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## Champ Clark Intended to Shoot William J. Bryan

This is a story carried by the Philadelphia North American in its issue of February 18, 1924, William Jennings Bryan escaped being shot and killed by Champ Clark during the memorable 1912 Democratic convention in Baltimore, because of the extreme heat which caused the convention to adjourn before Clark could get to the convention hall to carry out his intention on the night of June 28, according to a graphic story appearing in the New York World under the signature of J. J. Dickinson.

The events leading up to Clark's decision to kill Bryan, according to the story, were the attacks made against Clark on the floor of the convention by Bryan. Clark was a candidate for president and up to the time of Bryan's attack his prospects of receiving the nomination had been considered good.

Bryan opened his attack on Clark in a statement June 26, which was carried into every corner of the country by the more than 1,000 newspaper correspondents at the convention. In his statement, Mr. Bryan charged that virtually every essential lobbyist in the United States was in Baltimore working with the Clark campaign manager.

Mr. Bryan announced on the floor of the convention that he would "shoot the game" by exposing the party in corruption. He boldly broke his instructions as a member of the Nebraska delegation, and taking the platform, announced he would not cast another vote for Speaker Clark and further announced that he would support Woodrow Wilson.

Mr. Bryan based the cause of his sudden turn about upon the ground that Charles F. Murphy and Tammany Hall were arrayed solidly for Clark as the result of a corrupt political deal.

"At the morning session the thrice-defeated nominee of the national Democracy for president had introduced a resolution for the immediate expulsion from the convention of Thomas F. Ryan, who, although a delegate from Virginia, was a resident of New York," Mr. Dickinson says in his story, "August Belmont, a member of the delegation, together with all delegates in any way affiliated with the J. Pierpont Morgan banking interests, were also included in the expulsion resolution. Mr. Bryan omitted to put this amazing resolution to a vote, so that, after the violent storm the resolution engendered had subsided, the incident was closed."

The Bryan attack on Clark, carried to all corners of the country, brought a vast number of telegrams to the delegates, the tenor of them all being: "Quit Clark and follow Bryan."

The telegrams produced a veritable panic in the Clark instructed delegations and brought about the real turning point in the convention. Then, according to Mr. Dickinson's story, Bryan went to William F. McCombs and asked him to break the convention deadlock by throwing his support to Bryan. Thus Bryan let it be known that he was not averse to entering the fight for nomination himself. Bryan's talk with McCombs, in substance, was transmitted to the Clark followers and eventually to Mr. Clark himself. Already incensed over Bryan's

## Resolutions of Sympathy Offered by Mr. John A. Hendricks Member of the Marshall Bar.

Whereas, Mr. William J. Roberts one of the old and honored citizens of Madison county died Wednesday, 6 a. m. the 26th day of February 1924, who was the father of Mr. Guy V. Roberts, a member of the Marshall bar. Upon motion be it therefore resolved in open court, that the court, members of the local bar, visiting attorneys and officers of the court, extend their deepest sympathy to our brother attorney, Mr. Guy V. Roberts, and the relatives and friends of the deceased.

It is further ordered that these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the court and that copy be furnished to the newspaper and to Mr. Guy V. Roberts.

Clark decided there was only one way to settle the differences and silence Bryan, and that was to shoot him. With that idea growing in his mind, Clark, in Washington, suddenly decided to go to Baltimore, enter the convention hall, take the floor and denounce Bryan in the bitterest terms he could command, and then to shoot Bryan when the latter got up to answer.

Clark summoned two friends whom he knew held his own views on life. These were representative Ben Johnson of Kentucky, and Captain South Trimble of Arkansas. Trimble was chief clerk in the house of Representatives.

Clark told these friends of his intentions. He told them his object was to go at once to the convention hall, denounce Bryan, wave at the huge audience what was claimed to be a check for \$10,000 sent to Mr. Bryan by August Belmont for use in the Bryan campaign of 1908, and wind up, if he might, by telling the convention that he did not want nor would he accept the nomination for president so long as Bryan should be permitted to remain a delegate.

After that, Clark, accompanied by his wife, and with a pistol in his pocket, set out for Baltimore. The chance-coupled with the weather, that probably saved Bryan's life was that Clark got a local train between the two cities and did not arrive in Baltimore until 11:10 p. m., one hour and ten minutes after leaving Washington.

The extreme hot spell that had caused the delegates to adjourn the convention at 11-15 p. m., instead of continuing on into the night as they had done the night before.

Clark and his wife went directly to the Emmerson hotel, where they were joined by delegates from the convention and by Clark's son, Bennett, whom Mr. Dickinson credits with much information concerning his story. Among the first of the Clark supporters to arrive at the hotel was William Randolph Hearst.

Seeing that it was too late to accomplish what he had left Washington for, Clark told his followers it had been his intention to denounce Bryan on the floor of the convention and challenge him to disprove the \$10,000 Belmont check. That opportunity past for the present, Clark announced his determination to withdraw from the presidential race. All were against such procedure, with the exception of Hearst, but the majority finally prevailed, and Clark took a 2 a. m. train back to Washington.

## 'Jigs at The Gate'

St. Peter stood at the golden gate With solemn mien and air sedate, When up on top of the golden stair Maggie and Jiggs, ascending there, Applied for admission, they came and stood

Before St. Peter so great and good; In hope the city of peace to win, And asked St Peter to let them in. Maggie was tall and dark and thin With a scraggly beardlet on her chin

Jiggs was short and thick and stout And his stomach was built so it rounded out, His face was pleasant and all the while

He wore a kindly and gentle smile the choir in the distance and echoed woke, And Jiggs kept still while Maggie spoke.

"Oh, thou who guardeth the gate" said she, "We two come thither beseeching thee

To let us enter the Heavenly land, And play our harps with the angel band, Of me, St. Peter, there is no doubt There's nothing from Heaven to bar me out.

I've been to meeting three times a week, And almost always I'd rise and speak.

"I've told the sinners about the day When they'd repent of their evil way. I've told my neighbors—I've told 'em all

'Bout Adam and Eve and the Primordial Fall. I've shown them what they'd have to do

If they'd pass in with the chosen few, I've marked their path of duty clean

—Laid out the plan of their whole career. I've talked and talked to 'em loud and long,

For my lungs are good and my voice is strong. So, good St. Peter, you'll clearly see

The gate of Heaven is open to me, But Jiggs here, I regret to say, Hasn't walked in exactly the narrow way;

He smokes and swears and grave faults he's got, So I don't know whether he'll pass or not.

"He never would pray with an earnest vim. Or go to revival, or join in a hymn, While I the sins of my neighbors here

He gadded about with Dinty Moore He made a practice of staying out late. Which is a sin all women hate;

But at last when he did come home The rolling pin went straight for his dome.

"I know him, St. Peter I know him well; To escape from me he'd go to hell; But St. Peter, I need him here, And hope you can see your way clear

On earth I bore a heavy cross, Give me in Heaven still Jiggs to boss

I've brought my rolling pin, plates and jars, To keep him dodging among the stars. "But, say, St. Peter, it seems to me This gate isn't kept as it ought to be. You ought to stand right by the opening there, And never sit down in that easy

## In North Carolina

As a whole, property in North Carolina is listed at a fair percent of its real value. The most reliable authorities estimate that for the entire state about 55 to 60 percent of our taxable property is actually listed for taxation. No uniform percentage of real value is sought by the one hundred counties of the state. In some counties the people do not need to read novels. The most interesting fiction is embodied in their tax books. On the other hand there are a few counties that endeavor to get all property listed at a uniformly high percentage of its real value. In Durham county 75 percent of the real value is sought. In some counties adjoining Durham an attempt is made to get 50 percent of taxable values on the books.

The low property tax rate in North Carolina is not due to the fact that a large percent of our property is on the tax books. Irrespective of what part of the property is on the tax books the actual tax burden borne by property is lighter in North Carolina than in any other state.

chair. And say St. Peter, my sight is dimmed. But I don't like the way your whiskers are trimmed.

They're cut to wide with an outward toss; They'd look better narrow and straight across."

St. Peter sat and stroked his staff But in spite of his office he had to laugh; "Who's tending this gate Maggie you or I?"

Then he arose in his statue tall, And pressed button on the wall, and said to the imp who answered the hall, "Escort this female round to hell."

Slowly Jiggs turned, by habit bent To follow wherever Maggie went, St. Peter standing on duty there, Saw that the top of his head was bare.

He called the old boy back and said "Jiggs how long hast thou been wed?"

"Thirty years," (with a weary sigh) —And then he thoughtfully added "Why?"

St. Peter was silent with head bent down; He raised his head and scratched his crown;

Then, seeming a different thought to take, Slowly, half, to himself he spake; "Thirty years with that woman there

No wonder the man hasn't any hair Swearing is wicked smoking is not good; He smoked and swore; I think he would!

"Thirty years with that tongue so sharp— Hol' Angel Gabriel! Give him a harp A jeweled harp with a golden string Good sir pass in where the angels sing."

And Gabriel gave him a seat to himself One with a cushion up near the throne.

"Call up some angels to play their best; For Jiggs has certainly earned a rest.

"See that on finest amprosia he feeds. He's had about all he needs It isn't hardly the thing to do To roast him on earth and in the future too."

A glittering robe and a pair of wings, And Jiggs, looking down from his high level, Thought of Maggie and felt sorry for the devil. —Georg Bradshaw in Pere Marquette Magazine.

## Grand View Items

Everybody is getting along nicely with their work, in getting ready for another years crop.

The Sunday School at this place has been very good having missed only a few Sundays on account of bad weather Our pastor Rev. L. C. Roberts filled his appointment at this place Saturday and Sunday. Owing to very disagreeable weather, the crowd was not as large as usual.

Mr and Mrs. J. A. Bishop and children from Va. are visiting Mrs. Bishops parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Rice, at this place.

Miss Mae Fisher has returned back to Asheville after visiting her parents at this place Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Fisher.

Mrs. T. C. Hooker and daughter Manila and son Oris, has been confined to their home for some while with the measles but we are glad they are getting along nicely.

Miss Rena Roberts is visiting relatives in Asheville.

Miss Minnie Rice has returned back to school at Marshall after visiting home folks at this place

Mrs. Mae Jump from Asheville is visiting relatives here.

## Little Pine News

Mr. Griffin preached at Caneey Fork Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. Griffin Mr. James Wilson, Mr. Harrison Redmon and Mr. Johnie Goforth visited the "Chain Gang Camps last Saturday night and sang and talked to the prisoners.

Mr. J. B. Roberts bought two fine Short-horn calves at Marshall, at Mr. Allen's sale.

Mr. Wiley Roberts bought one of Mr. Allen's calves.

Mr. Carl Roberts and Mr. McKinley Redmon went to Detroit, Mich., last Friday, February 22. Though Mr. Redmon got home sick and returned.

Mr. and Mrs. McKinley Redmon visited Mr. and Mrs. Pearson Meadows last Saturday night. Mr. Redmon made some music with his violin.

Mr. Richard Stockley made a business trip to Asheville last Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Graham, and small daughter Josephine, visited Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Roberts last Thursday.

Mrs. Adeline Roberts has been sick for some time. She is to go to the hospital Tuesday.

Mrs. Evelyn Wild is still with Mrs. Adeline Roberts, while her husband Mr. Dewey Wild, went back to Detroit to work.

Mr. Wayne Roberts left last Thursday for Franklin, N. C. where he will take a position barbering.

Mrs. Ollie Payne is on the sick list, though improving very slowly.

Mr. and Mrs. Robell Redmon, Misses Tillery and Grace Fisher and Mrs. Sprinkle were visitors at Mr. and Mrs. Pearson Meadows last Sunday afternoon.

Miss Nora Dockery is getting along fine with her school on Upper Little Pine.

A Reader.

## List of Jurors Drawn for March Term, Superior Court, March 24th, 1924.

No. 1 Township—R. A. Reed, Z. V. Fisher, Fred Riggsby, J. Morgan Ramsey, Jas. Hughey.

No. 2 Township—G. W. King, E. L. Tweed.

No. 4 Township—W. B. Holcombe, Willard Anderson.

No. 5 Township—Thomas Murray, Jr.

No. 6 Township—J. P. Glance.

No. 7 Township—Joe M. Payne

No. 8 Township—H. E. Martin, A. N. Woody.

No. 9 Township—Charley Rollins.

No. 11 Township—W. R. Crawford,

No. 12 Township—Jas. A. Davis, G. W. Wild.

No. 14 Township—J. C. Robinson, Jesse Sprinkle.

No. 15 Township—O. J. Anderson.

No. 16 Township—E. L. Blankenship, A. A. Capps, E. D. Peek.

You are invited to P. V. Rector's Friday and Saturday, Spring Millinery Opening. A hat for everybody.

## Madison County Club

The business men of Madison county, seeing a crying need for some means by which they could co-operate with each other and with the various other business organizations of the State, have organized a Business Men's Club for Madison County.

The club was launched on Tuesday and within a few hours thirty six members had joined and paid their dues. The club will have a handsomely appointed suite of rooms on the third floor of The Bank of French Broad.

The object of this club is to stimulate business life in Madison county and to promote the interests of the county in every possible way. Co-operation with the Chamber of Commerce in other places and with "Western North Carolina Incorporated" will give valuable assistance in advertising the business resources and scenic beauty of the best county in North Carolina.

Spring Millinery Opening, Friday and Saturday, March 7th and 8th, P. V. Rector.

## If You Have A Bit Of News Send It In

If you have a bit of news Send it in; Or a fact that will enthuse Send it in; A story that is true, An incident that is new, We want to hear from you— Send it in. Never mind about the style, If the news is worth the while, It may help to cause a smile— Send it in! —Selected

We have just received a new line of Ladies Spring Oxfords and Pump. We invite your inspection. E. R. Tweed.