

Old Records Reveal Wanderer's Identity

Wreck Victim Died In County Home Back in September

Old Papers Recently Found Throw Some Light On "Elliott" Case

On May 29, 1940, S. R. Belotte wandered into town, keeping soul and body together by grinding scissors and repairing sewing machines. Just a few hours later on the evening of May 30, the old gentleman was accidentally struck and injured by a car driven by S. W. Manning, Jr. on East Main Street. He virtually recovered from the accident, but arthritis set in and the wanderer was removed to the county home where he, in a helpless condition, kept a silent watch for death during fifteen months, the end coming on the evening of September 29th, this year.

Giving his name as Robert Elliott, the old man who was about 76 years of age, advised county authorities that it would be useless to try to get in touch with relatives. It was learned, however, that he was a graduate or attended the Industrial University of Arkansas. Efforts were made to trace his record there, but no "Robert Elliott" had entered there.

A few days ago his old bicycle was found stored just back of the Cowan boarding house, and a few old records and papers were discovered in a box attached to it. While the papers mention no relatives by name, it was learned from them the aged wanderer was born S. R. Belotte, near Ripley, Tennessee, on June 6, 1865, that he entered the Arkansas University in the fall of 1883. In 1886 he was admitted to the Clay County, Arkansas, bar. In November, 1897, he was licensed to practice before the State and United States Circuit courts in Texas. In May, 1902, he was licensed to practice before the supreme court of California. Among his papers were testimonials from supreme court justices.

How long he remained in California is not known, but in 1936 he was in El Dorado, Arkansas, according to the following letter:

"Dear Vi and Charlie: I am well and trust you both are. Have more money than I had when we parted in Little Rock. Here is my explanation of my failure to go to my kinfolk. I was with you July 15 and felt then and still feel that I wore out my welcome; hence my determination to stay away. However, I wanted to be with Vi on her birthday and it was difficult to do so. When I come in nights dead tired I think and feel, "What is the use of longer continuing the struggle to delay the inevitable end?" But for the fact that I owe borrowed money I would long since have passed on, but so long as I owe money I shall not end it all, and possi-

150 Bowler at 6



At the age of six, "Twinkle" Watts is the youngest ever entered in the women's international bowling congress at Forest Hills, N. Y. The little Santa Monica, Cal., kagler averages over 150 and has rolled over 200. Weighing 42 pounds, she bowls a 10 1/2 pound ball.

bly I will discard the idea ere I am out of debt. I leave here tomorrow — to where I do not know. Love to both. Affectionately, Reg."

The places the old man traveled from there are not known, but he bobbed up in Norfolk where he spent some months before coming here. He joined a club there, but it is apparent that he was experiencing financial difficulties for in his papers was a note about his room rent.

On Thanksgiving day, 1936, he sketched the following: "Thanksgiving, 1936 — They say I should be thankful for life, but I am not. For 71 years and more of life, misspent, all I got, frustrated ambition, wife and child and all are gone. Sad and brooding I sit here alone, for I have lost wife, daughter and son. The first of which, years ago I won. Justly, they leave me here sick of my fate."

It is quite apparent that the old gentleman had marital difficulties, that he turned to the open road, pausing now and then to express his thoughts in poetry, as follows:

To Bess,
The first time in twenty years,
For you I have compassion and shed
tears;
Which will not bring back your
vanished youth,
But may assuage your grief to know
the truth,
Twenty years of longing and now
regret,
Because of the past I have not and
will never forget.
Were I to relive my life,
I would not keep you as my wife;
My regret is not for you or I,
But that the children will not love
me, ere I die.

And then there is another poem written possibly at a later date, as follows:

I have just returned from my
wandering way;
I am older, harder and more grey.
Awaiting me your message of last
December, I found,
Which sends me a little faster on
the road, Hell-bound.
Had I have had your mother's things
which are nothing to me;
I should have sent them then; when,
from all, I would have been free.
For more than a year, I have neither
grieved, nor over those once
dear to me, wept;
When I sent to you and your brother,
my keep-sakes, from my mind
I swept

The last vestige of remembrance or desire for those I once loved; Then, out of my life, thought, love, hope, trust and confidence, you and he, I shoved.

The following poem possibly throws more light on the old gentleman's troubles:

A REPLY TO A MISER
Your unexpected package and poem received today.
Replying to same, I hardly know what to say.
There is something, however, that I wish to say to you,
Something that is true.

You say you have given up your treasures of old,
And that you don't give a dam for gold;
Then: Why don't you send my Mother her things?
What I speak of is her watch and rings.

Why do you say We have rendered these things valueless to you?
Is this true? Was it us, or was it you?
You had a wife, daughter, son and a happy home,
Now you have nothing; all you do is roam.

To weep and grieve now is about twenty years too late,
The tie that once held us together is gone,
Gone because of what you have done,
So you should be resigned to your fate.

Have you ever thought of those you left alone?
How you left them without money, food or home?

Have you thought of the years you neglected mother, daughter and son?
Surely your eyes should fill with tears
When you think of what you have done.

Had there really been love in your heart
And had you been kind and true,
Perhaps today we wouldn't be apart,
And you wouldn't be alone and blue.

Thank God we had a Mother,
And nowhere can you find another

Who is kind, loving and sweet,
For a Mother's love can't be beat.

In our hearts there is no spite.
We feel we have done only what is right;
So all alone you shall continue to go
For your deeds caused God and not us to will it so.

The old gentleman must have been a promising young man in his college days. And it is recognized that he achieved success in the courts. D. H. Hill, ex-president of the Arkansas University, writing a testimonial to him in 1885, said: "I send you such a testimonial as I can give honestly. I do not know of your scholarship, but I do know that you were considered bright and that you acted like a man when those drunken rowdies under coward's influence were persecuting a man infinitely better than themselves. I hope that your manly, honest and independent course will be continued throughout life and be crowned with God's blessings always."

The testimonial, dated Macon, Ga., January 25, 1885, read, as follows: This is to certify that Mr. S. R. Belotte was a member of the freshman class of 1883-84 in the A. I. University. He was considered a bright young man, high-toned and honorable. I was particularly pleased with the firm, manly stand which he took when some drunken rowdies, with the active sympathy of a portion of the faculty, persecuted in the most indecent manner, a most worthy and exemplary student. Although the power and influence were on the side of the persecutors, Mr. Belotte stood up for the right, like a brave and honorable man.

The old gentleman bore his affliction without complaint. He was well cared for in the local hospital and later in the county home. Last July, a tear trickling down his face, he said he was doomed to die, but in his face was that determination to travel the remainder of the road alone from relatives and old friends.

To Relieve Misery of COLDS
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Salve—Nose Drops
Cough Drops
Try "RUB-MY-TISM" — A Wonderful Liniment

Interesting Bits Of Business In The U.S.

First war-time emergency price control action on a manufactured article—in distinction to commodity controls—came close to home for persons on the west coast (for the eastern, too, for that matter). It was at the request of the Civilian Defense Administration, and forbids manufacturers, wholesalers, jobbers or retailers to put any price on flashlights or batteries or bulbs, higher than the highest quotation during the two months preceding December 1, last.

Generally speaking, life insurance now in effect covers death due to war causes, while fire and auto insurance contracts, for the most part, exclude damages due to war. Great Britain has a "war damage act" making coverage on wartime real estate damage compulsory. (But the wise thing is to look over all your policies, anyway). Most manufacturers and retailers feel that that production is so far along on

ELIGIBLE FOR LOANS

The FSA field workers now report that more than 642,000 farm families are eligible and need FSA rehabilitation loans, but are unable to borrow because funds appropriate by Congress are as yet inadequate. — The Progressive Farmer.

spring goods for retail stores that there'll be little change, at least for several months, in the matter of providing adequately for that type of civilian needs.

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that under and by virtue of the power and authority conferred upon me by virtue of that certain deed of trust executed by J. J. Bryant to the undersigned Trustee for D. G. Matthews, bearing date February 14, 1940, and recorded in the Public Registry of Martin County in Book X-3, at page 464, default having been made in the payment of the note for which said deed of trust was given as security, and the stipulations thereof of not having been complied with,

and at the request of the holder of the said note, the undersigned Trustee will, on the 6th day of January, 1942, at twelve (12) o'clock Noon, at the Courthouse door of Martin County, in Williamston, North Carolina, offer for sale, at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, the following described real estate, to-wit:

A certain vacant lot in the Town of Williamston, beginning at a ditch in the Southwest corner of the Andrews land at the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad; thence a Northeast course along the right-of-way of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad 48 feet to a stake; thence a Southeast course along J. J. Bryant's line 60 feet to a stake; thence a Westerly course 48 feet to the ditch; thence along said ditch 60 feet to the beginning, and being a lot 48 feet by 60 feet off of J. J. Bryant's property, and being a part of the lands described in a deed from A. T. Perry and wife, Maggie Perry, to J. J. Bryant and wife, bearing date November 25, 1911, recorded in the Public Registry of Martin County in Book A-3, at page 389.

This the 28th day of Nov., 1941.
HUGH G. HORTON,
Trustee.

Christmas GREETINGS

Little cottages with coal stoves and roasting spits at the hearth have given way to handsome homes, electrically equipped, functionally furnished. Housewives—once drudging from dawn to night, have leisure, have careers, aid in defense. These are modern times in which we play an active part. But now—when the holly hangs bright green and red—we revert to an old fashioned sentiment and say, "A very merry Christmas — one and all!"

W. G. Peele Insurance

HITS THE SPOT

PEPSI-COLA

Made only by Pepsi-Cola Company, Long Island City, N. Y.

AMERICA'S BIGGEST NICKEL'S WORTH

Authorized Bottler: (Name of Local Bottler to be inserted here)

WHITE PLUME

Banana LIQUEUR

DO PROOF

\$1.00

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Yuletide Greetings

The tinkling of sleigh bells; the white snow blanketing the ground; the green, green trees lit up with a myriad of colors — that's Christmas! The laughter of happy children; the glee of all over exchanged gifts and greetings — that's Christmas. And our wish for you is that be the merriest you have ever enjoyed!

MARTIN COUNTY BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

Fifteen Years---

of extending the greetings of the season to our patrons have only served to make more sincere our good wishes for them . . .

In the uncertain and difficult days which lie ahead for all of us, we hope to continue serving you as in the past. Come what may, the entire facilities of our organization are at the disposal of our customers whenever we can be of service

To you and yours at this Christmas season, we would extend our sincerest wish for happiness, both now and throughout the years to come.

100 PER CENT LOYAL TO THE DEALER

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