisted by Miss Shirley Montgomery.

Friends of the public library, and we are glad to say that they are many and are increasing every day, will rejoice to know that they will not lose Mrs. J. D. Lentz as librarian on account of the fact that she has been elected a teacher in the graded schools. With the assistance of her sister, Miss Shirley Montgomery, Mrs. Lentz has made arrangements to keep up her work as librarian. Miss Montgomery will assist her for a few hours in the afternoon and in this way she will be able to continue her work at the library which she has performed capably and well.

"Nothing succeeds like success" is truly emphasized in the short history of the library. From a weakly infant with only the public to look forward to for support the library has grown to be a vigorous, healthy child and is daily impressing upon the people that it is an indispensable institution in the life of the city. Citizens who looked upon the establishment of the library with only little concern and many who predicted its failure are its friends today because it has made good.

The trustees are planning an increase in the facilities of the library and within a few weeks something definite along this line will very likely be accomplished.

The trustees have plans underway to increase its facilities and broaden its scope of usefulness and it is very likely that they will take definite shape within a few days.

Railroads Fight Tax Raise.

Raleigh, N. C., Sept. 10.—The Southern, the Seaboard Air Line and the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Companies are making a strenuous fight against the greatly increased tax assessments the corporation commission has made on the properties of the railroad companies in North Carolina. The roads set up the contention that while the commission had assessed the railroads for taxes at the full money value of the property, the real estate generally in most of the counties in which the railroads extend is assessed at from 33 1-3 to 50 per cent. of its money value. Under the increased railroad assessments the Southern and the Atlantic Coast Line will pay over \$100,000 each more in taxes in this state than ever before and the Seaboard, which has the lowest valuations, will pay upward of \$70,000 more than heretofore. There seems to be no likelihood that the commission will recede from its assessments already fixed.

The railroads will carry the fight into the State courts with a view to forcing a reduction and getting a rebate on the taxes which must be paid over to the State soon.

First Film of Beulah Binford.

New York, Sept. 11.—"Beulah Binford's own story," is to be a tale of the motion pictures, through which the girl enigma of the Beattie murder case, will teach a "great moral lesson," her managers allege. The film on view for the first time today, shows Beulah commencing on her downward path at a roller skating rink, continues through her intimacy with Beattie and concludes with the Beattie tragedy. The last scene shows the bars of the prison cell dissolving while Beulah steps forth in face of the ring, with a supposed expression of repentance. Her managers say Beulah wants to make herself a "horrible example."

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STREET SCRAP YESTERDAY.

Messrs. J. E. Davis and Mark Linker Have a Mix-up, With No Serious Consequences.

The peace and quiet of the hot and sultry afternoon yesterday was unceremoniously broken by a short but nevertheless strenuous fistieff between two well known and popular furniture dealers of the city, Mr. Mark Linker, of Bell & Harris, and Mr. J. E. Davis, of the Concord Furniture Co., which took place in front of the latter establishment. A misunderstanding arose between the two men in regard to some transaction in the sale of furniture and while discussing it they both became somewhat angered, and as both are scrappers from the word go when it is necessary, they decided to settle their differences in that manner and a lively scrap ensued. Mr. W. M. Linker, a brother of Mr. Mark Linker, saw the hostilities from in front of Bell & Harris' store and he rushed to the rescue of his brother. About this time Rev. Plato Durham, who was on the other side of the street, dashed across the thoroughfare and began the strenuous task of separating the combatants, which requires about as much physical strength and effort as to be one of the actual participants. Mr. Durham played the roll of peacemaker well, however, and the bout was soon ended.

Both parties will be required to answer to the charge of an affray before the recorder, although the hearing has not yet been decided upon on account of the absence of two attorneys, Messrs. W. G. Means and L. T. Hartsell, who are attending Stanley court.

The little boy was on his knees in his little night dress saying his prayers, and his little sister couldn't resist the temptation to tickle the soles of his feet. He stood it as long as he could and then said: "Please God, excuse me while I knock the stuffing out of Nellie."

Mr. Lester Bell has gone to Davidson, where he will enter Davidson College.

Miss Margaret Bell has returned from a visit to relatives in Lexington.

GOVERNOR KITCHIN TO DELIVER ELKS' ADDRESS.

To Be Speaker at the Annual Memorial Exercises December 1.

Governor W. W. Kitchin has notified Exalted Ruler A. R. Howard that he has accepted the invitation recently extended to him to deliver the address at the Elks' Memorial exercises December 3rd. This will be gratifying news not only to the Elks to know that they will have such an orator as Governor Kitchin is but the numerous personal friends of the Governor here. The Concord Elks have always been fortunate in securing speakers of unusual ability for this occasion and in this respect Governor Kitchin will rank with the best of them, as he is known to be one of the foremost orators in the state.

Etna is in Eruption.

Catania, Sicily, Sept. 11.—The eruption of Mount Etna has become more intense. The showers of ashes and cinders are heavier than yesterday and the rumbling of earth shocks at short intervals is heard for miles. The shocks are growing in violence and a panic prevails. The fear if the people is augmented by the great heat and suffocating atmosphere. All the country round about is covered with ashes and seems under an immense funeral pall.

It is reported that three new craters have opened, but so far it has been impossible to ascertain whether they are emitting lava because of their high situation and the thick smoke that lies over them. People of the villages on the slopes of Mount Etna have abandoned their homes. Several houses have been damaged by the earthquakes and hundreds of men, women and children, who are without shelter, go about from place to place carrying pictures of the saints, crying and imploring mercy.

Governor Kitchin left Saturday for Spring Lake, N. J., to attend the convention of governors. He expects to be gone all of this week and in his absence the state's affairs will be attended by Lieutenant Governor W. C. Newland as occasion requires.

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