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Accused Murderer's Fate Hangs in the Balance

Jury Impaneled Before Whom Benjiman Franklin Vann Must Answer to the Charge Of Murder in the First Degree.

PRISONER SILENT BUT COMPOSED

Sits Quietly Fanning Himself and chewing Gum as Men are Chosen who Will Sit in Judgment Upon Him--Mother and Sister Beside the Prisoner.

Just after the clock struck six on yesterday afternoon, the last of the twelve jurors who will decide the fate of B. F. Vann, accused murderer of Oliver Layden, took his seat in the jury box, and the first skirmish in a big legal battle for a man's life was done. A special venire of 150 men had been summoned for the case and the work of selecting twelve men, acceptable both to the defense and the prosecution, was begun shortly before noon. Before the clock struck six the last name of these 150 had been drawn from the box, and another dozen, taken from those assembled in the court room, were added to it before the jury was complete.

It is the verdict among those who have watched the selection of the jurors carefully that Vann will stand trial before a jury of some of the best citizens of the county and that the verdict returned will be a fair and just one.

Those composing the jury are as follows: William W. Sawyer, M. L. Davis, C. W. Ives, S. W. Beasley, J. M. Jackson, C. L. Hinton, J. W. Pool, J. B. Evans, Geo D. Sherlock, H. L. Morris, S. H. Reid and Jno. McPherson.

Many people got their first glimpse of Vann when he was brought into the court room Monday. They saw a rather small and young looking man probably less than five feet eight inches in height and weighing little more than 130 pounds.

He appeared composed when brought into the court room, and when formerly arranged answered in a clear, steady voice, "Not Guilty."

Vann's face is not pleasant to look upon, being round, small and darkly sallow. His forehead is low--so low that the hair though not excessively long almost touches the dark eye brows. His eyes are slightly aslant, not open wide and shifty. His upper lip is a trifle short; the under lip a little long. Not only is the face unpleasant. It is unhealthy, the complexion being muddy. But this last may be a result of confinement. It is a face that offers a striking contrast to the open, pleasant, smiling face of Oliver Layden, and the intimacy between these two, remains a mystery.

Beside Vann yesterday, sat his mother and sister, his sister being nearest to him. There was not a good view of the sister's face from the court room, but the mother, old, feeble, and evidently

grief stricken touched to sympathy, all who saw her. Again and again as the machinery of the court dragged along in its slow routine, she pressed her handkerchief to her eyes.

The most dramatic moment in the trial yesterday, came when those in the court room heard the familiar words: "Jury, look upon the prisoner; prisoner, look upon the jury," and when Vann rose to his feet, as the indictment was read. Standing erect, with head thrown back, there was at first touch of defiance in his attitude, but his counsel drew him down for a moment to whisper in his ear, and when he straightened up again his head was held slightly forward. So young, so boyish--for he has the face of a boy, not a man--did he appear standing there that one could not look at him without being moved to pity.

It is not expected that this case will be closed before the end of the week, and the jury will hardly bring in a verdict before Sunday. The case may of course be drawn out to next week.

Counsels for defense are George W. Ward of Elizabeth City and Percy McMullan of Hertford. I. M. Meekins will assist Solicitor Ehringhaus in the prosecution.

OPENING BALL

The opening ball of the season was given by the young men at the Old Elk's Hall Tuesday evening September 17th.

An attractive picture met the eye of the looker-on--the happy faces, the beautiful evening dresses, the merry couples whirling by in the giddy mazes of the dance. Bright and spirited music was rendered by the Gaiety Orchestra.

After the ball the young people repaired to the homes of the young ladies where tempting lunches were served. The following couples were present.

Miss Dora Grice and Mr. Tom Nash, Miss Mary Pendleton and Mr. Latiner Commander, Miss Ross Chesson and Mr. Cecil Garrett, Miss Jennie Simpson and Mr. Harold Overman, Miss Bessie Weatherly and Mr. Miles Clark, Miss Minnie Leary and Mr. Kenyon Wilson, Miss Bessie White and Mr. Walter Small, Miss Ada Burfoot and Mr. Lev. McCabe, Miss Fannie McMullan and Mr. Julian Selig, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Scott, Stags, Mr. E. G. Bond of Edenton and Mr. Morrisette.



THREE SILVER CUP TROPHIES TO BE OFFERED IN BOAT RACE

An Event that Should Attract the Attention of Motor Boat Owners all Along the Sound Section--A Handicap Race open to all Classes of Motor Boats.

Three Silver Cup Trophies are on exhibition at Selig's, which are to be offered as first second and third prizes in the boat race to be held in connection with the Albemarle Agricultural Fair and Fish Association.

These Trophies are beauties, and the race should attract the attention of motor boat owners along the sound. This will be a handicap race, and the management of the fair wants entries from all classes of motor boats. The Contest for these trophies will be open to all.

Mr. W. H. Hampton of Waterlily is director in charge of the arrangements for the boat race, and with him shall rest the definite arrangements in regard to the matter. It is generally understood, however, that the race course will be from in front of the fair ground pier out to the "black buoy" and return. So the start and the finish can be easily seen from the fair grounds. It is believed also that the race will take place on Wednesday, the second day of the fair.

The silver cup trophy which goes to the winner in the first race will have to be contested for a second race one year from the date of the first race; and in the event it is won a second time it becomes the property of the winner.

It is hoped by the management that in view of the prizes offered there will be a large number of entries in this race. Attention is directed to this matter at this time that those expecting to enter the race may get their boats in first class trim by the date of the fair.

FREE TICKETS TO SUN BROTHERS SHOW

Editor Peele will be at Hertford Court Monday, arriving on the first train in the afternoon from Edenton. Old subscribers who renew for one year in advance and new subscribers may get FREE TICKETS to the Sun Brothers Show as long as Mr. Peele's supply lasts. He should be seen early, however, as the supply is limited.

OLDEST RESIDENT DEAD

Mr. Reubin Madrin, the oldest resident of Elizabeth City and said to be the oldest undertaker in the state, passed away at his home on South Road St. last Friday afternoon about five o'clock. Interment followed in the Episcopal Cemetery on Sunday, Rev. R. W. Alexander officiating.

Mr. Madrin was a Confederate soldier and a member of the famous, "Artillery Blues" of which since his death only one surviving member is left. Mr. Henry Tarkenton of Camden Co.

Mr. Madrin had retired from business for some time, but before doing so had made the coffin in which he was to be buried. He was 91 years old at the time of his death, and had been for many years a consistent member of the First Baptist Church.

The pallbearers at Mr. Madrin's funeral were Messrs. W. K. Carter, W. T. Love, F. F. Cochran, W. N. Gregory and Chas. Ward.

He is survived by his wife, who was Miss Mary Ann Bright, and by a large number of grandchildren.

TYRRELL CITIZEN DEAD

Columbia, N. C., Sept 18th--Mr. William Melson one of our oldest and best known citizens died at his home in Alligator last Saturday and was buried at the old family grave yard at that place.

Mr. Melson has been a very useful man in the community in which he has lived the most of his life, he has been a consistent member of the Methodist church. He has spent a good part of his time teaching the rural schools in the county, for the past fifty years. He leaves a son, Mr. Alonzo Melson of this county and a daughter of Dare county and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his loss, to whom we extend our sympathy, hoping that they will so live that they will be prepared to meet him in heaven, where all who live the life he did, surely must go.

CONFEDERATE VETERANS HELD ANNUAL REUNION WEDNESDAY

Big Crowd At Currituck Court House To Enjoy Dinner, Hear Speeches, and Witness the Laying of the Monument Corner Stone--Paper Read by J B Lee to Appear Next week.

The Henry M. Shaw camp of Confederate Veterans of Currituck County held their annual reunion at Currituck Court house on Wednesday of this week, September 18th.

By eight o'clock in the morning the crowd had begun to assemble and by noon dinner was being served to those present on the grounds. The regast spread under the trees on the improvised tables was a sumptuous one and was heartily enjoyed by the big crowd.

Dinner over, the addresses of the speakers were the order of the day. The crowd gathered in the yard of the Walker home and the speakers addressed the audience from the porch.

Attorney A. M. Simmons of Currituck made the Address of Welcome and introduced the principal speaker of the occasion, Rev. A. A. Crater, pastor of the Fourth Street Baptist church at Portsmouth Va. Mr. Crater spoke of the splendid characters wrought under the stress of the trials of the war, and emphasized the importance of the erection of a monument to the brave sons of Currituck who had jeopardized their lives in the fore of the fight in the cause of the South.

Following Mr Crater's address voluntary offerings to the monument fund were solicited, and as a result eighty six dollars in cash and seventy five dollars in subscriptions were added to the amount already on hand. Work will begin on the monument at once.

Mr. Peele was introduced by Mr. Jarvis of Moyock. His subject was, "The New South and the Old". Greeting the veterans present and referring briefly to the grandeur and glory of the Old South he warned the sons of the South to-day that they would fail to be worthy sons of noble sires if they rested content to see the South stripped of one whit of its ancient glory. He intimated, with prosperity already once more smiling upon us, the time to be ripe for Southern men again to take the helm of the ship of state and guide it out of the treacherous waters into which it has been brought under the hand of predatory wealth.

Perhaps the most carefully prepared speech of the day was that delivered by Dr. Julian D. Maynard of Knotts Island. Dr. Maynard reviewed the history of the country leading up to the Civil War and sketched the magnificent struggle of the South made against fearful odds.

Following this address the crowd repaired to the court house green where the corner stone for the monument was laid by Captain J. B. Lee. It was Mr. Lee who initiated the movement looking toward the erection of this monument, and it was fitting this honor should be given him.

The exercises concluded with prayer by Rev. J. A. Willoughby.

Miss Bessie White left yesterday for Raleigh where she will attend St. Mary's.

WILL ACCEPT CONTRIBUTIONS TO CAMPAIGN FUND

The First National Bank of this city has notified Vice Chairman McAdoo, of the Democratic National Committee, that contributions will be accepted at this bank to the Campaign Fund of the three great parties of the nation. The bank, of course is purely non-partisan in this matter, accepting contributions to any one of the three funds, Democratic, Republican or Progressive. The Democratic National Committee is asking the banks to offer to receive these contributions in order to make practicable its plan for raising its campaign fund by popular subscription.

CELEBRATED 76TH

BIRTHDAY Mrs. Elizabeth Leary celebrated her seventy-sixth birthday on Thursday of last week at the home of Mr. C. C. Leary of Gregory, N. C.

Mrs. Gregory has the distinction of having seven living children, thirty-nine grandchildren, and three great grand children. Representations of all these families were present at the celebration and only one daughter absent. Mrs. Luther Jones, of Indiantown who was sick. All except two of the grandchildrea were present, and all three of the great grandchildren.

The day was spent in songs and games and a big dinner was served in the grove of Mr. Leary's home. The celebration was an unusually happy one.

Among those present from Elizabeth City were S. S. Leary and wife, Mr. N. S. Leary and wife, and Mr. T. C. Jones and wife, and their little daughter, Mary Lucile Jones, who is one of the three great grand children.

Mr. Zoeller went over with the party from Elizabeth City and took pictures of this large family group.

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION MET

The High School Athletic Association met to organize Wednesday afternoon.

Much interest was manifested by the boys in the proceedings, and thirty-five members enrolled.

The following officers were elected:--Vance Hooper, president, William Weatherly vice-president, Edward Griffin, Sec. and Treasurer.

The work for the coming year was enthusiastically discussed. The principal topic being, the plans for organizing the football team. Six, last years men are back, and the new material is very promising. There are prospects for a fine team. Regular practice will begin next week.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE--One sixty Acre Farm, One mile from Elizabeth City. Good dwelling and out-houses.

W. A. WORTH, Elizabeth City N. C.