

Murder Trial Begins

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opened here yesterday.

Both Solicitor William B. Murdock and Sheriff Latta have stated that they want the case tried this term and there have been no indications that further continuance will be allowed or requested.

Murdock has said he will ask for a first degree murder verdict, which carries the death penalty.

Judge Hunt Parker of Roanoke Rapids will be on the bench of the historic 106-year-old Orange County courthouse for the trial. Last week the courtroom was "dressed up" for the anticipated several hundred spectators. It received a fresh coat of paint and new floor covering.

Sheriff Latta has quoted Lee as saying he was so drunk on the night of the murder that he did not remember where he had been.

Much of the State's case is expected to rest on circumstantial evidence.

At the time of the slaying Lee was working on a road construction project near Cary and drove through Chapel Hill twice a day.

Witnesses claim they heard screams for help from a green Ford truck.

The area in which Miss Crook's body was found showed signs of a struggle and possibly she scratched her slayer. At the time of his arrest Lee was reported to have had several scratches on his body.

Lee has a criminal record of previous attacks upon women. In November, 1941, he was charged, according to Alamance County court records, with attempted rape. He plead guilty to assault on a female and prayer for judgment was continued.

(The Crook murder was termed as a sex slaying at first, due to a roll of bills found on the corpse and the position of the clothes and body. Whether the autopsy report, made by Dr. Margaret Swanton, University of North Carolina pathologist, contained any information as to whether Miss Crook had been criminally assaulted has never been revealed. No attempt to report was made at the preliminary inquest.)

Lee was an employee of Nello Teer Construction company of

Durham and company records show he was a steady worker. George Guthrie, his supervisor, has stated that he detected nothing unusual in Lee's work during the week between the murder and his arrest.

A native of Union Springs, Alabama, Miss Crook came to Chapel Hill in 1930 to enter the University, where she worked for a Ph.D. in economics at various intervals for 12 years. She had completed all of the requirements for her degree except the thesis when she decided to operate a small flower, fish, remnant and pecan shop, known as "Crook's Corner", near the Chapel Hill-Carrboro town limits. She received her pecans from a 820-acre "plantation" in Alabama, on which her father, Rev. Davy Crockett Crook, brigadier general in the Army of the Confederate States of America had lived before his death.

Defense attorney's Bonner D. Sawyer and Robert M. Gantt have given no indication of evidence they will present as a defense.

Joker Ignites Mangum Roof

The last day of exams proved to be too much of a strain for one frustrated Carolinian.

Firemen received a call from someone with a name sounding like "Jefferson" to put out a fire on the roof of Mangum dormitory at 7 o'clock Saturday night. No Jefferson is listed in the student directory.

When the truck arrived, firemen saw that a practical joker had placed a road flare on the roof near the fourth floor hall window opposite Emerson Stadium.

After removing the small kerosene lamp, they asked fourth floor residents what had happened. Nobody seemed to know who did it, why he did it, and where he was.

Also none of the Mangum residents ventured to say whether they had tried to take the flare off the roof before calling the department, firemen indicated.

Kattsoff Misunderstood; Commies Aren't Allowed To Teach Due To Bias

"Communists should not be permitted to teach because they are unable to teach objectively and are therefore incompetent teachers," Dr. Louis O. Kattsoff, chairman of the philosophy department here, said yesterday.

Dr. Kattsoff made this statement in an effort to clear up a misunderstanding growing out of an address he gave in Goldsboro on February 29.

He said he was evidently "misunderstood" in answering a question during an open forum that followed his address. "I regret that I did not make myself clear," he said.

"The University has the right to discharge or refuse to hire Communists because of this incompetence," Dr. Kattsoff said yesterday.

"No university wants teachers who cannot live up to their duties and obligations as teachers. I have said repeatedly in public that I would never recommend a Communist to a position in my department because he is a Communist and is unable to function as a good and competent philosopher," he asserted.

"All people who have heard me speak or have listened to my radio talks, or have read my articles in some of the newspapers know how I stand. I have devoted too much time and energy to combating Communist ideas to allow a misunderstanding to hinder my work in this era of crisis."

Following his Goldsboro address, Kattsoff was widely quoted as having stated that no university should fire or turn down the application of a teacher because he is a Communist.

Phi Assembly Meets Tonite

The Phi Assembly will meet in executive session at 8:30 tonight to discuss its plans for the spring quarter.

Speaker David M. Kerley yesterday urged all members to attend and expressed the hope that "all inactive members will return to active status."

At 8 p.m. all committees which have not previously met will meet in the Phi Hall to prepare budgets and plan their programs.

Members not knowing what committee they are on may check the list on the Phi bulletin board on the third floor of New East building, Kerley said.

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