

## No Convictions in Murder Trial; Lack of Evidence Causes Case to End

### SIX INCHES OF SNOW HERE

The first snow of the year began to fall early Sunday morning to the joy and delight of the children and young people of our city. The sun came out shortly after noon, but the snow did not disappear. Monday morning the large white flakes began to fall again and continued all day and into the night laying a blanket of six inches of snow in this section.

Roller skates gave way to sleds and many curious attachments to the back of automobiles. Snowmen rose up in numerous places and the children were tireless in their snowball battles.

It is the largest snowfall in this community in a number of years and while the majority of us have enjoyed it, others have realized the sharp cold bite of winter.

### Card of Thanks

We wish to express our grateful appreciation to all who kindly performed services during the illness and after the death of our dear wife and mother, Janeva Parkenton.

These attentions made the burdens of sadness more bearable, if ever we can be of service to these kind friends we shall be glad to be called upon.

W. H. TARKENTON  
AND CHILDREN

### To Attend Missionary Institute

Leading representatives of the Methodist Episcopal church here, accompanied by Rev. R. G. L. Edwards, will attend the Missionary Institute of this district in Elizabeth City on January 18th. Every district in the eastern North Carolina conference is holding these institutes during the first of the year and will deal with questions of interest to the church at large.

Fancy one thinking tree specialists are the only persons who visit the barber shops to look the limbs over.

### ALMO THEATRE TO-NIGHT

#### "Dancing Mothers"

Featuring  
Conway Tearle  
Alice Joyce  
Clara Bow

ALSO GOOD COMEDY

### SATURDAY NIGHT

#### "The Love Toy"

Featuring  
Lowell Sherman

ALSO  
SEVENTH EPISODE  
OF  
"Sunken Silver"

### LOCAL NEWS

Mr. Jim Swain was in Wilson Thursday.

George Sexton was in Jamesville Sunday.

M. T. Bradshaw spent Sunday in Washington.

Mr. D. A. Hurley left Monday for Greensboro.

Mr. B. A. Sumner has been in the city this week.

Rev. R. G. L. Edwards was in Jamesville Sunday.

Mrs. C. J. Norman is visiting relatives in Hertford.

Mr. J. R. Campbell has been in Raleigh this week.

C. J. Norman spent part of last week in Hertford.

Harry Arps made a business trip to Columbia Tuesday.

Jack Peele and Walter Clark were in Greenville Sunday.

Jimmy Smith has accepted a position with D. Taylor Pead.

Solicitor Donnell Gilliam of Tarboro was in town this week.

Mrs. Lee Hollowell of Edenton is visiting Mrs. S. R. Bateman.

Atty. Miley C. Glover of Bailey was a business visitor here this week.

Mesdames H. L. Horton and Nona Newman were in Rocky Mount Thursday.

Judge Romulus A. Nunn of Newbern is presiding over court for the next two weeks.

Rev. J. R. Everett returned Wednesday from Rocky Mount, where he has been spending a few days.

Miss Sallie Dickens of Enfield is reporting the two-weeks term of Superior court that is being held here.

Dwight Weathers left Wednesday for Raleigh where he was called on account of the illness of his brother.

Visiting attorneys here this week for Superior court are H. S. Ward, Washington, S. S. Woodley, Columbia and H. W. Stubbs of Williamston.

Mrs. W. F. Winslow left Sunday for Washington where she will make her future home. She was accompanied by Miss Louise Ayers and Mesdames B. A. Sumner and J. P. Sutton.

Mrs. R. G. L. Edwards left Tuesday for Ahoskie where she will resume her duties as teacher in the school. She has been out for some time on account of the illness of herself and little daughter, Clyde. We are glad to note that they have both recovered.

### AUTO ACCIDENT SUNDAY NIGHT

What came near being a fatal accident occurred Sunday night around eight o'clock, when a Buick coupe driven by Sterling Marriner ran into the Conaby Creek bridge. Marriner sustained painful bruises about the head and the other occupant of the car, Mr. Cooke, a representative of the Standard Oil Co., was severely cut across the nose.

Weather conditions and fast driving were reported the cause of the accident. The car struck the concrete bridge with such force that it capsized and suffered severe damage.

John Atomanshuk, who operates a store at the bridge, brought the young men to town, where their injuries were attended by physicians.

### WESTOVER NEWS

Mr. Jasper Weaver of Williamston spent Sunday with Mr. James Harris.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Harris and family moved to their new home in Windsor this week.

Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Chesson, Jr. were guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Robbins Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Ange and family were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Robbins Friday night.

Messrs. Luther Sitterson and Fred Ange, Mrs. T. R. Chesson and Miss Daisy Hathaway were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Harris, Sunday.

### Entertains Classmates

Aumack Everett entertained last Thursday evening from six until eleven o'clock, in honor of the eight grade of Mackeys high school. Quite a number of his classmates attended, also several friends from other places were present. Interesting games were played and delicious refreshments served by his mother, Mrs. Clinton Everett.

### Mr. J. R. Campbell Has Auto Accident

J. R. Campbell and D. A. Hurley left early Monday morning for Raleigh. Just before reaching Everetts the Oakland sedan driven by Mr. Campbell slipped off the concrete and turned over. Fortunately no one was hurt and no damages done to the car. They returned however on account of the slippery roads and Mr. Hurley resumed his journey on the Norfolk-Southern.

### Visiting Rector at Grace Church

Rev. W. H. I. Jackson of New York City, who is a student at Montague, Tenn., arrived here last week to fill the vacancy in the parish of the Grace Episcopal church of this city. Mr. Jackson is on a three months vacation which he will devote to this church. There will be no services here Sunday, however, as he will hold services in Roper.

### A BILL TO CARE FOR AUTO WRECKS

There has been a bill introduced in the legislature requiring every person operating a motor vehicle to carry insurance to the amount of not less than \$800. for the benefit of the person and property of any one who may suffer from injuries caused in an auto accident.

There has been a great deal for such a law and this bill should pass by a great majority. We feel that it will be the means of less law-suits and arguments and probably fewer fist-fights.

### SKINNERSVILLE NEWS

Mrs. Lillie Everett of Norfolk is the guest of her son, Mr. C. L. Everett.

Mesdames M. J. Elliott and Clinton Everett were in Plymouth Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Phelps and mother, Mrs. McCabe, were the guests of Mrs. Andrew Phelps, Sunday.

Rev. R. L. Hethcox and son, Walter, passed through here Sunday enroute to Charleston, S. C., where Mr. Hethcox will hold a revival meeting.

Messrs. G. L. Davenport, Tom Curles, W. E. Blount, C. L. Everett, Corbett Swain and C. V. White are attending court in Plymouth this week.

Mr. Robert Swain of South Carolina returned to his home last week after spending some time with his mother, Mrs. Henrietta Swain.

Misses Sabra Bateman and Iva Spruill returned last week to Greensboro College for Women after spending some time with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Bateman.

In reporting the return of Mrs. Guilford Davenport, Wednesday of last week, we made an error. Mrs. Davenport is still in Charleston, S. C., where she is receiving treatment from a chiropractor for sprained muscles of the arm and shoulder, which were caused by a fall suffered last November.

### Boat Lost by Fire

Wednesday afternoon around one o'clock, the Solicitor a gas boat owned by the Wilts Veneer Company, caught fire from sparks from the engine and was completely destroyed in spite of the efforts and quick work of those who were aboard. The boat was working near the Norfolk-Southern depot on the other side of the Roanoke river, when the gas tank exploded and the flames spread over the boat. The crew was compelled to come ashore in a smaller boat and in a short while the Solicitor sank in mid-stream.

Rev. A. J. Parker of E. City, Rev. and Mrs. A. S. Parker of Rose Hill and Miss Jessie Thompson of Duke University, Durham, were holiday guests of Rev. and Mrs. R. G. L. Edwards at the Methodist parsonage.

### RECORD CROWD THROWS COURT ROOM DESPITE BAD WEATHER

#### SUGGESTION OF SUICIDE RECOGNIZED AS POSSIBLE CAUSE OF DEATH

The January term of Washington County Superior Court began here Monday morning with the trial of Mrs. Mamie Phelps and daughter, Loula Pritchard, on charges of murder on December, 26th, of George W. Phelps, a farmer of Skinnersville. The slain man, who was found dead in a chair in his bedroom with a bullet wound in his right temple and another in his right side, was the husband of Mrs. Phelps.

Solicitor Donnell Gilliam asked for a verdict of second degree murder or manslaughter. Preliminaries to the taking of evidence were concluded Tuesday at 1:00 p. m. with the completion of a jury. The selection of the twelve men exhausted a special venire of 50 men ordered Monday afternoon by Judge Romulus A. Nunn of New Bern, who is presiding. The venire was returned by Sheriff J. K. Reid and two deputies when court opened Tuesday morning. The venire exhausted, several bystanders were called and from among their number the jury was completed. Court recessed until 2:15 when witnesses were sworn and presentation of evidence began by the State.

Dr. T. L. Bray, coroner, first called, described the sitting posture of Phelps in a chair in his room, with a bullet wound through his head, and another in the breast. He said the bullets were from an automatic pistol of 32 caliber, which was lying on the floor beside the dead man's chair, and he presented the results of an autopsy and findings of the inquest by a coroner's jury which held Mrs. Phelps and her daughter, jointly responsible for the murder.

Sheriff Reid, who was among the first to reach the Phelps home after Phelps had been shot to death, was the next witness. His testimony was similar to that of Dr. Bray. Other witnesses heard during the afternoon were Tom Phelps, who drove by the house on the night of the tragedy, and a short time later returned because of the number of

men gathered, and the evident excitement. McCoy Davenport and Roy Dunbar and Harrell Patrick, the last two in an automobile, which they stopped and from which they went into the house when they heard some one had been shot. W. T. Alexander, one of the early arrivals at the scene went on the witness stand Wednesday morning. Mr. Alexander was the first person to go into the house and after satisfying himself that Mr. Phelps was dead he immediately sent for the sheriff and coroner.

The State rested its case Wednesday at noon at which time it was agreed that a verdict of not guilty should be entered as to Miss Loula Pritchard. The defense, represented by H. S. Ward of Washington and W. L. Whitley of the local bar, began the examination of its witnesses Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Mrs. Mamie Phelps took the stand during the afternoon testifying that she was preparing to visit a neighbor and was standing on the porch with her daughter, Loula Pritchard, when they heard the shot and ran out into the road looking for help. They stopped an approaching car, which contained Dunbar, Patrick and Davenport explaining that Mr. Phelps had committed suicide. The young men refused to enter the house stating that they were afraid. They were compelled to stop another car driven by W. T. Alexander, who went into the room of Mr. Phelps alone.

The defense rested its case yesterday at 11:30 P. M. The court finding that there was insufficient evidence to send the case to the jury, ordered that a verdict of not guilty be entered as to both defendants. A great deal of interest has been manifested throughout the trial by the people of the county and this section of the state. The courtroom has been crowded to its capacity every day with people eager to hear the case to its close.

### Services at Baptist Church

The following will be the order of services at the Baptist church for Sunday:

Morning Service  
Sunday School, 9:45  
Preaching service, 11:00; subject: "Thorns in the Flesh."

Evening Services  
B. Y. P. U. service, 6:30  
Preaching service, 7:30; subject: "Third Commandment, or The Demand For A Clean Heart."

### To Regulate

Radio fans will be glad to hear that the House and Senate conferences on radio legislation have held a joint conference in an effort to agree upon a bill to regulate radio which would be passed by both houses. The need for some such legislation is admitted by all interested.

### Notice to Public

Effective January 15th, the buffet service operated on Norfolk Southern trains 1-11 and 12-2 between Norfolk, Va., and New Bern, N. C., will be discontinued.

Passengers desiring to secure lunch at Edenton may do so, where stop of ten minutes is made, or they can secure sandwiches, fruits, etc., from news agents on the trains.

### Services at Methodist Church

The following is the directory of the Methodist church:  
Morning Service  
Sunday School, 9:45  
Preaching service, 11:00.  
Evening Service  
Epworth League, 6:45.  
Preaching service, 7:30.  
Mid-week prayer service Wednesday evening 7:30.