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**Moore County Negro  
 Cheats Electric Chair**

**Eli Spencer, Drops Dead While  
 Being Fingerprinted at  
 State's Prison**

Within a few steps of the electric chair which was to have claimed his life two months hence, Eli Spencer, Negro wife murderer of Moore County, fell dead at State's Prison at Raleigh Saturday, a "probable suicide" victim.

Lye poisoning, the aftermath of Spencer's attempt to end his life in the jail at Carthage last week, is believed to have been the cause of his death, which came as prison officials were taking his record and fingerprinting him in prison offices.

Spencer is the third intended victim to thus rob North Carolina's death chair. Last March Lonnie McCallum, Rowland Negro, awaiting execution also for killing his wife, died of pneumonia. The third case was that of Julius James, Negro, also of Rowland, who died in Robeson County jail while awaiting appeal on a death sentence for murder in 1928.

Spencer was taken to Central Prison last Friday by Sheriff C. J. McDonald. Another condemned prisoner, Melvin McLaurin, Negro, convicted of criminal assault in Moore, was placed in the prison at the same time.

There were no complaints from Spencer, Warden H. H. Honeycutt said Saturday, and officials believed him in good health. Sheriff McDonald mentioned the fact that the Negro had drunk some box lye in a suicide attempt, but had apparently recovered.

Spencer was taken off of Death Row Saturday morning about 10:30 o'clock for fingerprinting.

Capt. S. Bowen Dorsey, who was handling the fingerprinting and questioning of Spencer, said the Negro answered all questions satisfactorily and submitted to the fingerprinting. He was given the Death Row number 192.

As the interrogation was about complete Spencer suddenly slumped in a chair and his head fell backwards. Warden Honeycutt was summoned and he ordered that the prison physician, Dr. G. C. Coleman, be notified immediately.

Dr. Coleman arrived within two minutes, but Spencer was dead.

There were signs of lye burns on Spencer's lips, said Dr. Coleman, but the interior of his mouth was not burned.

"There is no way of determining positively whether the lye poisoning caused his death, but that is my supposition," said the physician.

Warden Honeycutt said Spencer had not complained of illness at any time since his admittance to the prison.

Sheriff McDonald said Spencer's crime was one of the most brutal in Moore County's history. After shooting his wife as they quarreled in their home, Spencer pursued the fleeing woman as she sought refuge under the house and there poured several more bullets into her body, the officer said.

Dr. Coleman summoned Coroner L. M. Waring of Wake County, after Spencer fell dead, but Waring declared the case out of his jurisdiction when he learned that the Negro had drunk the lye in Moore County.

**Political Announcements**

FOR LEGISLATURE

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the legislature in the November election. My platform briefly, "Less taxes, more trade; more trade, better business, better living conditions."

H. F. SEAWELL, JR.

**A Deadly Weapon**

**Automobiles on N. C. Highways  
 Take First Rank as  
 Killers**

During the 18 months the United States was in the World War, 684 North Carolinians were killed in battle, 238 died of wounds, 601 died of disease, 87 were killed in different ways, making the total of North Carolina men who gave their lives for their country 1,610.

During that same period, 4,128 North Carolinians were wounded.

During the period from 1928 through 1933, a total of 4,429 persons were killed in automobile accidents on North Carolina highways. During that period, there were 20,624 accidents in which persons were killed or injured and 29,144 persons were injured.

The highway death toll this year through July has been 450 and highway patrol officials have estimated that the death toll for the year will exceed 1,000.

The deaths by years are: 673 in 1928; 690 in 1929; 777 in 1930; 762 in 1931; 674 in 1932; 853 in 1933. The toll of injuries by years is: 4,801 in 1928; 5,084 in 1929; 4,426 in 1930; 5,075 in 1931; 4,783 in 1932; and 4975 in 1933.

**Heavy Docket Causes  
 Long Court Session**

**Recorder Hands Out Several  
 Road Sentences During Prolonged Sitting**

The heaviest docket of recent months necessitated a prolonged session of Recorder's court on Monday, and several road sentences were given.

James Pennington, colored, charged with attempted breaking and entering after a window had been broken in the store of William Byrd, pleaded guilty to trespass and was sent to the roads for 90 days.

Sam Cession, who according to the warrant did by artifice and trickery try to obtain money from various persons and did represent himself as a "root doctor" and furnish medicines to two people for a consideration was found not guilty of practicing medicine without license, but was sentenced to four months on the roads on the larceny count. He gave notice of appeal and bond was fixed at \$300.

Charlie Chambers and Leonard Harrington, colored, were given twelve months each on the roads for breaking and entering the house of J. C. Buchanan and stealing an iron bed, blankets, bed spreads and ladies' ready-to-wear.

In the case of C. L. Allred, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, judgment was suspended upon payment of the costs and making restitution for damage to the automobile of the prosecuting witness and paying of attorney's fee.

Dollie Ratliff and Cora Lee Kelly were found guilty on counts of affray, using profane and indecent language and prostitution. Ratliff was given twelve months on the roads on the prostitution count and Cora Lee was sentenced to serve 30 days at the county home. Notice of appeal was given.

Preparing for cold weather by taking some blankets and sheets drew for Estelle Boggan a four months jail sentence during which she must work at the county home.

Pansy Moss, Adelaide Jackson and Lessie Hadley were given 30 days each, suspended upon payment of fines of \$10 and the costs after being found guilty of engaging in an affray in which a knife and a piece of pipe were wielded. Lide McLeod, a fourth defendant, was declared not guilty.

Dave McRae, colored, was sent to the roads for 60 days for carrying a concealed weapon.

Tommie Williams was found guilty of violating the prohibition law and given 90 days.

Sixty days was the sentence imposed upon George Baldwin, colored, for breaking into the bedroom window of C. J. West and wife, and he drew an additional 30 days for trespassing.

Lillie Smith claimed that Roscoe Harrington struck her twice with a pistol and snapped the weapon in her face two or three times. He was sent to the roads for 60 days.

Claude Richardson and James Person, colored, took the road sentence when they were given their choice of 30 days or the payment of a fine of \$25 each and the costs on charges of being drunk and disorderly.

Ben Monroe was bound to Superior court under bond of \$500 on a charge of assaulting Carl Fur with a deadly weapon.

Jim Hussey, colored, was given four months on the roads for assaulting

Ed Worthy with a large knife or razor.

Mose Palmer, colored, was found guilty of public drunkenness, so execution of a sentence in a former case was ordered to issue and he was given 30 days additional to begin at the expiration of the former sentence.

Hughie Kidd, colored, pleaded nolo contendere to a charge of assaulting his wife with an iron poker and the court ordered execution to issue in a former sentence.

For driving a car while intoxicated, Curtis Caples was given a 60-day road sentence, this to be suspended upon payment of a fine of \$50 and the costs.

Guy Thomas, white, charged with being drunk and disorderly, was sentenced to serve 30 days in jail, this to be suspended upon payment of a fine of \$20 and the costs.

**STATE'S TOBACCO CROP  
 ESTIMATED 27% OFF**

North Carolina's tobacco crop is estimated to be 27 per cent off this year as compared with last year, the August 1 condition reports estimating the crop at 393,650,000 pounds, as compared with 537,979,000 pounds, estimate of the State-Federal crop reporting service as of August 1.

The old bright belt, the piedmont area, the report estimated, will market about 149,800,000 pounds; the new bright belt, the main part of eastern North Carolina, 201,280,000 pounds; the South Carolina belt, North Carolina markets on the South Carolina border, 38,362,000, and the burley belt, around Asheville, 4,208,000 pounds. The growers have 541,000 acres in tobacco this year, as compared with 695,000 acres last year, the report states.

**MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED**

Marriage licenses have been issued to the following couples since last week's report: Z. E. Lampley and Helen Pauline Fiddner, both of Pinebluff; Robert Moore and Marie Brown, both of Hemp; J. D. McGill of Vass route 2 and Ha Smiti, of Fayetteville.

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