

# County Lot Sold To Power Company

## SHEDD SENTENCED TO GAS CHAMBER

### Verdict Is First Degree; No Mercy Recommendation

#### S. C. Man's Execution For Slaying 2 Girls Set For Jan. 26

Curtis Shedd, 29-year-old Waihalla, S. C. resident, on trial here for the August 3 slaying of two Waihalla girls whose bodies were found in Macon county, was convicted by a jury composed of Jackson county men on two charges of first degree murder last night at 6:30 o'clock, and was sentenced to die in the gas chamber January 26.

Shedd's attorneys entered a plea of not guilty. The jury deliberated the evidence for an hour before announcing the verdict. They could have returned a verdict of guilty with a recommendation for mercy, which would have meant life imprisonment. However, a member of the jury said no recommendation was suggested. When asked why they deliberated so long, the juror said they "were meditating to make sure we were doing the right thing."

Shedd displayed no emotion when the verdict was returned. Not a muscle of his face twitched. Nor did he stop his constant chewing of gum when Judge J. Will Pless, Jr., pronounced sentence.

Immediately after the jury returned at 5:30, a fuse blew, plunging the courtroom into darkness. Highway patrolmen quietly and efficiently escorted the convicted slayer to a chamber at the back of the courtroom, and closed the door.

When the lights flickered on about five minutes later, Shedd was brought back into the courtroom to await sentencing. Shedd's wife, Mrs. Dolly Shedd, who sat at her husband's side through most of the three-day trial, broke down when sentence was pronounced and her sobbing could be heard on the street outside.

The young man did not take the stand in his own defense, and no witnesses were called by his attorneys.

Shedd's attorneys, Gilmer A. Jones and R. S. Jones, told the jury during the defense argument that "We have nothing to contradict the state's evidence or statement."

R. S. Jones told the jury, "Whether he is guilty or not is for you, the jury, to decide."

However, the defense suggested the possibility that the defendant was mentally incompetent, and argued that, at most, he should receive a life sentence.

Pointing to Shedd's marble-like countenance, Gilmer A. Jones said, "Look at him... sitting there chewing gum like he was at a Sunday picnic. Does he look like he is in his right mind?"

Solicitor Thad D. Bryson, Jr., demanded in his closing argument a first degree verdict without recommendation of mercy, declaring that Shedd was the perpetrator of a "damnable crime," and should pay for his crime against society. Reviewing the evidence, he said of Shedd: "He is either the most foolish or the smartest man I have ever met."

Still counterpunching, Solicitor Bryson branded the defenses' remarks to the jury about Shedd's mental condition as "novel injections of insanity."

"During the yesterday morning's session the prosecution called a number of witnesses to the stand, most of them verifying details of the slaying as told by witnesses on the previous day. Articles of clothing worn by the girls and the shotgun, used by Shedd to kill the girls' father, were identified. Just prior to passing sentence,

#### 'Man In Cap

#### And Overalls' Costs Defendant \$100

That mysterious fellow "in overalls and cap", who sells whiskey to persons all over the country, cost Andrew Chappell, of the Dillard road, \$100, court costs, and his driver's license for two years, in superior court here Monday morning.

A 33-year-old ex-serviceman, Chappell appeared in court to answer to a charge of violating the prohibition laws. Testimony by arresting officers showed that approximately seven and a half gallons of non-tax paid whiskey was found in Chappell's trailer home.

Judge J. Will Pless, Jr., questioned the defendant as to where he obtained the whiskey. Chappell said he did not know whom he got it from.

"It looks like it's that same man in the overalls and cap again," said the judge. "He sells whiskey all over the country, and no one seems to know his name or where he comes from."

"You're right, Your Honor," quipped Solicitor Thad D. Bryson, Jr., "We haven't heard from that mysterious fellow since the last term of court."

Judge Pless, remarking that a man is foolish to purchase whiskey from an unknown person, gave Chappell eight months on the roads, suspended on payment of \$100 and costs, and revoked his driver's license for a period of two years.

"If you had been truthful with me," the judge told Chappell, "and told me where you bought the whiskey, I had no intention of pressing the matter. I just wanted to know if you would tell the truth."

### Room Packed When Court Term Opens

All seats in the Macon county courtroom were filled, more than 30 persons stood in the rear, and an overflow crowd collected on the steps and sidewalk in front of the courthouse, when Judge J. Will Pless, Jr., of Marion, convened the December term of superior court Monday morning.

The large opening day turnout, as during the August term of court, was attributed to the pending murder trial of Curtis Shedd. Shedd's trial was postponed from the August term of court, over which Judge Pless also presided, to this term.

During the morning session a number of criminal cases were disposed of, and the names of the grand jurors were drawn from a hat by five-year-old Michael Hastings, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hastings, of Franklin.

Those chosen to serve as grand jurors were: Jarvis Ayers, John Cunningham, Henry Tippet, Tom Allen, Roy Dills, John Early, Lester Norton, Mrs. O. C. Hall, Carey Cabe, Vernon Cunningham.

### Grand Jurors Recommend Repairs At Jail, County Home, Courthouse

Repairs to the jail, county home, and courthouse were recommended by the grand jury in its report Tuesday afternoon filed with Judge J. Will Pless, Jr., presiding at the December term of Macon superior court.

Most of the repairs suggested are of a minor nature.

The committee that inspected the county home reported, among other items, that the



NEW OFFICIALS TAKE OFFICE—J. Harry Thomas, Macon County's new sheriff, and Miss Kate McGee, new clerk of superior court, are shown above with Judge J. Will Pless, Jr. (right) who administered the oath of office to all the county officials, elected November 7, just prior to the opening of the December term of Macon superior court Monday. The little boy seated at the table is Michael Hastings, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Hastings, who drew the jurors' names at the opening of court.

### BASKETBALLERS START TUESDAY

#### Franklin High To Meet Nantahala As '50 Season Opens

The 1950-51 basketball season will officially open Tuesday night when the whistle sends the Franklin boy and girl teams against the Nantahala boys and girls, in a double-header that gets under way at Nantahala school at 8 o'clock.

The Franklin hardwoods are not scheduled to play a game in Franklin until January 9, when they will meet Cherokee on the home court.

Heading the male team for Franklin will be Jack Norton, the lanky center who placed on the all-conference team last year. Backing Norton will be Richard Jones and Bo Norton at the forward positions, and Ted and Gene Stamey in the guard slots. Deep in strength, this is the same crew that went to Asheville last year for the

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### Lions To Honor Football Players And Cheer Leaders

A banquet, honoring the Franklin High Panther football squad and the high school cheerleaders, will be given by the Lions club at the organization's meeting Monday night at the Presbyterian church annex. It has been announced.

Carl Tysinger, chairman of the Lions program committee, is in charge of the arrangements.

### Cullasaja P. T. A. To Hold Meeting On Tuesday Night

The monthly meeting of the Cullasaja Parent-Teacher association will be held December 12 at 7:30 at the Cullasaja school. The program will be featured by a pageant, "Love Grows and Grows."

A bazaar also will be held, and cookies and soft drinks will be on sale.

### Yule Cantata To Be Held This Year On December 17

Franklin's annual Christmas cantata will be held this year on Sunday evening, December 17, it was announced this week. Rehearsals already are under way.

The event, which each year attracts a capacity audience, is set for 8 p. m. at the Franklin Methodist church.

Made up of the combined choirs of the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal churches here, the musical program is under the direction of S. F. Beck. Mrs. Henry W. Cabe is the organist.

### School Board Votes To Buy Site At Union

The Macon County board of education, at its November meeting Monday, voted to authorize County Supt. G. L. Houk to buy the site for the Union school building for \$2,500.

The property, which had previously been decided on by the board, is part of the J. W. Addington farm and is situated directly west of the Methodist circuit parsonage. The tract contains approximately seven acres.

The resignation of Wallace Martin as teacher in the Franklin high school was announced by G. L. Houk, superintendent, and he recommended the employment of Ray Clarke, a graduate of Western Carolina Teachers college, to fill the position. The matter was approved by the board.

After some discussion, the board also authorized the superintendent to let contracts for wells to be drilled at the new Slagle and Union school sites and at Iotla.

### Girls Quint To Play High Men's Faculty Team

The men's faculty basketball team at Franklin High is going to have a hard time keeping minds on basketball when they play a benefit game against the "Arkansas Travelers" at the high school Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

The "Arkansas Travelers" are women... seven of the comeliest young ladies ever to sink a foul shot, or execute a fast break.

### County Officials Sworn Into Office By Judge Pless

#### Brief Case Given J. C. Brookshire By Members Of Bar

J. Clinton Brookshire, retiring superior court clerk, was presented with a leather brief case, a gift from members of the Macon county bar, at the opening of superior court Tuesday morning.

The presentation speech, made by Guy L. Houk, president of the Bar association, cited Mr. Brookshire as being "courteous, serious, faithful, and of great assistance to all who practiced law in this county, during his term of office."

In a brief acceptance speech, Mr. Brookshire said it had been a great pleasure for him, working with the members of the association, and thanked them for many kindnesses they had shown him.

#### Judge Warns Of Danger When Citizens Fail To Ballot

The eight county officials elected November 7 were sworn into office by Judge J. Will Pless, Jr., of Marion, Monday morning, just prior to the opening of Macon superior court, at which Judge Pless presided.

Among the officials just entering office were J. Harry Thomas, sheriff, and Miss Kate McGee, clerk of superior court, and shortly after they were administered their oaths by Judge Pless.

Mr. Thomas ordered the court into session, and Miss McGee started her duties as the court's clerk. Present to assist them were Walter Dean, retiring deputy sheriff, and J. Clinton Brookshire, retiring clerk.

It is "tragic," Judge Pless said in a short talk before he gave the oaths, "that the American people are not discharging their responsibilities of citizenship as they should." He cited the fact that nearly 2,000,000 North Carolinians are eligible to vote, but that only 800,000 voted in the last election, adding that the state thus is being ruled by a minority.

"Your officials would feel a greater mandate from the people if they knew they represented a majority," he said. "I have no fear that this country can ever be conquered by a foreign enemy, but I am desperately afraid if the average citizen doesn't say on the alert, we will be overcome by a small minority at home who fall for the Communist line." In this connection, he told how a six per cent Communist minority, by always attending meetings and by taking advantage of the indifference of the minority gained control of a Detroit labor union.

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#### PLAN BAKE SALE

The Junior Woman's club will hold a benefit bake sale at the Nantahala Power and Light company office tomorrow (Friday) morning, starting at 9 a. m.

### CONCERN PLANS \$150,000 HOME ON WEST MAIN

#### Commissioners Accept Nantahala's Offer Of \$15,000 Cash

The board of county commissioners Monday unanimously passed an order to sell the county's property on West Main street to the Nantahala Power and Light company for \$15,000.

The power company, which plans a new home on the lot, proposes to erect a two-story office building and a one-story service building on the lot at a total cost estimated at between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

The board's action was acceptance of an offer of \$15,000 cash made by the power company in September.

The deed is expected to be executed in a few days. At the same time, W. E. (Gene) Baldwin, chairman of the board of commissioners, said the power company will execute a contract to erect buildings to cost no less than \$150,000. The contract also will carry a proviso, Mr. Baldwin said, that the county may buy the lot back from the power company, at the same price, if the buildings have not been erected within 10 years.

John M. Archer, Jr., president of the Nantahala company, said present plans call for the start of construction next spring, but he asked for the 10-year period in which to build, due to the uncertainty of conditions because of the possibility of war.

The lot, generally known as the Rogers property, was bought by the county in 1937 for \$6,000 as the site for a courthouse. It was acquired from J. C. Conley and R. B. Slaughter. It fronts 115 feet on Main street, and has a depth of 228 feet. It is 145 feet wide at the back, the telephone building cutting off a corner 30 x 46 feet at the front. The county will retain the rear of the property, with a frontage of 145 feet on Church street. The Agricultural building stands on a corner of this remaining property.

The power company plans to erect a two-story structure at the front of the lot 115 feet from east to west, and 42 feet deep. It will contain a display room, a drafting room, and 10 offices on the first floor; the plans call for 14 offices on the second floor.

It will be steel and cinder block construction, with brick veneer on the sides and at the back. The front will be veneered with Mount Airy granite, with aluminum trim.

The one-story service building, a separate structure, will be of steel and cinder block. It will be situated at the rear of the office building, and will be 160 feet in length, north to south, and will be 42 feet wide. It will house the company's car repair shop, machine shop, store rooms, men's locker and shower rooms, and master testing and appliance repair shop.

It is hoped, Mr. Archer said, to start construction in the spring of 1951, to get the buildings under roof that fall, and to complete construction in the early summer of 1952. The power

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### The Weather

Temperatures and precipitation for the past seven days, and the low temperature yesterday, as recorded at the Coweeta Experiment station.

	High	Low	Pct.
Wednesday	46	11	00
Thursday	55	15	00
Friday	50	23	00
Saturday	62	32	trace
Sunday	59	52	49
Monday	49	31	120
Tuesday	53	24	00
Wednesday	35	01	

Franklin Rainfall (As recorded by Macon Station for TVA)  
Wednesday, trace; Thursday, none; Friday, none; Saturday, trace; Sunday, none; Monday, 1.28 of an inch; Tuesday, none; Wednesday, trace.