

THE UPLAND SOUTH IS TO BECOME THE FUTURE NEW ENGLAND—THE INDUSTRIAL CENTER OF AMERICA

The Highlander

(SUCCESSOR TO SHELBY AURORA)

FOR PROTECTION, PROSPERITY AND PROGRESS OF THE PIEDMONT MOUNTAIN SOUTH.

VOL. XLIV. NO. 19

"First in Everything."

SHELBY, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1930

Price:—\$1.00 the year; 5c the Copy.

WISEMAN HEARS DEATH SENTENCE

FOUND GUILTY BY JURY OF THE MURDER OF DR. E. A. HENNESSEE

TO DIE IN CHAIR JUNE 20TH
Jury Deliberated 58 Minutes—Defendant's Attorneys Give Notice Of Appeal

Guilty of murder in the first degree was the verdict of an unbiased Cleveland county jury in the trial of Aaron Wiseman, charged with the murder of Dr. E. A. Hennessee, on January 31, 1918, at Glen Alpine, Burke county.

The case absorbed the attention of the special term of court and of hundreds of spectators and witnesses for an entire week, opening up on Monday, May 12th, when the special venire of 75 men was ordered by Judge B. F. Long, presiding. The actual trial of Wiseman's case, Number 13 on the special docket, did not begin, however, until noon of Tuesday, May 13th, when the selection of the jury was completed. Within two hours the jury was selected, not more than half the venire being exhausted. The examining of witnesses began about 2 p. m. Tuesday, and both State and defense had rested on Thursday morning by 11 o'clock.

The arguments of counsel then began and lasted until Friday evening 11 o'clock. There were five speeches for the defense and three for the prosecution. Defending were J. F. Spaulding of Morganton, J. W. Pless of Marion, S. A. Ervin of Morganton, W. A. Smith of Statesville, and O. C. M. of Statesville.

The judge charged the jury Saturday morning, consuming 58 minutes in so doing, and the jury were out about the same length of time. Their first vote was 9 to 3 for conviction, the second 11 to 1; the third unanimous.

The court received the verdict and adjourned until 2:30 p. m., to allow Solicitor Huffman to come from his home in Morganton, where he had gone on account of illness due to overwork in connection with this case. But he was delayed by heavy rains and did not arrive until shortly after court had adjourned.

The Fatal Sentence
Sentence of death was passed by Judge Long at 3:30 p. m., electrocution day being set for June 20th. Wiseman heard with composure the fatal words, and when asked why sentence of death should not be pronounced said, "I have nothing to say, except that I am innocent of the charge." The prisoner has a strong chin, a firm mouth and a good nose. His eyes are hazel-brown; hair black, streaked with gray; sallow complexion. He is about 5 feet, 11 inches tall, and is rather thin and wiry; has a peculiar sort of walk. He was dressed neatly in a new black suit, with new shoes, broad-brimmed black hat whose crown he compresses and rolls in until it hardly shows above the band, and a neat white tie and collar. His head is not large. He wears a moustache, but keeps his face otherwise cleanly shaved. On listening to both verdict and sentence he showed the same stolidity and iron fortitude that he exhibited throughout the trial.

As the officers were taking Wiseman back to jail, he said, "You heard what I just said up there in the court room?" "Yes." "Well, that's what I'll say when I come to die."

Mrs. Wiseman and Children
Wiseman's wife, with their two little girls aged about 7 and 9 respectively, sat with him during much of the trial, but were not by his side the final day. He is said to have told them after the jury's verdict was rendered, "Well, if that's the way they feel about it, it is all right."

Wiseman did not go on the witness stand. The State had a host of witnesses from the mountains of Avery and Mitchell counties, the old Wiseman home, to testify as to his character as a gunman, a two and

three-gun man, and his general conduct in numerous other particulars, had he gone on the stand. So his lawyers deemed it best to keep him off and thus scotch these witnesses. Also he proved an evasive and unwilling witness for the State in the trial of the Pitts boys at Morganton and this might have been against him here.

It seems that at Morganton Wiseman swore that he was on the train when the shooting took place, while the evidence here clearly showed that he was not.

Revivalling the famous Dixon murder trials of 1912 in public interest, Shelby has been the center of great court interest and the papers of the State have featured the case. Editor B. H. DeForest, formerly of the paper but now of the Palmetto State, covered the trial for the Asheville Evening Times, the new Republican daily.

A crowd of around 200 witnesses and spectators from Burke, Mitchell and Avery counties have overflowed the hotels and boarding houses of the city and helped pack the court room each day of the proceedings. It was a sensational trial, not lacking in the elements of mystery and human interest.

This is the second trial growing out of the tragic and brutal murder of Dr. Hennessee. The first was at Morganton in March, 1918, that of the two Pitts brothers, Garfield and Aaron—whose brother Gorman died five years previously at the hands of Dr. Hennessee, following a sensational fight. They were acquitted at the Morganton trial largely through the testimony of J. M. RAMSEY—who swore positively that neither of the Pittses correspond in size and appearance with that of the unknown man whom he saw from the car window of Southern train 21 on that fatal night, holding in his hand two pistols and doing the shooting.

Ramsey Recognizes Wiseman
Ramsey was the State's first star witness at Shelby against Aaron Wiseman. When asked who killed Hennessee, he hesitated, and said, "Aaron Wiseman." He said he did not know Wiseman at the time, but he secured an indelible impression of the murderer at the time of the shooting and that he recognized Wiseman as the man when he saw him on the witness stand as an unwilling witness at the Pitt trial; that he, Ramsey, pointed him out in the street to Attorney Spainhour, who was defending the Pitt boys, saying, "Yonder goes the man who did the shooting."

Asked repeatedly on cross-examination by Lawyer Ervin of the defense why he did not tell this at the Pitt trial, he gave always the same reply, "I was not asked," and that he didn't want to weaken his testimony and discredit himself by bringing another man into the case.

The defense subjected Ramsey to a grueling cross-examination, but were unable to shake him in his identification of Wiseman as the murderer. Ramsey was later backed up by an array of character witnesses such as few men are ever fortunate enough to have, including Internal Revenue Collector Watts and numerous officers, bankers and business men of Statesville, his old home town, and elsewhere.

Ramsey is a 32-degree Mason and a Shriner.

Ramsey's Story

Ramsey said his age was 35, that he was married and had two children; home in Statesville. On eve of the tragedy was on Southern train 21, en route to Asheville. "I was in the second-class coach or smoker—was on the second seat from the rear, on the left. I heard a shot and looked out, shading my eyes against the window, and in the light from the train I saw a man about 12 or 15 feet from me, at an angle of 45 to 60 degrees and he shot as he stepped forward and continued to shoot as he came forward toward me. The light showed him plainly from the neck down; his face was in the dusk and not distinct, but I saw plainly the general outline of form, walk and his long, skinny fingers as he gripped the two pistols, one blue-steed and one nickled. He wore a tan-colored raincoat; it came down below his knees. As the train pulled out the man was still standing there. He wore a broad-brimmed hat. I recognized the murderer later at the Pitt trial, in the person of witness Aaron Wiseman, and I told not only Attorney Spainhour, but George Ford also, that Wiseman was the man and that

(Continued on Page 5)

WEBB'S APPOINTMENT EXPECTED ABOUT JUNE 1

Washington, May 19. It is understood that the appointment of Representative Webb to the western district judgeship will be announced about the first of June. In the planning of a new man there is reflection on the ability of Judge James E. Boyd. The work of the district has become taxing, with the increase in the number of courts. Charlotte Observer.

A PROTEST

I beg the generosity of the editors of your most valuable paper to make a brief statement with reference to myself.

I am the victim of an advertisement that is objected to by the State, and is favorable light before the common people of this county.

It has and is being read by a man that I made a source from his own member or members. If they object to that was to arrange the entertainment for the returned soldiers on May 16, 20th. The suggestion was that I thought it best to have separate days for the white and colored. This is very untrue. I take it for granted that the gentlemen whom you stated that committees were capable of making their own arrangements without any suggestion from me.

REV. ARTHUR L. CARR

Another Train on Clinchfield

On June 1st, the C. C. and O. or Clinchfield road will start a summer schedule from Spartanburg to Alta Pass. This will enable Shelby people to make connection at Bostic each afternoon for points west.

Highlander Special

In furtherance of the plan to meet his constituency and to put through a massive subscription campaign, the editor has arranged the following schedule of speaking dates, with a meeting every Saturday night 'till the whole territory is covered. For the most part, and if not otherwise designated, meetings will be held in school houses.

- May 17—Casar
 - May 24—Kings Mountain
 - May 31—Earl
 - June 7—Holly Springs
 - June 14—Waco
 - June 21—South Shelby
 - June 28—Lattimore
 - July 5—Polkville or Delight
 - July 12—Lawndale
 - July 19—No. 10.
- One three horse power kerosene engine for sale. Price right. W. W. Barron. 1812
- The Ellis Studio, the home of good photography. Make an appointment today.
- Send us in a \$ on subscription.

VISIT TO CASAR

The Highlander Special left Shelby on schedule time via the Clinchfield to Lawndale at one o'clock Saturday afternoon, May 17. It carried the editor with a bundle of the Highlander that is the Highlanders' and the editor's inoffensive smile. Arriving in Lawndale, we visited the store of the Cleveland Mill and Power Company long enough to receive the glad hand from Manager Parker and to proceed by the Ford line of Plato Richards to Casar.

Casar with its genial postmaster, Andy Brackett, was there to greet us. Mr. Brackett was a good share of the people were staying in, for Saturday was an early day in the annals of Casar, for it was a long day, under the auspices of the Rev. P. K. Downs.

Headquarters were eventually established in the hallways of the regular representative of the Republican party for Township No. 11, the first and true example of a real democracy, Zero Mull. It was a fine afternoon and it was in the evening of the friendly home that we spent the night, ate fried chicken and bread and starbuckery pie and drank good full cream milk from the local cow. Jumping over the supper table till the shadows had fallen, we wandered to the school house, pulled the bell rope a dozen times and sat down to wait for the crowd. Presently Doc Willis came along and then others till we had a real crowd. As the editorial heart was about to bust with joy at the warmth and heartiness of his reception, a gink stepped up and informed him that the cause of the crowd was a meeting of the Juniors and that the editor and his crowd would have to vacate the premises, for regions below. We started to go but they wasn't no crowd. It takes three to make a crowd. So we secured a special dispensation from the chair, delivered a harangue about a mile and three minutes long, about a hundred dollars of subscription, and departed to the room underneath with a nice little crowd that had come in.

Here we laid bare the plans and policies of the paper and the party and found a hearty response from the good Republicans. Best of all they organized themselves into a Republican club and elected Mr. J. R. Price, president; Mr. John H. Hoyle, vice-president and Mr. C. A. Britten, secretary-treasurer. They decided to get behind the full Republican program, including the \$10,000 publicity gram, including the \$100,000 publicity campaign fund for North Carolina.

Remaining over night, we planned to climb the mountain in the morning but our chauffeur got cold feet and failed to get us half way up so we went, like all good children, to the Baptist Sunday school. After a hearty dinner and a long hard snooze on a good, soft bed, we caught a ride with our own Shelby dental operator, Dr. C. M. Peeler, and with only two stops for family supplies came on to Shelby.

We found the people of Casar up in arms over the appointment of a party for road commissioner. They do not want a house builder who does not favor good roads to boss their road building job and have circulated a petition against one. It stands about 40 to 1 against. Editor of the Highlander.

SHELBY METHODISTS RAISE \$26,848.00

SENSATIONAL DRIVE SUNDAY OVER THE TOP

Every Church in District Over-subscribes Quota—Campaign Was Well Organized and Large Fund Was Raised in Few Hours

The Shelby District and Cleveland county Methodist churches this week subscribed to the Centenary fund of the Methodist Church, the grand rally being held at the Shelby Central Methodist Church on Sunday. The church was crowded and supper for all members and guests was served. The total amount of Sunday's subscription was \$26,848.00.

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HEROES OF TWO WARS HONORED

BIGGEST CROWD EVER SEEN IN SHELBY CAME TUESDAY. ESTIMATED AT 7,000

Grand Parade Took Place in Early Part of Morning. Speeches by Stonewall Durham and D. Z. Newton—Sumptuous Dinner on Court Square At Noon

Rain and sunshine alternated Tuesday morning after Monday night's rain threatened heavy rain. The sun shined brightly and thousands of people gathered and watched the parade. The parade was a grand affair, with many floats and bands. The crowd was estimated at 7,000 people.

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FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL

THE BLACK DAY!

Seldom do we speak of our personal affairs but as we go to press, we have a telegram announcing the passing to the realm of the spirit of our own precious Mother. We have always spelled that name with a capital. She was all the world to us. For her, we came to this sunny clime. We planned to have her here in a few days to spend years in peace and love. She is here in spirit but her bodily presence is gone. We crave sympathy in the blackest day God ever made.

Send us in a \$ on subscription.

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If you want a good photo of the baby, bring the child to the Ellis Studio. He makes babies laugh.

In stock, Western Electric plants that will furnish you two 16 candle power lights two hours each night for thirty-three nights on one battery charge. Price, \$360. W. W. Barron. 1811

Great Things Born in Silence. Silence is the element in which great things fashion themselves together; that at length they may emerge, full-formed and majestic, into the daylight of life, which they are thenceforth to rule.—Carlyle.

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