

Don't Forget Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 10 --- Obey That Impulse and Attend Church Services

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THE ENTERPRISE

SUBSCRIBERS WILL FIND OUR PLAINS & LATCHKEY TO 1600 CORNER OF MARTIN COUNTY

VOLUME XXVI—NUMBER 24

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Friday, May 8, 1925

ESTABLISHED 1898

GRIFFIN DENIES EVERYTHING

Claims He Was Not In Mob Which Mutilated Needleman

Both Sides Complete Taking of Evidence; Begin Rebuttal Testimony Saturday Morning

SMALL PROSPECTS OF FINISHING UP CASE BEFORE NEXT WEEK

Three defendants, Julian Bullock, Dennis Griffin, and Clara Heath took the stand today. Their statements and those of their witnesses were all in when the court adjourned tonight. Dennis Griffin became confused by the strong attack of A. D. McLean, of the prosecution, and does not make as strong an appeal to onlookers as Julian Bullock's testimony did not require much time. Clara Heath makes out a strong case, and he established a good alibi. The State will begin rebuttal tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. It is not expected by those connected with the trial that the case will be completed this week. Attorneys will require six hours and it is understood that the State will require several hours more to complete its rebuttal.

Shortly after the climax in the evidence for the State had been reached him, the State rested its case, and the yesterday, when Needleman took the stand and told the tragic story of his arrest, his stay in jail, and the experience of the night when the mob took him from the jail and mutilated defense took the reins.

Only a few more witnesses appeared for the State, and those only brought out identifications of Griffin, the Sparrows, and Bullock, defendants. These testifying were Wilson and Hubert Griffin, John Grey Corey, and Ben Lilley. Corey stated why he "told all," being the first man from his community to do so. He said that he felt it was his duty to tell everything and he did it that he would feel "right" once more.

Senior Sparrow First Defendant F. W. Sparrow, sr., the first defendant to come up entered a denial, and gave his story, practically as follows:

He saw John Gurkin and his son talking about three o'clock Saturday afternoon and Gurkin told him the circumstances, making the remark, "I could cut Needleman from ear to ear." To this Sparrow replied "That is too bad." According to his story, he told the boys that Martin County could get up its own mob.

He claimed that he was in his store at 12 or 12.15 Saturday night, afterwards putting up his truck and going home. This statement was borne out by several witnesses. His wife said that she worked with him and that he came home shortly after she did. W. J. Croon, a Kinston motorcycle policeman, declared that he saw Sparrow at 10 or 12 o'clock, and his car was standing in his yard at 10 minutes to 1. Two other policemen gave substantially the same testimony.

The officers' statements were weakened when it was developed by cross-examination that Sparrow's nephew was police commissioner in Kinston and that these men owed their jobs to him.

A. M. Eason, Albert Brown a wholesale grocer, H. B. Harrison, insurance agent, a Mr. Hedgepeth, J. C. Kennedy, city alderman of Kinston, B. T. Jones, attorney, and C. W. Howard, Jr., all of Kinston, were character witnesses for Sparrow, and all of them gave him a good name.

The evidence of Sparrow completed the day's work and court was adjourned just before nightfall.

Friday Morning Session Judge Sinclair had called court for 9 o'clock this morning, and at the appointed hour he began another long day's work. He is living up to his State-wide reputation of "getting things done." There is no time lost on account of noise and hubbub. All those who can comfortably get inside are allowed to come in the room, but they must keep absolutely quiet.

There are a few but who have so great

respect for the operation of the law that they keep their seat or stand until a session is finished before they move.

Bullock Makes Denial

Julian Bullock, of Robersonville, who is in no way connected with the family of the young woman, but who worked in a barber shop with Dennis Griffin, in Robersonville, was the second defendant to come to the stand. Bullock is only 23 years of age.

His testimony was that he left his barber shop at 1 o'clock with Griffin and went around to Jessie Ben Roberson's, Griffin's father-in-law. He and Griffin stayed there until about 3 o'clock or quarter past, when he and several others went home.

The witness was then turned over to the State's attorneys. He denied to them that he saw either policeman of Robersonville or any of the boys who had "submitted and said they denied to Skewarkee Church." He also denied making a statement to Policeman Coltrane in which he alleged to have said to have been to Williamston and helped to emasculate Needleman. He admitted, however, that Dennis Griffin went off for an hour and a half Saturday morning.

Dennis Griffin Denies Everything Henry Dennis Griffin, a native of Martin County, 39 years old, who lives and runs a barber shop in Robersonville, was put on the stand to answer the charge of jail breaking and mutilation, he having been identified by a number of witnesses as the man who performed the criminal operation upon Needleman.

His story, as he related it, was that he was asked by Elder Stone and John Gurkin on Friday night to come down here that night, but he refused. He did not see Roy Gray nor call to him on Saturday night. He says he worked fairly hard all that night, and when he began shaving Joe Abram he looked at his watch and saw it was 12.30. Being tired he worked slowly. About one o'clock he says he and Bullock left the shop, went to Mr. Roberson's, and met Mr. and Mrs. Tom Barnhill and others. He left there about three o'clock and did not come to Williamston until Sunday afternoon.

Cross-examination was begun by A. D. McLean. Griffin became so rattled and ill at ease that it was evident to every spectator that he was sliding on mighty thin ice. His voice quivered and became husky when the questioning would put him through such rigid tests that he was hopelessly confused.

"I heard the testimony of the witnesses yesterday. Some of them were my kinspeople, but they did not appear to be friends. I see no reason why they should lie on me unless it was to save themselves," he began. He then went ahead with his story, being led out by Mr. McLean. It was a rather humorous situation when the witness was asked if instead of mutilating Needleman he was circumcising the young child of Jesse B. Roberson on the memorable night. He was prompt in replying to this, "I am no doctor, and did not prescribe for the baby and did not suggest giving it paregoric."

He said that he came to Williamston Saturday morning to be at the preliminary hearing of Needleman (which was never held), who was charged with assaulting his cousin, Emie Griffin. While here he saw John Gurkin and Tommy Lilley and they told him the plan which was to get Needleman out of jail. Gurkin said he was going to Kinston, but did not say what for. Before leaving Williamston he visited the jail and then returned to Robersonville. He admitted telling Grady Smith, Edgar Johnson, and Sherwood Roberson what Gurkin had told him, but denied mentioning it to Bullock. A few minutes later he became confused and said that he did tell Bullock, but corrected that statement and again said he did not.

Griffin stated that plans for the mob were talked in his shop during the

day, and several expressed a desire to join it. He also said that he saw Roy Gray, but he was drunk and on the street. In substantially the same words, he told about going to Jessie Ben Robersons as did Bullock.

He added that he went to Mrs. Stone's the next day—Sunday—and while there Sparrow made the statement that he held Needleman but he could identify no one there. "Elder Stone also said his eyes were bad, and he could tell no one there.

"If I quivered when Needleman pointed at me yesterday, I did not know it yet such an accusation against anyone, guilty or innocent, would make him shudder," he said when asked why he apparently lost his nerve when Needleman recognized him yesterday as the man who had operated on him.

Until the last the defendant claimed that he was not guilty of being a member of the mob. He claimed that he did not even know what the warrant was for when he was in the Tarboro and Nashville jails.

To the last question, "would you admit it if you had been a member of the party?" he replied, "I don't know, but I was not in it."

Clarence Taylor, Charlie Vick, Jessie Ben Roberson, father-in-law of Griffin, Tom Barnhill, Mrs. Tom Barnhill, Miss Hattie Andrews, and Mrs. Emma Andrews, of Robersonville or nearby, all testified that the testimony of Dennis Griffin and Bullock was correct, that they saw them from 1 until 3 o'clock Saturday night at Mr. J. B. Roberson's. The occasion of them all being there was the critical illness of Mr. Roberson's baby.

Mayor Cox and J. M. Sparks said they saw Mr. Tom Barnhill on Saturday night, and he was getting a petition signed as he had stated in his evidence.

At this point court recessed for the lunch hour.

Friday Afternoon Session

In the afternoon session Ollie Rogers was the first witness called. He testified for the defense, saying that Dennis Griffin had tried to get bolt clippers on Tuesday before the affair.

At this point the State called character witnesses against Mr. and Mrs.

(Continued on page 4)

THE ENTERPRISE WEEKLY SERMON

Honor thy father and thy mother.—Exodus 20:12.

"If I were hanged on the highest hill, Mother o'mine, O mother o'mine, I know whose love would follow me still, Mother o'mine, O mother o'mine. If I were drowned in the deepest sea, Mother o'mine, O mother o'mine, I know whose tears would come down to me, Mother o'mine, O mother o'mine.

By REV. C. O. PARDO

Next Sunday is recognized through out this land as Mothers' Day. That is, it is one day out of the year when the mothers of our land are honored and revered. To the man and woman who has shared the joys of life with mothers—those of us who have any sense of our debt to motherhood—we know that not only in our land; not only to our own mothers but to mothers everywhere, living or dead, the deepest respect, admiration, and pure wholesome love is the smallest and least we should bestow upon them.

Perhaps none of us fully realize the debt we owe the motherhood of our country. For all that many of us are, in the truest and best sense, is due to the careful training and unceasing prayers of our mothers. In our childhood days it was mother who was closest to our lives, sharing our joys and happiness, banishing our cares and sorrows, and with her gentle kiss healing our bruises and bringing smiles out of tears.

The hearts of mothers are perhaps the biggest things God has ever made. For no true mother heart but is big enough to hold her child and her child's welfare or disgrace, no matter how large and awful that disgrace might be. This has kept many men and women from giving up in despair.

This mother love and mother heart has saved many from ruin. The coming Sunday—Mothers' Day—there will be many mothers' hearts sad and heavy, because of the careless lives of their children. Many mothers now living will not be here on Mothers' Day next year to caution and plead with their sons and daughters; can't we men and women—on this Mothers' Day—make their hearts glad by letting them know of our love for them.

If your mother is living near you, go to see her and spend the day close by her side. Give up your other plans and give the day to mother. Take her to church; spend the hours of Mothers' Day with her; carry her some little present—she will think it the finest thing possible, no matter what it may be.

If she is away in some other town or city, write her and tell her your love for her. Spend the day just as you would if she was with you. And if God, in His love and greater understanding, has caught her up to give her the eternal joys of His presence, then in memory of her and for her sake do the finest and best you can for mother. Every mother wants her boy or girl to be a true, good man or woman. If in the past year you have been careless and neglectful, have failed to live right and good, then on Mothers' Day—trusting in your mother's God—place yourself upon the tender mercies of Christ, and live in His heart, in His way, for mother.

Let Mothers' Day this year be the biggest and best day in your life, and you can do this if you will try.

Want you to do.

EVERETTS SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT

Will Begin Tuesday With Baccalaureate Sermon, and Continues Through Friday

Special to The Enterprise

Everetts, May 8.—Commencement will begin at the Everetts High School on Tuesday evening, May 12th, at which time we will have the baccalaureate sermon. On Wednesday evening, May 13th, there will be an opera; on Thursday evening, May 14, the commencement address and presentation of diplomas. Also on Friday morning, May 15, there will be an address at 11 o'clock, followed by picnic on the grounds and a ball game at 3.30. Grimesland will play Everetts at this time. The public is cordially invited to attend all these exercises.

Mrs. Louis Bennett Entertains Philatheas

The Philatheas class of the Baptist Church were delightfully entertained last Friday night by Mrs. Louis Bennett, at her home in the Tar Heel Apartments.

The North Carolina Baraca-Philatheas convention to be held in Raleigh June 11 to 14 was generally discussed. Mrs. John Ward and Mrs. Lawrence Peel were selected as delegates to attend the convention.

A very interesting flower contest followed and was enjoyed by all. Miss Margaret Everett won the prize, which was a box of DeCoty's Powder. The hostess, assisted by Mrs. Joe Pender, served delicious ice cream and cake.

There are five sons, S. J. Everett, Greenville, R. O. Everett, Durham, Ben, Alphonso, and Robert W. Everett, all of Palmyra, and four girls, Mrs. Nettie Everett, Mrs. Ethel Legett, Mrs. Blanche Harrison, and Miss Margaret Everett, of Palmyra.

The farm is operated by Robert W. Everett, the youngest son, and one of the State's best farmers. Ben and Alphonso are also farmers and just as good ones as Robert. S. J. Everett is a successful lawyer of Greenville, and has been chosen to represent his district in the State Senate for the last two terms, which position he now holds.

R. O. Everett, the bachelor of the family, lives in Durham, and is one of the leading lawyers in that section of the State. He has represented Durham County in the legislature for several terms. He also takes much interest in the big problems affecting the uplift of the people.

Upon arrival at the home-temonade was served: Governor McLean, Judge Faville and Colonel Benham Cameron each planted a white oak in the large grove fronting the home. An orchestra was on hand to give its touch to the occasion. This was not, however, an equal competitor for applause with a negro quartette, which was composed of four young negro men who live and work on the farm. The old Southern melodies were the most popular songs.

The call for dinner drew the hungry guests under a beautiful arbor specially designed and covered and decorated with North Carolina pine, the nectar of health and base of wealth.

The table was beautifully decorated with the national colors and at each plate was a beautiful hand-painted flag of North Carolina. "May 20, 1774," and the words "Towa-North Carolina" were on either side of the flag in honor of the guests.

The dinner consisted of pickin', the dressings, and cream, cake, and strawberries.

S. J. Everett, on behalf of the family, gave a hearty welcome to all present. Mr. Ashby Dunn, of Scotland Neck responded.

Judge Faville was called on and made a very catchy speech, finishing with an original poem dedicated to Palmyra and North Carolina.

Colonel Benham Cameron made a short talk on the Western Hemisphere and international good roads, which was followed by a talk by Governor McLean. After this Rev. C. O. Pardo dismissed the assembly with a prayer.

Among the distinguished guests from outside the State was Mr. S. H. Venable, of Atlanta, Ga. Mr. Venable is the donor of Stone Mountain as a Confederate memorial, the memorial of which so much has been said in the press recently.

THE WEATHER

For North Carolina: Partly cloudy and probably occasional showers to night and a Saturday, preceded by fair in the east portion tonight. Moderate northeast and east winds.

Local Schools to Hold Closing Exercises All Next Week; Beginning Sunday

REAL BARBECUE IS SERVED GOVERNOR

Everett, Home Near Palmyra, Scene of Distinguished Gathering After Commencement at Oak City

The country home of the late Judge Everett, on the Hamilton Palmyra road, now owned by his children, was the scene of the hospitality extended to Governor Angus W. McLean and Chief Justice and Mrs. F. Faville of Iowa, with about 190 other invited guests from all over the State, when the Misses Everett entertained with a real Martin County barbecue on Wednesday at of the graduating exercises at the Oak City High School.

When you mention the Everett home in this section of the State the first thing that comes to mind is an ideal country home, a very fine farm, and the home of one typical North Carolinians of the old school, the enterprise of the late Justus Everett and wife.

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Dr. Potat to Make Address to Graduates Thursday Night

marks the beginning of the graduation exercises of the Williamston High School. At 8.15, at the home of the Rev. Morris E. Moore, of the Episcopal Church, Dr. Potat will preach the graduation sermon to the graduates of the high school. Mr. Potat is a member of the local church and a most popular minister.

The graduation exercises of the Williamston High School will be held at 8.15, at the home of the Rev. Morris E. Moore, of the Episcopal Church, Dr. Potat will preach the graduation sermon to the graduates of the high school. Mr. Potat is a member of the local church and a most popular minister.

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Masonic Lecturer to be at Lodge Next Week

Brother K. W. Winstead, assistant grand lecturer of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, will be in Williamston next week. He will lecture at Skewarkee Lodge every night and day during that week.

All Master Masons and especially those composing the teams are urged to be present Monday night at 8 o'clock. This is most important.

VOICES FROM MEMORY LANE

By A. B. CHAPIN

