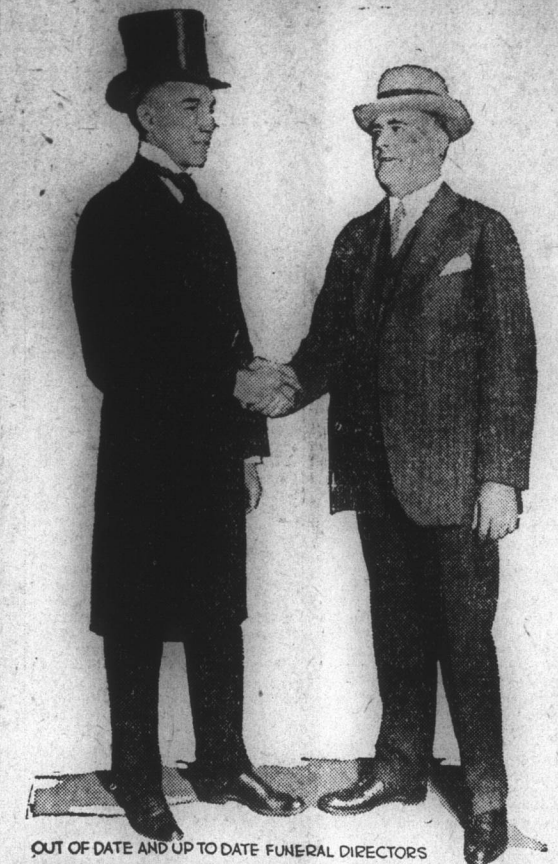


Mrs. Annie Burgess Is Slain at Asheville and Her Body Hidden In Woods Near Scene

Asheville, Jan. 21.—William, alias "Bill" Davis, employe of a local cafe, was taken into custody by the police today in connection with the mysterious death of Mrs. Annie Burgess, 23 years old, and pretty, who was fatally assaulted with an iron pipe last night about 10:30 at Montford Avenue and Santee Street, Davis, it was said this afternoon by W. R. Messer, police chief, is being held for investigation and at present no definite charge has been placed against him other than that of a suspect. He was non-committal about the action of the police in taking him into custody and denied any connection with the death of the young woman, according to Chief Messer. The man has been residing in Asheville about a year and a half, but little is known about him other than this. The police state they will hold him until the investigation of the young woman's death is thoroughly completed and detectives are now working on a number of valuable clues which may definitely point to the party or parties perpetrating the act. Several Are Questioned. Jim Redmond, thought by the police to have had some knowledge of the young woman and her death, was brought to police headquarters at the same time Davis was taken there. Redmond was questioned by the police and was allowed to leave the station while the officers decided to hold Davis for a longer period. Several other probable witnesses in the case on matters surrounding the young woman's life and habits were also questioned by the police this afternoon in connection with the case. The body of Mrs. Burgess was discovered in the edge of the woods near the scene of the attack early today. According to the belief of the police the motive of the killing was criminal assault. The first word to come to the police as to the attack was brought in last night by Caleb Ingram, an employe of the sanitary department of the city. It seems Mr. Ingram escorted a lady to her home on Pearson drive. Shortly after 10 o'clock last night he came back to Montford Avenue to take a street car and while waiting for the car at the corner of Santee and Montford discovered a piece of iron pipe about four feet long lying on the sidewalk by the side of a lady's slipper. The pipe was covered with blood. There were several pools of blood on the sidewalk near the pipe. Believing that some one had met with foul play he came immediately to police headquarters and notified them. Found Blood Fresh. Representatives of the police department went to the scene shortly before 11 o'clock to investigate. They declared this morning the blood when they arrived at the scene was fresh. After searching for other signs they concluded that a fight had ensued at the scene and the parties had driven off in an automobile. Mr. Ingram stated to the police that when he had gotten off the street car to take his companion home shortly after 10 o'clock there was no blood at the scene but when he returned just before 10:30 he discovered it, together with the slipper. The girl's body was discovered about 8 o'clock this morning by Mrs. Bonnie Ledford, of Person drive, who was accompanying her small son to the street car line to send him to school. She notified the police immediately. The body was lying in the edge of the woods about 50 yards from the corner where she was attacked. There was a large gash in her head just over the right eye, evidently made by a blow from the pipe. There were finger prints on her throat, showing that her assailant had evidently choked her. The clothing was torn from her shoulder over her breast and other signs point to the fact that the motive of the killing was criminal assault. There were no marks to show that the body had been dragged from the scene of the first attack to where it was found. It was lifted clear of the ground and carried to the edge of a dirt bank, carried down the bank into the woods. There was a trail of blood from the corner under the street to this spot where another pool of blood had formed. Husband Died Six Years Ago. Mrs. Burgess had been living with Mr. and Mrs. Otis Lee, on Pearson drive, near Santee street. They stated that she left home at 7:30 o'clock last night with the avowed intention of attending a show. She was not seen by them and they did not hear from her until the crowd gathered when the body was found. Mrs. Burgess, who was a pretty blonde of medium height, was known to the police, having served a sentence of eight months at Lindley home a short time ago for disorderly conduct. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Townsend, reside at 37 Hall street. Mrs. Burgess' husband was a patient at Oteen in the government hospital for some time. He died there about six years ago.

Modern Mortician Business Man; Dour Type of Silk-Hat Era Gone



OUT OF DATE AND UP TO DATE FUNERAL DIRECTORS

CHICAGO—What has become of the long-faced undertaker who was in the habit of lying awake nights racking his brain to plan a dismal and solemn funeral? His place has been taken by the cheerful, optimistic mortician who uses every conscientious effort to render service to the living by creating an atmosphere of optimism, hope and strength, according to Jack Matthews of Lincoln, Neb., president of the National Selected Morticians, in an address here. "Time was not long ago when the mortician registered a more pained expression than the bereaved members of the immediate family," said Mr. Matthews. "He presented a miserable, solemn picture with his long frock coat, high hat, and white gloves. This old-timer thought it his duty to be the chief mourner. He radiated gloom. About all he didn't do at the obsequies was sing the funeral dirge. "The modern mortician is an apostle of hope. Death, he teaches, is simply a going before, a reunion in a happier tomorrow. He is as greatly concerned with the living as with the dead. All possible comfort is given the bereaved family in time of their affliction by the mortician. He not only shoulders the responsibility of all arrangements and last rites, but he makes them as cheerful as possible. Bright crepe is often substituted for solemn black, and deep mourning is more or less discouraged.

KU KLUX EXONERATED OF FLOGGING AT FARMVILLE

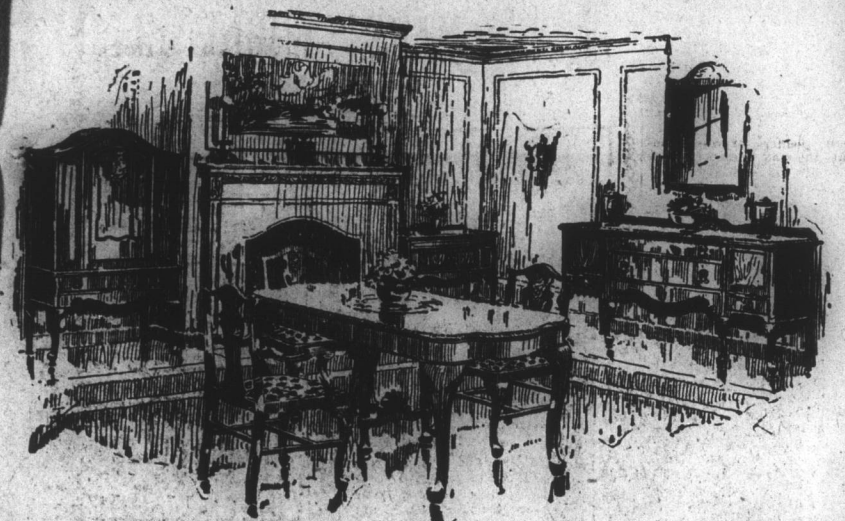
Negro Physician Probably Whipped by Members of His Own Race. Raleigh, Jan. 21.—Dr. S. R. J. Collins, a negro physician of Farmville, who was subjected to a severe flogging at the hands of unknown parties last September, was not the victim of the Ku Klux Klan but of members of his own race, inspired probably by husbands or relatives of white women to whom the physician had dispensed dope, according to conclusions reached by Solicitor Jesse Davis after an investigation into the affair. The solicitor today filed a report with Governor McLean for transmission to the British consul at Atlanta. Collins is a West Indian subject of Great Britain, and the consul wrote asking for information as to the outcome of the solicitor's investigation. "This man Collins," the solicitor wrote the governor, "was a licensed physician practicing medicine in the town of Farmville, largely among his own race, but with a few exceptions. He did at times, as I have been repeatedly informed, dispense dope to some white women who were addicts. "After the alleged assault upon Collins, within two days thereafter, I proceeded to Farmville, had a conversation with him relative to the identity of any parties that might be connected with this matter. He named one man whom he thought was a member of the party. "I thought this would possibly furnish a clue and would give me something of a tangible nature upon which I might proceed. However, after a thorough investigation of the matter, I ascertained beyond any shadow of doubt that the man who was named as one of the parties was not even in the state on the night of the alleged flogging. "I have talked with members of his own race in whom I have confidence, men who are outstanding in the colored race for truth and veracity, and I have reached the conclusion from these interviews that there was more or less jealousy existing against Collins by members of his own race by reason of his exalted pride and dominating spirit. I am confident that, from my investigations, the supposed Ku Klux Klan had nothing whatsoever to do with the alleged flogging, but was wholly inspired and consummated by some one of his own race, possibly led by the husbands or relatives of these white patients of his who were dope addicts. "I have done the best I could in my investigation to ascertain the truth about the matter, and to bring the guilty parties to the bar of justice, without regard to color or previous condition of servitude." The Break at Lake Lanier. Charlotte Observer. Certainly the public is safe in assuming that the promoters of Lake Lanier and the engineers doing the construction work had every confidence in the stability of the dam construction. They built, as other developments of the kind have been built, with a view to meeting any such condition as that of the flood of 1916, and making dams safe against recurrence of floods of that kind, the dams would be made safe against any future contingency. The weakness developed in the substrata of the Lake Lure wing which gave way was one which could not have been foreseen. The anchorage of the wing was found, according to the engineer's report, in perfect condition. That the break was confined to a small portion of the construction work may be accepted as indication of stability of the remainder of the structure. The break was gradual, as a fortunate thing, and the resisting powers of the masonry saved what might have developed into a disastrous flood for the valley lands. Magnet Sweeper Picks Up Pounds of Metal on Highway. Kellogg, Idaho, Jan. 22.—A 36-inch highway magnet sweeper picked up 120 pounds of metal and scrap iron over five miles of road near here. Some of the metal was worn to needle sharpness. Another stretch of seven miles yielded 903 pounds of metal. A half-mile of eighteen foot pavement gave fifteen pounds of nails and other matter from the gutter.

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GOOD CHARACTER CLEARS MAN OF MURDER CHARGE

A Story With a Moral Comes From Cleveland County. Shelby Star. Here's a story with a moral. The grind of a court docket usually offers more subjects for sermons than any other thing outside of the Book on which the faith of sermons is founded. Most men are "from Missouri" and must be shown. There's no better way of illustrating than the court room. Over in the edge of Gaston county there is a 21-year-old young man who owes his freedom from a second degree murder charge almost solely to good character—not that of somebody else, but his own. The moral passed unheeded in the current account of the case by the press, but O. Max Gardner, who acted as counsel for the young man, exemplified the value of having good character to his Bible class at the First Baptist church here Sunday, and the Gaston case with which he was familiar as attorney was used as an example. Men are frequently cleared of murder charges. In fact acquittal comes so frequently nowadays that conviction makes a better news story. Usually, however, an acquittal on a murder charge comes through connected evidence almost positively proving the defendant innocent, or through some skillful move of defense counsel. Neither were directly—but the big thing that kept Yates Mauney from serving a sentence was his character, the reputation his community and neighbors gave him. And come to think about it a man must need have the best of reputation behind him to balance it against dozens of years in the prison, and win. Two witnesses swore almost positively that young defendant, who had been a student at Wake Forest college, while at a corn shucking last fall inflicted a cut on the throat of Wesley Hallman that resulted in Hallman's death. Young Mauney said that he did not after hearing Mauney's reputation and his record that which goes to make up character, the jury freed the defendant. Let that sink in. Would your past reputation send you out of a court room a free man if two others swore you killed a man? North Webster in all his volumes defines character and explains reputation, but in no place does he cover comprehensively "good character." And that which Webster and the dictionary cannot define no man, not even the income tax collectors, can place a value thereon. Money—a thousand pardons to some judges and juries—has freed numerous men of murder charges. Some time freedom has been purchased at a great cost. That which freed Yates Mauney no man can purchase.

Perhaps it has been hard in the past for Yates Mauney to keep in the pathway of good character and there are no by-ways. One little stumble and a lifetime of molding a good character is wasted. There are those who have wondered if after all it's worthwhile. Yates Mauney might answer that perplexed query. Such men live and die and no credit whatsoever is given on this globe for what friends might term a character unequalled. On the other hand something unexpected may turn up and a fortune, several fortunes would be gladly exchanged for "a good character" testified on a life and death stand by one who knew. Somewhere in the unborn minutes ahead the fact that you possess a good character may prove of untold value. Yates Mauney knows the value of good character. He cannot estimate its worth in dollars and cents. Who is it that knows just how dear life is to him? Maybe the endless struggle of living in molding a never completed good character is not worthwhile, and again mayhaps it is. Draw your own conclusion from one case alone. Says Street Corner Gossip About Women Should Be Broken Up. Kinston, Jan. 21.—Judge William M. Bond's admonition to scandal mongers that "street corner gossip about women should be broken up" will probably be seized upon by ministers in this section as ammunition children are the making of the home," for Sunday's sermons. "Women and according to the Chohan jurist, "They must be protected." When Judge Bond told the Lenoir County grand jury here recently that "a few words will cause a woman to lose her friends, no matter how innocent she may be, and go to her grave without knowing the cause of her loss," he put the preachers to thinking. Leading divines declare the gossip evil is distressingly prevalent and that untold harm is being done by tongues wagging loosely in every community in America. Not ten per cent of all the things that are told are true. America may be losing its sense of the chivalrous. Men have become worse addicts to this devil's game than women themselves. These and other things the parsons say of the iniquity of whispering on street corners. "The pages of history show that no nation has endured which has had lightly the character of its women," Judge Bond warned in his speech. Shipping Held Up by Blanket of Fog. Norfolk, Va., Jan. 19.—Dense fog alone the Atlantic coast yesterday and today has badly interrupted shipping. Passenger vessels from New York, Baltimore and Washington have been delayed many hours and in some instances were compelled to anchor to await lifting of the mist. Several steamers bound in and out of Philadelphia also were reported anchored off Delaware breakwater. No accidents had been reported to night. General J. Warren Keifer, who was speaker of the United States House of Representatives in the 47th Congress, is soon to celebrate his 90th birthday anniversary at his home in Springfield, O.