

EXTRA

THE ENTERPRISE

EXTRA

VOLUME XXVI—NUMBER 23—b

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Thursday evening, May 7th, 1925.

ESTABLISHED 1898

NEEDLEMAN ACCUSES D. GRIFFIN

Dramatic Scene When Victim Says "That's The Man"

Says He Asked Not to be Brought to Williamston Jail; Court May Begin Night Sessions to Finish This Week

Needleman Suffers Nervous Shock at First Sight of Griffin In Court Room; Quickly Regains Composure and Is Called to Stand

Helped by two strong men, Joseph Needleman the State's star witness against members of the mob which took him from the jail here on March 29th and performed a serious operation on him, made his way to the witness stand, although his step is very unsteady yet. He was composed, despite the nervous shock he had suffered when he saw Dennis Griffin this morning. He began to tremble, saying, "there he is," and pointing to Griffin. Ammonia was administered, and he seemed to have regained his composure entirely when he came to the witness chair.

Mr. A. D. McLan, of the State's counsel, began the examination of the mob's victim. Needleman gave a brief history of his life. He said that he was 23 years old, had lived in Kinston for one year, coming there from Salem N. J. That he came there and went into business with about \$500 capital later worked as a clerk in a Kinston store, and went into business with his brother afterwards. Later he went to work with the P. Lorillard Tobacco Co.

Needleman's Story As salesman for this company he was in Williamston for 10 days during the latter part of March. During this time he met Miss Griffin. He was later arrested in Edenton, but he did not know there had been any warrant issued against him.

The story, as he gave it to Mr. McLan is substantially as follows: "Robert Pratt arrested me Thursday in Edenton and I was taken from the Edenton jail Friday by Deputy Sheriff Peel and brought to Williamston and placed in jail here about 5 o'clock that afternoon. Sheriff Roberson, R. J. Peel, and a colored man were the first to come in the jail. Mr. Peel said 'You are the man that came down here and ruined one of our Martin County girls.' I asked before I came to Williamston if it would not be better for me to remain in the Edenton jail. And when the time for a hearing came on Saturday the young lady said she was sick and could not come, but she was not too sick to get married the next day.

"Sheriff Roberson came in the jail frequently during the day Saturday and several others came in, too."

Recognized Sparrow "While I slept Saturday night a peculiar noise awakened me, about two o'clock, I think. When I turned on the light I saw several men around my cell, and some were cutting the lock. I said, 'Sparrow, what in the hell are you doing here?' They told me that they were going to take me where my father's money could not do me any good.

"After I was dressed Sparrow, Jr., and Dennis Griffin took me to a big car,

one man on each side. We got in and they drove down Main Street and turned at the Atlantic Hotel. Griffin said to me, 'We have come after your sexual organs,' and asked which I preferred to give up, them or my head. I answered, 'Do as you please.' "We went past a church and then stopped the car. Griffin and young Sparrow took me out. There were two men on the front seat. I only recognized young Sparrow, however."

The witness continued his testimony in a calm manner. He said, "Young Sparrow was on me, and two others whom I did not know were by me. Griffin said to Sparrow, sr., 'Old man, you do it.' He would not and Griffin proceeded. He had a dull knife and the operation was extremely painful."

Needleman told the details about the same as they had been told before. After they were through with him he said that he started to get in the car when some one said, "Get off that car, or I'll shoot you off." Upon this he stated he said, "If you will take me back to town, I will tell none of your names," but they would not.

"I then started walking to town and reached here about 2:30, after stopping once to try to get someone to bring me to town. When I got here I saw a lady in front of Nassef's, stopped, and told her who I was, and asked her to send a doctor to the Britt Hotel at once. Doctors Warren, Rhodes and York came."

"The sheriff came in shortly after and asked me if I knew any of the mob, to which I replied that I did not."

Told He Had An Hour to Live Doctor Warren then told me that had only about an hour to live, and wanted to know if I had any statement to make. I dictated a letter to my mother and then told the doctors those I knew who had been in the mob. I knew F. W. Sparrow, jr., and a man answering the description of Dennis Griffin was there. I also told that I had lied to the sheriff about knowing any of the members, because I had lost confidence in him."

"The Doctors Taylor came and operated on both sides, making the two incisions at once."

At this point the judge asked the witness if he wanted to get dinner or go on through his examination. On account of weakness Needleman asked for a recess for lunch. The court was then adjourned for an hour.

At the afternoon session Needleman was again placed on the stand, but nothing was added of importance before he was dismissed.

Morning Session Johnny Gurkin, who was grilled yesterday by attorneys for the State and defense for two hours, was called to the stand this morning and asked if he had disclosed any of the facts in the case before he made full confession in Washington. He said that he had told the solicitor only, before that time.

Dr. W. E. Warren, county health officer and physician, and the first doctor to reach Needleman after he was injured and had returned to the Britt Hotel, was next called up for examination. He said the outward bleeding had nearly stopped when he reached Needleman, but that many symptoms

Well-Known Weather Prophet Visitor Here

Mr. J. E. Monarch, who lived in Williamston several years ago, now a resident of Lynchburg, Va., has been in town this week exhibiting two strange animals, a ground hog and an armadillo. The armadillo, a native of Mexico and northern South America, is a peculiar-looking animal, having neither hair nor hide, but is covered with shell from the end of his tail to the end of his nose, and being from two to three feet in length. It is said that the little animal can travel 20 miles an hour. The ground-hog is a native of North America, and is far famed as a weather prophet.

were evident that he was having internal hemorrhages. He said that he and Doctors Rhodes and York, who had feached the bedside, gave him the proper stimulants and then called Dr. D. T. Taylor.

After Dr. Warren had left the stand Dr. H. B. York was called. His testimony was that he had not been awakened the night of the mob until Sheriff Roberson came to his home in a car and asked him to go to Needleman. When he reached the hotel Drs. Warren and Rhodes were there, and from then his statement was identical with that of Dr. Warren. He said he found the patient in a critical condition, his vitality very low, and life uncertain.

Dr. Rhodes Unable to Testify Dr. Rhodes, who was to have appeared as a witness, is ill in the Washington Hospital, and with Dr. Taylor's statements yesterday and Dr. Warren and York's today the testimony of the attending physicians is all in.

Albert Gurkin, of Griffins Township; a brother of Johnny Gurkin, was the next State witness to be called. After stating that he was 31 years old and unmarried his statement was that Elder Stone had told him in Williamston late Saturday afternoon a bunch of men were going to take Needleman out of jail that night. He consented to join the crowd.

According to the witness he came to the Skewarke Church at the appointed hour. He said, "I think I was the first to arrive and drove on a little way. Upon my return I found two or three cars, and others kept coming. I recognized no one at that time. In a short while 25 or 30 men were present, and Dennis Griffin lined them up and counted 26, exactly. I was next to the last, and I saw no one assisting him."

Part of Mob Was Masked "Some were masked," he continued, "and I was myself. At the church I recognized John G. Corey, Clarence Griffin, Allen Griffin, Ben Lilley, John H. Coltrane, John Smithwick, Wilson Griffin, Hubert Griffin, Alfred Griffin, Dennis Griffin, Julian Bullock, F. W. Sparrow, sr., F. W. Sparrow, jr., E. C. Stone, Clara Heath, John Gurkin, and Tommie Lilley. As for Roy Gray, I can not say, as I do not know him."

It was discussed by those present whether to mutilate or kill Needleman, but the witness did not know those talking, so he said.

It was agreed to go to the sheriff's home and demand the keys and as he knew where he lived and many did not he led the way. The witness said he did not go in, but talked to some of the others while 8 or 10 men went to the door. He did not know whether Griffin, Heath, Sparrow, and Bullock were at the sheriff's, but he said that he heard some one ask the sheriff for the keys.

"We left the sheriff's," he said, "and went to the jail. From 4 to 7 men were in the party that went in the jail. John A. Griffin was with me." Going to the courthouse a Ford roadster and a Buick six were ahead of me. I had a roadster and my brother had one. There was another one-seated Ford in the gang. Those getting out of the car were Young Sparrow, Dennis Griffin, Julian Bullock, J. A. Griffin, Johnny Gurkin, and Elder Stone. I

F. W. Sparrow Jr., Very Much Better Tonight

F. W. Sparrow, Jr., who is in the county jail awaiting trial, was acutely sick Tuesday night. The attending physicians thought it might be scarlet fever or diphtheria, but he was very much better Wednesday, and they have diagnosed his trouble as an acute attack of tonsillitis.

Tells of Jail Breaking

In clear-cut, concise sentences he related the details of the jail breaking. He said "I saw Dennis Griffin, Young Sparrow, and Julian Bullock in the courthouse yard. They went around the right side of the building toward the jail. About the time they reached the jail John A. Griffin and I followed. The outside door was being opened by Bullock and Griffin with a pair of bolt cutters. They cut through quickly, and I was with them when they entered the cell.

"Needleman said, 'That is Mr. Sparrow,' but while the cell was being opened he called him Paul Sparrow. Sparrow put a flash light in Needleman's face and some one else told him to get his shoes out and get away from there. They got away quickly. I was at the street when Needleman was brought out. There was one man on either side of him and possibly one behind him. He was put in the Buick car."

Gurkin said that he left immediately for his home and did not turn off the highway to go to the scene of the operation on Needleman.

Before he was given over to counsel for the defense for cross-examination he answered a few more questions of Solicitor Gilliam reiterating more fully some points already gone over.

Upon cross-examination nothing new was developed in his story. The witness told how he was masked with a sack, with holes cut in it for the eyes, being tied over his head. He said that he confessed because others had. He was questioned by attorneys Cooper, H. M. Stubbs, Sutton, and H. W. Stubbs.

Roy Grass Next Witness

Roy Gray was the next witness to take the stand. Hon. Lindsay Warren made the examination.

He brought out in his examination that he had been invited to join the mob by Dennis Griffin. Griffin asked him to go for a ride, and he consented. When they got in the Ford roadster Julian Bullock joined them. They came toward Williamston and while en route here Griffin told him what they were going to do. When they reached Skewarke he saw about the same number of men the other witnesses had testified to, but recognized only the ones he was with in the car. Tom Harrell, Lester Edmondson, Lowery Croon, of Gold Point, and Edgar Johnson, Sherwood Roberson Grady Smith, Jim Gray, Louis Johnson. His statement in regard to the proceedings of the affair from the church to the sheriff's, to the jail and back to the place where the young man was so horribly mutilated was practically the same as that of the Gurkins. He said he moved far enough from the spot where the deed was committed in plenty of time not to know what took place, and as Griffin and Bullock did not offer to tell him what had happened and he did not ask he never learned what had been done to Needleman until the next day.

Gray and Julian Bullock married sisters and are close friends.

Elder Stone Next Witness

Elder E. C. Stone, stepfather of Mrs. F. W. Sparrow, jr., was called after the examination of Roy Gray had been completed. He is a native of England and a Primitive Baptist minister. In his testimony he was disconcerting to some of the defense attorneys, especially when he quoted the Bible and used Biblical illustrations in answering their questions.

His story goes: "I am 48 years old, and an ordained minister in the Primitive Baptist Church since 1913. I have been in this county for three and one-half years. I married Mrs. Griffin, the mother of Effie Griffin. I first heard of Needleman's arrest through

(Continued on page 4)

TOWN ELECTION QUIET AS USUAL

Women Voters Show Two Hundred Per Cent Increase in Number. Three Voting This Year

The town election yesterday was "as per usual," very quiet. After the excitement of the convention of some weeks ago was over little attention has been turned to the election. There was a quiet whispering in the air several days ago that there would be an independent ticket brought out, but it never materialized, so there was only the ticket endorsed by the convention to vote on.

R. L. Coburn was elected mayor, and W. T. Meadows, C. O. Moore, G. H. Harrison, E. P. Cunningham, and C. B. Hassell were duly elected town commissioners.

Fifty-six votes were cast, a net gain of five votes over the election of 1923. The percentage of women voters increased 200 per cent at this election. In 1923 one lone vote was cast by a woman; yesterday three visited the polls and voted. This brings the percentage of increase of women voters this year over last quite a bit over that of the men.

J. S. Cook and T. W. Thomas were poll holders for the day.

Robbers Get \$5,000 From Sheriff Harris

Washington, May 4. The office of James H. Harris, sheriff of Beaufort County, was entered and the safe robbed last night of \$5,000 in cash, including \$200 in gold, the latter the property of the sheriff's wife. The balance was tax money. There was no clue to the robbers.

It was discovered this morning that the lockers used no explosives, but worked the combination of the safe.

Modern Woodmen Meet Held in Elizabeth City

Messrs. M. L. Tremain, of Winston-Salem, F. M. Brown, of Greensboro, R. S. Owens, of Lexington, and H. V. Rees, of Oakland, Calif. were in town this week en route to Elizabeth City, where they will attend the State Council of the Modern Woodmen of America.

Mr. Tremain is State deputy. Messrs. Brown and Owens are district deputies and Mr. Rees is national deputy of the Modern Woodmen.

Mr. Rees stated that he found North Carolina ranks among the great States of the Union. In road building, schools, public buildings, and many other things it apparently outclasses any of the many States he has visited.

Benjamin S. Clark Dies in Chester, Va

Mr. J. B. Clark, of Belhaven, passed through town Tuesday morning on his way to Chester, Va., to attend the funeral and be at the burial of his brother, Benjamin S. Clark, who died early Tuesday morning. He was buried at Petersburg on Wednesday, at 2 p. m.

Mr. Clark, for many years cashier of the Bank of Roper, became ill about four years ago and has since been an invalid. His wife, who was Miss Lee Roberson, of Martin County, survives him.

Elm City Physicians Visit Doctor Warrer

Dr. W. E. Moore and Dr. S. Putney and wife, of Elm City, visited Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Warrer here Tuesday.

Dr. Moore is not only a practicing physician but is a real orator and stands high in the political councils of the State.

Dr. Rhodes Taken to Hospital Dr. J. S. Rhodes was taken to the Washington Hospital yesterday afternoon and operated upon immediately after his arrival. The latest news from his bedside is that he is getting along very well. He was accompanied to Washington by Drs. D. T. Taylor, D. T. Taylor, jr., and J. H. Saunders.

Oak City High School Is Host To Many Distinguished Guests Gathered for Commencement

Highlights From Governors' Talk

The following are a few highlights and observations from Governor McLean's address at Oak City Wednesday:

"I have plowed in low ground behind an ox, but the days of the ox cart are gone, and the days of good roads and automobiles have come."

"I was raised on a farm and raised to work; I am proud of it."

"True education consists in experiential as well as academic learning."

"No man can be a successful farmer without keeping books. It is necessary to know the cost of production; the cost of marketing; but to you can tell me how you have a profit or loss."

"Every county needs a farm demonstrator."

"My grandfather was one of the kind who believed in education for his doctor, his lawyer, the preacher, but not for the farmer. He provided for the education of three of his sons when he believed would outgrow the profession of life, but the fourth, who was to be a farmer, he did not send to school. He wanted the farmer to take advantage of the best in order to learn to produce a crop at the least expense and to make that crop to the best advantage, in order to use the best and best modern methods of farming."

"I want to see a boy in the State college in Raleigh, and a receiving set in every rural schoolhouse in North Carolina. Let the people hear over the radio the best lectures and instructions from the department of agriculture; economic from the department of revenue."

Chief Justice of the State of Iowa, the Hon. F. F. Faville, in comparing North Carolina and Iowa, said:

"North Carolina has 100 counties and Iowa has practically the same. We have 99."

"North Carolina has two and a half million people; so has Iowa."

"North Carolina has its problems in rural life and so has Iowa. North Carolina has a wonderful system of hard-surface roads and Iowa hopes to have some day."

Chief Justice of the State of Iowa, the Hon. F. F. Faville, in comparing North Carolina and Iowa, said:

"North Carolina has 100 counties and Iowa has practically the same. We have 99."

"North Carolina has two and a half million people; so has Iowa."

"North Carolina has its problems in rural life and so has Iowa. North Carolina has a wonderful system of hard-surface roads and Iowa hopes to have some day."

Will Not Serve Meals At Shrine Ceremonial

(Special to The Enterprise) Wilson, May 6. The Wilson Shrine Club wants to inform the members, also the banquets, has been cut out, but that no banquets will be served at the spring ceremonial to be held at Wilson May 20th.

In accordance with what they have believed to be the wishes of the Deans, the Wilson Shrine Club extended the invitation for this year's ceremonial with the understanding that the noon-day meal would be eliminated as part of the official program.

The membership of Wilson Shrine has increased to such proportions that the expense in connection with the banquet has become so great that the Divan of Sudan Temple, decided to eliminate the banquet in the future as a part of the official programs of Shrine Ceremonials.

The Wilson Shrine Club has engaged the Woman's Club and other organizations of Wilson to prepare and serve food at a nominal cost, in order to take care of the visiting Nobles and their friends. The hotels and restaurants of the city will also open their doors and take care of as many as possible.

(All papers within jurisdiction of Sudan Temple please publish.)

Chief Justice Faville, of Iowa, Also Present and Makes Short Address

In concluding exercises of the Oak City high school yesterday morning before a most auspicious ever held in the progressive town of Oak City, it is indeed rare that such a gathering of notable men take an active part in the graduating exercises of a high school.

While a professional was being called by the Furboro orchestra Governor A. W. McLean, the graduating class, Hon. R. O. Everett, Rev. C. O. Farris, Supr. R. A. Pope, Judge F. F. Faville, of Iowa, and Col. Benham Johnson, all of the audience and took their places on the stage.

The invocation was made by Rev. C. O. Farris, presiding a chorus by the members of the senior class.

First Prize, of H. M. Ainsley, superintendent of the Oak City schools, announced that R. O. Everett, a Martin County Oak City citizen originally, who is considered one of the leading citizens of the State, and who is now living in Durham.

In his address Governor McLean, who has just returned from a grand tour, introduced the governor, comparing him with Aycock, the one who saved the State from financial and educational backwardness, and pointing to the same way Governor McLean would regulate and reduce inefficiency in our State government by instituting sound business principles in its operation and save the great commonwealth from financial destruction. Continuing he said that the wisdom of the people was shown when they made A. W. McLean the business man of the State, and Governor. "He is a national figure, his prominence as head of the Finance Board, his work in the State, having been the salvation of our country."

The Governor in a few words, which were well received, expressed his confidence in the people. As he had previously said that he would not make any formal address, it is not broader than academic training was the last of his remarks.

"Education, the word with so many different meanings, is a development of all the faculties so that they may be used to the individual aid of the State. It has provided a better means of education other than book learning. The three R's are no more. In fact, one of the most essential phases of education, the necessity for training in citizenship, is almost overlooked. Liberty does not give all the people equal opportunities presented all children, which would give the best of civics better schools."

Healthy Living Important "Another phase of education which would be of vital importance," he said, "is training in principles of healthy living. Healthy men and women make the best citizens."

Industrial training was a third phase of education which he mentioned, saying, "a capitalize our material resources brings prosperity and advantage. Our good roads are a result of the educational crusade made by Aycock. Agriculture is the foundation stone for development in our section of the State, and it has not been so prosperous as it should have been. The remedy is agricultural education."

Need Good Marketing System The Governor stressed the need of a marketing system by saying that "if the farmers and producers had a good marketing system, they would get results. As it is, the producer averages getting only 33 per cent of the dollar that his produce sells for. Another mark of inefficiency is inability to produce at a minimum cost. Farmers must be educated. Old methods are gone. We must adopt modern methods. The days of the ox cart are gone. Slipshod methods are gone. The farmers must understand business methods or they are lost. This is one of the prime needs of the State today and education through the

(Continued on page four)

Strand Theatre TONIGHT Ramon Navarro and Alice Terry in "THE ARAB" One of the most entertaining pictures to be presented Show Starts 8 P. M. Special Music 25c and 50c