

Weather: Rain

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CHECK FLASHER ON TRIAL IN SUPERIOR COURT TODAY

Case of W. C. Krout, User of Several Aliases, Called This Morning — Testimony of State's Witnesses Completed Before Noon Recess — Defendant's Witnesses Expected to Be on the Stand All the Remainder of the Day — Case Is Being Fought Strenuously by Both Sides.

The Superior court room was well filled with interested spectators this morning when the case of W. C. Krout, alias Collyer alias A. J. Niles, who is accused of working a slick "film-flam" game on three Gastonia banks on November 29, was called for trial. The defendant in this case was brought to Gastonia some weeks ago from Atlanta, Ga., to which place Gastonia officers and attorneys went and appeared before the governor of Georgia in order to secure extradition papers on which he could be brought back to this state for trial.

Appearing for the State, besides Solicitor George W. Wilson, were attorneys A. E. Woltz, of the firm of Woltz & Woltz, and S. J. Durham, of the local bar. The defendant is represented by John G. Carpenter of the firm of Carpenter and Carpenter, local attorneys, and by Mr. Melbane, of the firm of Porter and Melbane, attorneys of Rome, Ga., which the defendant claims is his home town. Among the witnesses who appeared in court, awaiting their turn to testify for the defendant were his wife, Mrs. Carrie Lee Krout, of Rome, Ga.; Mr. E. Stevens, of Atlanta, Ga., general agent of the Money Weight Computing Scales Company, of Toledo, Ohio; Mr. Van Evans, of Gadsden, Alabama; and Mrs. D. S. Lewis, who is in charge of the Mallard Apartments at Gadsden, Mr. O. L. Stamp, father of Mrs. Krout, Mrs. M. T. Hoelzel, of Gadsden, Ala., and Mr. P. M. Schley, agent for the South-eastern Express Company at Gadsden.

Considerable time was consumed in the selection of a jury, several tallies being excused by both sides for cause, and the defense taking advantage of its right of peremptory challenge in three instances. Witnesses for the State took the stand in the following order: John A. Hunter, Jr., assistant cashier of the Citizens National Bank, R. O. Crawford, of R. O. Crawford and Company, one of whose checks was forged on November 29th, R. Eugene Caldwell, teller of the First National Bank, Plato Durham, of the Gastonia Cotton Company, two of whose checks were involved in the alleged forgery, and Luther Anthony, bookkeeper of the Third National Bank.

Messrs. Hunter, Caldwell and Anthony each in turn testified that the defendant before them was the man who on November 29, appeared at each of three banks in turn, presented what seemed to be perfectly good checks on R. O. Crawford and Company and The Gastonia Cotton Company, and in each case received a substantial sum of money, about \$250 to \$300 in each case, in cash, leaving the remainder on deposit.

Testimony of all these witnesses agreed that the defendant gave his address as Gastonia, route three, and at each bank he signed what is called a signature card, giving the name A. J. Niles at one bank, H. S. Collyer at another, and A. S. Collyer at another.

Each of the three witnesses who had cashed the bogus checks testified to having picked out the defendant Krout from a number of men who were lined up in the police station at Atlanta. They also testified that they had previously identified a picture which was sent here from Atlanta, as being a picture of the man who had worked the game upon them.

Testimony as to the character of all the above witnesses was heard from a number of citizens of Gastonia, among them being T. L. Craig, A. M. Snyre, J. White Ware, V. E. Long, J. Lee Robinson, E. J. Rankin, A. G. Myers and others.

Counsel for the defense at various times during the testimony of State's witnesses attempted to bring into the record an item in a morning newspaper to the effect that Gastonia banks were to send to Aiken, S. C., to attempt to identify certain parties being held here as connected with the Gastonia forgery of November 29th. All bank officials questioned on this matter testified that there was contained in the newspaper article, and had not sent any representatives to Aiken or to other cities.

The first witness placed on the stand by attorneys for the defense when court reconvened at 2:30 this afternoon following the noon recess was the defendant himself, who was shown the check, known as "Exhibit one," purporting to be signed by R. O. Crawford. He denied having written either the check or the signature on a bank card as shown. The other checks in controversy were in turn shown the defendant, who made a sweeping denial of them all. Defendant also testified that he was not in Gastonia on November 29 and had never been here before he was brought here under arrest. He stated, in answer to questions of attorneys that he was in Gadsden, Ala., where he boarded at the Mallard apartments, conducted by Mrs. H. D. Lewis. He stated that he boarded at these apartments from November 8 or 9 to December 19. On November 28 he claimed to have been setting up a computing scale for the firm for which he had been working for more than a year.

The witness gave his movements in detail on November 28, giving names of parties near Gadsden to whom he sold scales. He testified that at 11:30 o'clock he went to the room of another man in the same apartments who was sick, and inquired if he could be of any help. On the morning of November 29 (Continued on page six)

NEW YORK SOCIETY GIRLS TO RUN BIG HOTEL ONE DAY FOR TUBERCULOSIS FUND

NEW YORK, Jan. 20. — Five hundred society women, debutantes and young matrons of the junior league, will present a novel spectacle for charity on February 20, when they will take over the city's third largest hotel, the Baltimore, and run it for one day.

In every department except the kitchens, the room and bell service, the volunteers will replace the hotel's employees. They will take charge of the information desks, cigars and flower stands, and will register and check out guests.

The day's proceeds will be donated to the society for prevention and relief of tuberculosis.

O. G. THOMAS TELLS IN COOL MANNER STORY OF THE KILLING OF A. J. ALLEN

Says He Fired After Being Told to Throw Hands Up — Had \$800 on His Person — Says He Left the Scene Quickly, Not Knowing That He Had Killed the Man — Defends His Relations With Mrs. Lowe, Denying Any Improper Conduct.

CONCORD, Jan. 19. — The defense fired its big gun today in the case against O. G. (Red) Thomas, on trial in Superior court here for the murder of Arthur J. Allen. Thomas took the stand today himself, and for three hours testified in direct and cross examination of the facts leading up to the killing itself, and his relations with Mrs. Robert Lowe, prominent society woman of Kannapolis, who was with him on the night of the tragedy. Thomas made a good witness. He was subjected to a grueling cross examination, and gave every response without hesitancy, sticking closely at all times to the story he told on direct examination. His testimony was heard with great interest. He showed a little nervousness at first, but later became calm and was perfect master of himself long before the tedious examination was concluded.

His testimony was very similar to that given yesterday by Mrs. Lowe and the facts relative to the killing were similar in every respect to Mrs. Lowe's. He testified that he is 44 years of age, was born in Spartanburg. He met Robert Lowe June or July a year ago and they were good friends. Also he met Mrs. Lowe about the same time. A close friendship sprang up between Mr. and Mrs. Lowe and the defendant and Mrs. Thomas. Mr. and Mrs. Lowe often entertained Mr. and Mrs. Thomas at their home in Kannapolis over the week-end, while Mr. and Mrs. Thomas entertained Mr. and Mrs. Lowe at a Charlotte hotel on different occasions. Mrs. Lowe occasionally desired to go to Concord or Salisbury or some place, and the defendant often took her in his car, always in day time. He had taken Mrs. Lowe to Winston-Salem twice, once in a party of five persons, and later he took Mrs. Lowe to Winston-Salem to visit some of her friends.

Nothing Improper Occurred.

Thomas said he had ridden twice at night alone with Mrs. Lowe. The defendant said he had also taken many ladies to ride at Kannapolis, possibly as many as 40 of them. He stated that nothing improper had ever taken place between himself and Mrs. Lowe, and that he knew her reputation was exceptionally good.

The deceased Arthur J. Allen, was well known to the defendant, Thomas said, and the best of feeling existed between them. On the morning of October 25, he said he saw Allen in the barber shop, and spoke to him and the others present.

Thomas said that he lost his pistol on the morning of October 25. He had his pistol in his automobile and always kept it handy because of the fact that he had lots of talk at Kannapolis about several recent holdups. When he was riding with a lady he always laid the pistol in the lap of the person in the front seat. He told of several parties who had ridden with him, and who carried the pistol for him. On the night of October 25 he had several hundred dollars on his person, having made several sales that day. Fifteen or 20 people were around him when he had a roll of money out to pay a negro boy. Thomas said he had lost his pistol, and the one he had on the night of the shooting was one belonging to Mr. Deal, which he found in the pocket of the Buick car Deal had driven to Concord to have repaired.

Witness said he wanted to see Oscar Overcash relative to collecting for a car he had sold, but failed to find him at his garage.

After supper the defendant said he invited Miss Sloop and Mr. Deal to go with himself and Mrs. Lowe to the picture show after he had seen Mr. Overcash. Mrs. Lowe was sitting in the swing on the front porch with W. J. Cline. Thomas invited them both to go with him over to Mr. Overcash's but Mr. Deal said he could not leave the house. Mrs. Lowe got into the car and went with him. They drove down the national highway to Overcash's garage, passed it, and then turned around, heading back toward Kannapolis. When he reached the intersection of the Bethpage road he saw a car turn around and drive back up the Bethpage road. He turned up the Bethpage road also, following about 75 or 100 yards behind the other car which was a Ford Sedan. The car drove to the ball park and up Leonard street to the home of Mr. Overcash. When he found the house he turned the right front wheel into the ditch, the

(Continued on page 5.)

Life Of Pope Benedict Is Hanging In Balance Today

ROTARY CLUB HEARS TWO FINE SHOP TALKS

John L. Beal and Hugh Wray on "Building in 1922" and "The Automobile Industry" Give Interesting Talks to Rotarians — Planning to Go to Charlotte 100 Per Cent Strong.

Thursday's Rotary luncheon was featured by two of the best talks the rotary club have ever been privileged to hear from two of its members. John L. Beal spoke on "Building Activities in 1922" and Hugh Wray discussed "Outlook of the Automobile Industry." Both talks were exceedingly interesting and were heard with much pleasure. W. P. Grier made a five-minute talk on the Rotary code of ethics.

The meeting was in charge of E. J. Rankin, chairman for the day's program. Final details as to the trip to Charlotte to the big inter-city Rotary meet were discussed. It was decided that all going should meet at the Gaston club at 9 o'clock on the morning of the 24th and make the trip to Charlotte in a body. The club is expected to attend the meeting one hundred per cent strong. A stunt committee with George Coker, chairman, is preparing a program that the Gastonia Rotary club will stage at the Charlotte meeting. Prizes will be offered for the best attendance and for the best stunt pulled by a visiting delegation of Rotarians.

Members of the club were urged to register for the tuberculosis hospital question. Out of an attendance of 47 at Thursday's luncheon, only two had so far registered for the approaching election on February 8. Many confessed that they did not know a new registration was required.

Following the two shop talks by Messrs. Beal and Wray who had described very vividly the terrific ordeal through which the two industries had passed during the past two years, the cuts in prices and the attitude of manufacturers and jobbers toward a revival of business in 1922, George Coker pulled the best stunt of the day and threw the club into an uproar of laughter and applause, when he slowly and solemnly rose to his feet, faced the club members and said:

"Gentlemen, you have heard the ups and downs of the automobile and at line and brick. You have heard how prices have come down, how the government has aided these two businesses, how it has fostered them and of how the promoters are attempting to make new business by introducing new models and new features, and I want to say a word for a business that has been kicked around from pillar to post, blowed out and blown in by public opinion, but which today is still flourishing in spite of hard times and high prices. Prices are as good, if not a little better, than in 1914. The quality has suffered, but still the supply is not equal to the demand. Gentlemen, I am referring to the whiskey business."

The manner in which George Coker pulled his stunt that was killing. It was announced by vice-president Sam Robinson presiding in the absence of President Joe Newark that the wives of the Rotarians had accepted the job of furnishing the program and amusement features for the annual ladies' night to be held February 14. The ladies invited will have complete charge of the event from soup to nuts, including menu, decorations, speeches (if any), stunts, etc. They have issued a pronouncement to the effect that not a male member of the club is expected to open his mouth except when called on and then only at the discretion of the ladies. They declare that this is one occasion when they are going to do all the talking and do it unmoiled and unafraid.

PLANNING PERMANENT INDUSTRIAL EXHIBIT

Department of Industrial Affairs Wants Industrial Exhibit For Chamber of Commerce Auditorium.

Plans for an industrial exhibit of a permanent nature in the chamber of commerce auditorium were discussed at the first meeting of the new Department of Industrial Affairs held with Director Ira R. Hays presiding. Many other matters of importance including looking into some industrial prospects were gone into by the committee, which promises to be one of the liveliest in the chamber of commerce this year.

It is proposed to have a permanent display in the auditorium arranged in such a way that the exhibits may be temporarily removed for exhibit purposes at other points.

LOCAL FIRMS TO TAKE A LOOK AT PRISONERS

(By The Associated Press.)
AIXEN, S. C., Jan. 19. — When Mr. and Mrs. Sam Pallett, J. C. Westberry and Melton Lyles, charged with forgery, go before a magistrate here tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock for a preliminary hearing one of the chief witnesses will be a detective whom Sheriff Howard has had in jail with the prisoners for the past three days.

The detective, according to Sheriff Howard, entered the jail as a "prisoner." The sheriff declares he will give "damaging testimony" at the hearing tomorrow.

Gastonia, N. C., and Athens, Ga., will send bankers to Aiken this afternoon or tomorrow in an effort to identify the prisoners held here.

Claim That Harding Administration Is Not Fair to Ex-Servicemen — North Carolinians Kick — American Legion Hot on Trail of Those Who Overlook Ex-Soldiers' Claims.

(By The Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, Jan. 19. — Complaints that the Harding administration is not giving preference to ex-servicemen in making postoffice appointments or new reaching members of the North Carolina delegation and in Democratic circles here today it was predicted that a row is about to break in Congress over the situation. Appointment of Cleveland Willis, at Morehead City, instead of a former soldier, may hasten the fight so far as North Carolina is concerned. The complaints, however, are not confined to one State.

President Harding is sending postoffice appointments to the senate almost daily. Three additional appointments were made in North Carolina today, but so far as is known at this time, the soldier preference question is not involved in today's nominations. The President sent in the following appointments as follows:

Estelle Green, to be postmaster at Spruce Pine; John K. Brock, at Trenton; and Samuel B. Edwards at Tryon.

Simmons Accepts Willis.

Getting back to the soldier preference row, it is not yet certain that Senator Simmons will not oppose nomination of Cleveland Willis, at Morehead City. Mr. Simmons is waiting to hear from Representative Ellison on the appointment, but, meanwhile, it is said in North Carolina circles here today that the American Legion in the State is becoming exercised over the failure of the administration to prefer ex-servicemen who get on the eligible list.

It is claimed that Mr. Willis was appointed at Morehead City in preference to A. B. Morris, former soldier, who outranked Mr. Willis by a fraction of a point. Senator Simmons and other members of the delegation have no personal objection to Mr. Willis, but if the American Legion presses the fight for Mr. Morris and other ex-servicemen who get on the eligible lists, in the State, a different construction may be put on the postoffice appointment situation.

As stated North Carolina is not involved above. Even at Morehead City, though, for instance, Senator Harris is reported to be holding in a continuation request a former soldier on the eligible list not only a woman appointment. The two have taken sides in the controversy with the former soldiers ranged behind the ex-servicemen. The Republican organization in Georgia, however, favored the person named by the President and it may go so far.

It is alleged by North Carolina Democrats, who have little influence in the national organization in North Carolina, it is uncertain whether or not soldier eligibles are included and that its OK is all that is required in a postmaster contest.

Controversy Over Reynolds

Controversy over the capital today was that a controversy is developing over the nomination of Perry Reynolds, of North Carolina. It is claimed that Mr. Reynolds was endorsed by the Republican organization and received the appointment in preference to J. Gordon Hackett, who made the highest grade and over another eligible who was a soldier in the recent war. The same line of complaint is made about Cecil E. Spruill, at Crossville, the allegation of the critics being that Mr. Spruill was nominated in violation of the Harding executive order because he was not among the three highest eligibles but landed the job anyway.

Reports reaching here are that the Republicans are warring among themselves at Hickory where all three of the eligibles are Republicans. The eligibles are Reynolds, Hackett, and Spruill. Mr. Deal and Thomas Aiken. Many of the office seekers have endorsed Mr. Hackett, at present assistant postmaster, but the Republican organization in the State wants the place to go to Herbert Miller, who was not among the three highest names on the list. However, it is reported, there has been or will be a re-grading of the papers so that the G. O. P. organization can put over Mr. Miller.

Mr. Hackett, according to information here, is now backed by most of the Democratic patrons of the office, and prefer him among the several Republicans seeking the place, and has Reynolds backing in the town. Mr. Miller is said at one time to have been a Democrat but came over to the Republican party a couple of years ago because of dissatisfaction with the Democratic administration.

The above reports and complaints are typical of those aired nowadays when North Carolina politicians get together here. The two senators and the several house members rather expect that Republicans will get most of the jobs in a Republican administration and the Democrats have little to do with it. However, they continue to tear things by letters and word of mouth from back home and it doesn't hurt for a Democrat to kick when he thinks he has been "put over" either on Democrats or former soldiers.

EX-SOLDIERS IN ARMS OVER DISCRIMINATIONS IN POSTOFFICE JOBS

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TO PROVIDE FOR PUBLICATION OF ALL TREATIES AS TO CHINA

Full Knowledge of All Existing Commitments Would Be of Great Aid in International Discussions of Chinese Problems.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO OUTLINE A DEFINITE PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR

Take Favorable Action on Request of Ministers For Billy Sunday Special Train — To Enlist Friendship of Traveling Men Who Come to Gastonia — Much Routine Business Transacted.

Plans for making up a definite program of work for the year, favorable action upon the request of the Gastonia Ministerial Association to cooperate in arranging a Billy Sunday special train to Spartanburg and creation of a committee to enlist the friendship of the traveling men in Gastonia were among the major propositions discussed and acted upon at the regular meeting of the board of directors of the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce held Thursday afternoon. Present were President S. A. Robinson, Directors G. C. Andrews, E. B. Brittain, P. W. Garland, Ira R. Hays, W. T. Lowe, H. M. Van Sien and Dameron H. Williams and the executive secretary.

In order that the organization may have before it a definite program of work formulated by the membership to pursue during the year in addition to the various matters originating in committees and from time to time, a referendum will be sent the membership asking each to suggest the one line of work he considers most essential to be followed during the year. Ten days after these requests go out the suggestions received will be collated into a ballot and the whole sent each member with the request that each vote for the five projects which he considers of greatest moment to Gastonia's advancement. The five projects the highest vote will be regarded as a definite program to be followed out as thoroughly as possible.

A special committee is to be named and given a three months' tryst on plans for enlisting the traveling men making this territory into the ranks of Gastonia boosters.

Request of the Gastonia Ministerial Association for cooperation in arranging for a special train to Spartanburg for the Billy Sunday services was acted upon favorably. The chamber of commerce will gladly contribute its share in getting the necessary information for the ministers and making arrangements for the train. A special committee composed of C. J. Huss, W. Meek Hays and Joe S. Wray was named to work with the association in getting up the crowd.

Decision was reached that the annual dinner to the membership would be held sometime in March. The steering committee was instructed to at once begin making arrangements for securing a speaker of national reputation for the occasion.

Action of the secretary in filing a formal complaint with the railway mail service regarding the present practice of having the registered mail tossed on New York was endorsed. The present practice results sometimes in the sack missing the door and on one or two occasions it has been damaged in past months. This is of importance to Gastonia as prompt mail service to Richmond is necessary. The local postoffice is in no wise to blame in the matter, according to the secretary, the fault being with the requirement of the service that the sack be thrown on a fast moving train.

Rule was adopted to enforce committee efficiency that when a committee member misses three meetings in succession without good cause its name will be dropped from the committee, also that all meetings called in the organization be called to order immediately on the arrival of the hour set and a morning.

Much routine business was also disposed of at the meeting.

GASTONIA TEXTILE CLUB HAS INTERESTING MEETING

Cotton Mill Superintendents of County Meet in Regular Session to Discuss Plans and Problems and Exchange Ideas.

The Gastonia Textile Club, an organization comprising the superintendents of the various cotton mills in and around Gastonia held its first meeting of the year Wednesday evening in the Chamber of Commerce auditorium. There were 25 superintendents present. Mr. W. P. Gargill, superintendent of the Lora mill, and president of the club, presided and led the discussions. The keynote of the meeting was the matter of cooperation among the superintendents and the exchange of ideas and problems. Every member was urged to come prepared to ask and answer questions of interest to the cotton mill superintendents.

This organization of well known textile experts meets twice a month. Its primary purpose is exchange of ideas and plans to the end that the cotton mill supremacy of Gaston county may remain unshaken.

(By The Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, Jan. 20. — Formal adoption by the arms conference Far Eastern committee of the American proposal for publication of all treaties and understandings relating to China's interests was forecast today by the general approval given the suggestion at its preceding session.

The terms of the resolution prepared for the action of the committee today, embodying the general decision on the proposal reached yesterday, was understood to provide that each Government make known not only the agreement to which such government itself was party but also all separate agreements and understandings entered into by its nationals and of which it has knowledge.

Replying to the suggestion of the Japanese, presented with their general approval of the proposal yesterday, that it might be very difficult for any nation to provide a complete list of the various engagements of private individuals and corporations, Secretary Hughes, who offered the proposal, stated that no government could be expected to list obligations of which it had no knowledge. He added, however, that such engagements might easily be of great importance and suggested that those of which the governments did have knowledge be made known.

In presenting his proposal, Secretary Hughes expressed the view that a full knowledge by the powers represented of all existing commitments in China would be of great aid in any international discussion of Chinese problems. He added, also, that the present conference offered opportunity for any discussion which such a plan might suggest. As to this, however, it appeared doubtful today that such a listing of commitments could well be accomplished before the Washington conference adjourned.

With the naval limitation treaty put through a final revision and now completed except for the Pacific fortifications section, the naval experts of the powers met again today to try to work out a new phrasing of this article. There were hopes of an early solution of the question, despite the fact that the Japanese instructions from Tokyo on it were understood to be not yet conclusive, and in some quarters it was believed the conclusion of the treaty might be announced at a plenary session early next week.

FARMERS ARE BEHIND HENRY FORD'S OFFER FOR MUSCLE SHOALS PROPERTY

Declare That He Can Make High Grade Fertilizer Very Cheaply — Can Make Nitrogen and Other Plant Foods — Says Government Has Lost Million and a Half by Not Accepting Ford's Offer.

(By The Associated Press.)
FLORENCE, Ala., Jan. 20. — Charge that the Federal Government had lost practically a million and a half dollars in the last six months by not "accepting Henry Ford's offer to lease the dam and operate the nitrate plants at Muscle Shoals, Ala.," was made here today by the meeting of the Southern Farm Members of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Gray Silver, their Washington headquarters.

Mr. Ford's offer, Mr. Silver said, was made to Secretary Weeks on July 8th, last, and will be transmitted in latest form, according to the Secretary, some time next week. In addition to Mr. Ford's offer, several other offers for Muscle Shoals have been made. Mr. Silver asserted, adding "but the Secretary has admitted that none of them compare with Mr. Ford's as even can be considered seriously. Further, Mr. Ford's offer has been published to the world for months and yet Secretary Weeks has delayed sending the offer with his recommendations to Congress, thereby discouraging other bidders to revise their bids."

"In Mr. Ford's offer," Mr. Silver declared, "the farmers see the first opportunity to secure these high-grade plant foods that the scientists have repeatedly told them are possible, plant foods that an expert testimony are admitted to save them at least one-half of the present cost of fertilizer."

Mr. Silver declared that when Mr. Ford tells the farmers he can make at Muscle Shoals the cheap high grade fertilizer they need "the farmers are ready to take that statement at 100 per cent."

One-half the agricultural States of America were represented at the group conference which was attended by delegates from the Cotton Belt and Corn and Wheat sections of the Mississippi valley.

First hand information will be secured in connection with the physical property of the Government at Muscle Shoals, and a study made of its possible development with relation to American agriculture, according to the conference program.

The Farm Bureau at its recent Atlanta meeting endorsed Mr. Ford's proposal to lease and operate the nitrate plants.

Co-operative marketing of major crops, community marketing of local products, collective purchasing, development of the live stock and dairy industry in the South, farm housing, transportation problems and State and national legislation in which the farmers of the nation are interested are being placed on the program.

THE WEATHER

North Carolina, probably rain tonight and Saturday, somewhat colder.