

DIRIGIBLE SHENANDOAH TOTAL WRECK WHEN CAUGHT IN OHIO WIND STORM

Murder Mystery Slated For Term Of Currituck Court Beginning Monday

Riddle Capps and Mrs. Dora Pentress to Face Trial in Connection With Herman Pentress's Death SHROUDED IN SECRECY Details of Evidence Resulting in Arrest of Pair Withheld from Public; Whole County Is Agog

Currituck Courthouse, Sept. 3.—The most sensational case on the docket for the full term of Currituck Superior Court, which will convene Monday, is that of Mrs. Dora Pentress and Riddle Capps charged jointly with murder in connection with the death of the former's husband, Herman Pentress, young Currituck County farmer whose body was found lying in the farmyard at his home on Knotts Island on the night of November 9, last.

Vindell Waterfield, a neighbor of the Pentress family, was placed under \$500 bond, as a material witness in the case at the time Capps and Mrs. Pentress were arrested. They were taken into custody as the surprising sequel to the release of four young white men living in Virginia, not far from the State line. The grand jury failed to find a true bill against the quartet, who had been suspected of having caused the death of Pentress, and the arrest of Capps and Mrs. Pentress occurred the following day. Both were freed under bond afterward.

An impenetrable veil of secrecy has shrouded the finding of Solicitor Walter Small and other associates with him in obtaining the evidence which resulted in the arrest of the pair. This came like a bolt out of the sky, the general supposition having been that in ordering the release of the four youths originally suspected, the grand jury had come to the conclusion that Pentress's death had resulted from natural causes. Dribbles of information that have leaked out, however, indicate that Capps and Mrs. Pentress will face trial as an alleged accessory.

Subsequent to the death of her husband, Mrs. Capps obtained employment as matron of the teaching at the consolidated high school at Currituck Courthouse. With her were her daughter with an earlier marriage, Miss Viola Litchfield, and her two children by her last marriage, tots of three and five years, respectively.

Riddle Capps, who apparently is scheduled to be the major defendant in the case, is a tall and powerful Knotts Islander, unmarried and 22 years old, though he appears to be nearer 40. When arrested, he denied all knowledge of the alleged murder of Pentress.

The death of the young farmer occurred on a Sunday night. The four youths originally charged with murder went to the Pentress home on the night of the tragedy after having been drinking, and an altercation ensued, in the course of which Pentress is said to have ordered them to leave. The youths were Early Ballance, Lester Davis, Claude Tindell, and Tom Fallost.

The four refused to depart from the premises, according to testimony at a preliminary hearing of the case, and Pentress left by a back door to go to the home of his father, a few hundred yards away, to obtain help in driving them away. He failed to return, and when a search was made late that night his body was found in the farmyard.

No marks of violence were found on the body except a small abrasion of the scalp. A post mortem examination said to have been conducted crudely with the assistance of an ordinary hack saw is reported to have disclosed that Pentress's skull had been fractured. The arrest of the youths followed swiftly.

They protested their innocence from the first, and after a preliminary hearing they went to Norfolk and endeavored to employ Leon Nowitzky, best known sleuth on the police force of that city, to investigate the case and, if possible, locate the individual responsible for Pentress's death. Nowitzky refused to take the case, explaining that his duties on the police force took up practically all his time.

When the grand jury at the March term of Currituck Superior Court (Continued on Page 4.)

TWENTY PEOPLE HERE PAID OVER \$100 INCOME TAX

C. O. Robinson and Wife Head List for Elizabeth City, With Totals of \$2,867.20 and \$2,624.84

L. C. BLADES IS NEXT Judge I. M. Meekins Is Fourth on List; No Aylletts or Kramers Included in Figures Given

Twenty Elizabeth City residents paid Federal income taxes amounting to \$100 or more for last year, according to figures taken from the records of Collector Gilliam Grissom, of the North Carolina District, and published in the Raleigh News & Observer. The highest single tax, \$2,867.20, was paid by C. O. Robinson, and his wife, Mrs. Ivy B. Robinson, is second with a tax of \$2,624.84. Mr. Robinson is the son of C. H. Robinson, president of the First & Citizens National Bank and a leading figure in the business life of the city. Mr. Robinson is not listed among those paying \$100 or more.

Mr. and Mrs. Robinson are the only Elizabeth City folks listed as having paid as much as \$2,000. L. C. Blades, however, is close behind, having paid \$1,984.65. Judge I. M. Meekins is the only other income taxpayer here in the thousand dollar class, his tax having been \$1,270.02. An income tax payment of \$2,000 to \$3,000 shows an income of \$30,000 to \$35,000 for the year, and a payment of \$1,000 or a little above indicates an income of \$20,000 to \$25,000.

"Dark Horse" Listed P. H. Williams, president of the Savings Bank & Trust Company, paid a Federal tax of \$867.21, indicating a taxable income of \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the year. Next on the list, in point of amount paid, is one Jonas H. Clark, with a total of \$574.90. No Jonas H. Clark is listed in the city directory, and the name possibly is included in the Elizabeth City column through error. Miles L. Clark, manager of the Texas Company, says he isn't the individual meant. He suggests, however, that J. H. Clark, of Elizabethtown, is the taxpayer in question. H. L. Pendleton, supposedly meant for Dr. A. L. Pendleton, president of the Carolina Banking & Trust Company, paid a tax of \$556.05. He concludes the list of those paying as much as \$500.

Others whose payments to the Federal Government equalled or exceeded \$100 are: W. A. Brock, \$103.42; W. H. Weatherly, \$240.40; J. H. Wilkins, \$259.96; S. W. Twiford, \$294.61; L. S. Blades, \$233.01; J. T. McCabe, \$131.93; Taylor Grandy, \$151.94; H. C. B. Ehringhaus, \$119.20; P. W. McMullan, \$98.72; R. B. Marx, \$113.60; A. F. Foxley, \$118.14; W. O. Saunders, \$157.35; and J. Wesley Foreman, \$396.78.

Under the law, a married man is allowed an exemption of \$2,500, with an additional allowance of \$400 for each dependent. This means that a man of family must have made above \$7,500 to be listed in the \$100 class, whereas an unmarried individual must have had an income of between \$5,000 and \$6,000 for the year.

Foreign Bonds, Exempt Securities of foreign corporations yielding up to \$5,000 are exempt from the Federal income tax. Hence, a man must have \$100,000 invested in six per cent bonds, or yet remain outside the circle whose incomes are barred pitilessly to the light of day—and the curious eyes of their neighbors.

A survey of the report for Elizabeth City discloses that a number of persons regarded as among the best fixed financially here are not included. Among these are E. F. Ayllett and other members of the Ayllett family, not one of whom is listed; W. G. Gaither, E. C. Conger and C. W. Gaither. No members of the Kramer or Sawyer families is included, and only one member of the Foreman family.

The list does not include a single practicing physician, or a druggist, indicating that the safeguarding of folk's health is not the most remunerative of professions. Not a minister is included, or a school teacher.

The list gives two Hertford residents as paying in excess of \$100 in Federal income taxes. These are George E. Major, with a total of \$349.94, and E. D. Winslow, who paid \$182.59.

For Edenton, three are given. The estate of the late Dr. H. M. S. Cason paid \$143.94; H. M. S. Cason, \$127.59; and Henry C. Wood, \$108.37.

The Foreman-Blades Lumber Company (Continued on page 4)

Against Babe



Col. Jacob Ruppert, owner of the New York Yankees who is expected to reinstate Babe Ruth Saturday as the outcome of a conference with the Sultan of Swat in New York Friday. The \$5,000 fine imposed by Manager Huggins, however, is expected to stand.

Tells How To Be Ready For School

Sept. 8. L. Sheep of the Elizabeth City schools makes the following announcements of importance to many pupils and patrons: "All pupils who are conditioned in the fourth, fifth, sixth, or seventh grades except those attending summer school under Mrs. A. H. Worth or Mrs. T. B. Cooke please be at the Grammar School building Monday, September 7, at 9:30 o'clock to arrange about examinations."

"All new families in the city whose children expect to enter either the fourth, fifth, sixth or seventh grades please have your children at the same building at 10 o'clock promptly for classification."

"All High School pupils who are conditioned and desire to take the examinations, except those attending summer school under A. B. Combs, will report at the High School building Monday, September 7, at 9 o'clock. All new pupils will report at the same building at 10 o'clock for classification."

"All Primary pupils who are entering the city schools for the first time will please report Friday morning, September 11, at 9:30 o'clock for registration at the Primary school building."

NEW BASIC ELEMENT IN METALLIC FORM

Copenhagen, Sept. 3.—Two ounces of the new basic element hafnium, have been produced in metallic form, one ounce of which has been sent to the United States. It is understood that the new element may be successfully used in the manufacture of audion lamps for radio.

Niels Bohr, discoverer of hafnium and winner of the Nobel prize for physics in 1922, was not able at first to turn the new element into metallic form. He has now, however, accomplished this, assisted by Paul Berglund, a civil engineer. Success was attained by organization of a substance called hafn, found in Norway and France, and containing six per cent hafnium.

PLANS FOR CHOWAN BRIDGE APPROVED

Approval by the War Department of plans for the Edenhough-Emper bridge is announced in a letter received Friday from Frank Page, chairman of the State Highway Commission, by State Senator P. H. Williams, of this city.

"I am glad to report to you that the War Department has approved the plans for our bridge on project 109," Mr. Page wrote, "and Mr. Craven is now proceeding to complete the plans for this bridge and I hope to offer this for letting at an early date."

Mr. Page advised also that the

VARIED EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR ROAD FESTIVAL

Entertainment Committee Busy Arranging Special Features for Acorn Hill Celebration Sept. 17

DIRIGIBLE MAY COME. Monster Blimp from Navy Yard at Portsmouth Is Sought; Popular Entertainers from Norfolk

Arrangements for now and an usual entertainment features for the "get acquainted" celebration to be held here on Thursday, September 17, in connection with the official opening of the Acorn Hill road from Gates into Pasquotank County, are going ahead rapidly while the committee, entrusted with the job of raising funds for the event is going out this week soliciting subscriptions.

D. Walter Harris, Dr. Maud Bulla and George J. Spence, members of the program committee, went to Portsmouth and Norfolk yesterday with a view to procuring special attractions for the day. They obtained the assistance of City Manager Jervey, of Portsmouth, in their efforts to have the Navy Yard blimp come here for the event, and to arrange, if possible, for a Navy dirigible airship to sail over the city that day. General Jervey promised them his full cooperation in the matter.

While in Norfolk, the committee called upon Elder Cobb, popular Navy "Y" entertainer, who assured them he would come here for the celebration, and who promised to help them to get the Southland Jubilee Entertainers, an aggregation of colored singers who are much in demand in Norfolk and vicinity. With the assurance that the Elizabeth City Boys' Band will be on hand for the occasion, and that a program of short and entertaining specialties can be arranged, the program committee is jubilant over the success of its undertakings thus far.

Special invitations have been mailed to Governor McLean and to Highway Commissioner Hart of the First District, to attend the celebration, and a general invitation has been issued to other State officials. Several are expected to be present and deliver addresses. The matter of raising money for the event is the most onerous task of the general committee. Members have encountered an attitude on the part of some merchants and others by the effect that the \$1,500 contributed by the City Council will be adequate to finance the celebration. Estimates place the probable size of the crowd at 5,000 to 10,000 persons, and the committee is working for a minimum of \$4,000, feeling that this amount is essential to the success of the undertaking.

"We'd better not have any celebration at all if we can't put over a creditable one," a leading merchant declared this morning, "and we can't expect to have a really worthwhile celebration unless our people will give enough money for it."

The event will be primarily to acquaint the people of Gates County with Elizabeth City. Gates folks will be honor guests, but those from all the counties in the Albemarle section will be equally as welcome, and the day's doings will be for the benefit of all. The Acorn Hill road runs Sunbury within 25 miles of Elizabeth City, over a dependable highway, half of which is already paved. Gatesville is 25 miles away, or a pleasant automobile drive of less than an hour and a half.

Bureau of Public Roads, having charge of the designation of United States road maps, has promised that Route 30 through North Carolina should be one of the Federal routes selected. Route 30 is the State Highway from the Virginia line at Corapeake across the Winton bridge, and thence southwardly along the coast to Washington, New Bern and Wilmington.

Mr. Page advised in conclusion that he was leaving on a two months' trip to South America, and would hurry completion of the bridge and road from Elizabeth City to Windsor upon his return.

City Entertains Strange Guests

Elizabeth City entertained a strange assemblage of guests yesterday. They were good natured enough as long as they were treated courteously, and it happened that nobody was indiscreet enough to treat them otherwise. Hence they left no casualties in their wake, as far as could be ascertained this morning.

The guests were several thousand strong, and despite their numbers, they were members of a single family—a vagrant swarm of bees that came from nobody knows where, and went nobody knows whither. They lit first in the yard of James Feebe, at East Burgess and Eberidge streets, and assumed full charge of the premises for as long as they cared to stay.

Timing of their first stopping place, they journeyed to a peach tree on a vacant lot belonging to P. H. Williams, on North Road street. The entire outfit "parked" on a limb, packed into a close mass. Many passers-by viewed them curiously from a safe distance, and nobody disturbed them. Later they flew away, buzzing merrily enough. As stated before, they left no forwarding address.

Infant Strangles To Death In Crib

Slipping sidewise through the slats in her crib, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. T. Owens, of Powells Point, Currituck County, was strangled to death Wednesday afternoon at about three o'clock. Mr. Owens is post master at Powells Point, and runs the store and hotel formerly operated by C. H. Brock, now of this city. N. T. Ayllett, of this city, was in the store at the time the tragedy occurred, conversing with Mr. Owens. They heard Mrs. Owens scream, and rushed into the house, where they learned what had happened. The child, who was about seven months old, had been placed in the crib by her mother scarcely an hour earlier, asleep. She evidently had awakened, and had slid, feet first, between the vertical slats of the crib until she hung suspended by the neck. Efforts to revive her were unavailing.

DUBLIN IS PLANNING FOR WAR MEMORIAL

Dublin, Sept. 3.—The Chief Commissioner of Police in Dublin, who served as a colonel in the British army during the European war, has recommended the acceptance of the offer of the National War Memorial Committee to acquire Merrion Square, erect a great war memorial or cenotaph there and hand the square over to the city as a public park.

On the appeal of the late Earl of Ypres, when viceroy, a large sum was subscribed to commemorate the service of the Irish troops in the war. The money has remained idle ever since and \$200,000 now is available for the Merrion Square project. This is the largest of the great squares of Dublin and the proposal to convert it into a public park, rivaling St. Stephen's Green is recommended as a boon to the poor population and the children of the poor streets in the neighborhood who require a playground.

Merrion Square is at present the private property of the owner of the houses on it, and an act of parliament will be necessary to effect the transfer.

ORDERS FLIGHT OF PLANE POSTPONED

San Francisco, Sept. 3.—Search continued today for the missing naval seaplane PN-9, No. 1, which disappeared in mid-Pacific Tuesday on its Hawaiian flight.

Secretary Hoover today ordered the proposed flight of the PB-1, set for tomorrow, postponed indefinitely.

MARANVILLE RESIGNS AS CHICAGO MANAGER

Death List 15 Navy Reports

First Report Put Number Killed at Only Two, but Later Dispatches Revealed Added Fatalities

Washington, Sept. 3.—The air cruiser Shenandoah crashed to earth in a wind storm eight miles north of Caldwell, Ohio, this morning, the Navy Department was informed in a message received at 7:33 a. m.

The cruiser Shenandoah's senior surviving officer reported to the Navy Department today that 15 were killed, two injured, and one remained unaccounted for in the wreck.

Commander Zachary Lansdowne and Commander Hancock were named among those dead.

Lansdowne was in charge of the ship. The Moundsville, West Virginia, aviation field telegraphed the Navy Department today that the Shenandoah was "struck by lightning" at 5:35 o'clock this morning.

The message indicated that the information was obtained from Army aviators who had been to the scene of the disaster.

Col. Chalmers G. Hale of Salisbury, North Carolina, aboard the Shenandoah as an official observer, was not injured and recounted the story of the accident.

Every effort was made here to rush relief to the shipwrecked crew.

Major General Patrick, chief of the Army Air Service, called at the Navy air headquarters, volunteering to give "everything the Army has" to its sister service.

The Red Cross is making preparations for all possible relief from the nearest chapter.

The first message said two men were killed and that the airship was a total wreck. Forty-two men and officers were aboard.

Belle Valley, O., Sept. 3.—Twelve officers and enlisted men including Commander Lansdowne were killed in the crash of the Shenandoah early today, according to information assembled here.

The exact number of casualties was not expected to be known definitely until there had been opportunity to check hospitals and morgues in the surrounding towns.

Caldwell, Ohio, Sept. 3.—Almost the entire population of this village, some eight miles from Ava, where the Shenandoah crashed this morning were at the scene of

(Continued on page 4)