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WALLACE RAY FACING THIRD MURDER COUNT; DEFENDS HIS ACTION

For the third time in his forty-eight years of life Wallace Ray, Marshall man who is confined in the Buncombe county jail for safe keeping, will go on trial for his life when Superior Court convenes in Madison County Monday, February 22, under Judge P. A. McElroy, answering to a charge of killing Dr. O. V. Burnett.

Next week, when he faces his third murder jury, Ray will not attempt to deny that he committed the slaying with which he is connected but he will try to show that he acted in protection of his own life, he says.

Little is actually known of the Sunday pistol duel on a lonely mountain road last November and ended fatally for Dr. Burnett and in which Ray himself was badly wounded. But Ray's story points to a prolonged feud between himself and the dead man, a feud of which he is most reluctant to speak.

According to the story of the accused man, he had been working in Tennessee at his trade of carpentering for some time when he finally decided to return to his three motherless children at Marshall, for whom he had hired a girl to care. He had been in that vicinity but a short time when he and Dr. Burnett, who also is said to have faced the courts on a charge of murder, developed an apparent antipathy for one another.

"Doc Burnett was a rough man," said Ray, "and he wanted to me out of my own country. I would not stand for it." Numbers of times, he said, he had had brushes with the doctor over various matters. One of the most serious of these occurred some weeks before the culmination of the ill-feeling between the pair.

According to Ray's story he was at home one day when the doctor walked into the house demanding that Ray accompany him on a trip. Ray refused, perceiving he said, that the man had been drinking. He did not want to leave his children alone, he said, and he preferred not to have them along in view of the doctor's condition.

Says He Made Threats.

It was after that, he declares, that doctor made threats against him, saying he would "run him out of the country." Time after time, Ray says the doctor would attempt to force him to disagreeable tasks in some manner and these he invariably refused to do because of Doctor Burnett's imperious manner of asking for their accomplishments, says Ray. "He was always trying to force me to do something, and I always refused," said Ray. "I would rather go to the electric chair than let anyone like that make me do anything." There had also been some bad feeling over Ray's hired girl on the part of the doctor but not on his, the accused man states.

Ray had been hearing threats the doctor made against him for some months, he claims, when finally they met at a sort of corn shucking bee the night before the killing. Some words passed between them and Ray left the party early, he said, thinking no more of the affair.

Battle to Death

The doctor had driven up the road near him and had stopped. Seeing the doctor parked and getting out of his car, Ray also left his machine, he says. It was then that the shooting occurred. Both men backed away, firing as they went. Ray found shelter in a shallow ditch at the roadside and ceased shooting when he was severely wounded by one of the bullets from the doctor's gun, he says. The doctor remained standing in the middle of the road and suddenly toppled

over dead from one of Ray's bullets.

Ray was rushed to a Tennessee hospital where he lay in serious condition for some time, and was later confined in the Greenville, Tenn., jail until he was brought to Asheville. Ray is a model prisoner, says Jailor Ingle, although he is dangerously quiet. He was born and raised on Shelton Laurel. He maintained absolute silence about the two killings in which he was involved. He was freed of charges in one case and served two years in connection with the other. This he admits but refused to talk of the incidents. The two murdered men were named Shelton and Hensley.

"If I were guilty of half the things they charge me with," says Ray, "I would be a mighty bad man. They say I have four notches on my gun. I have only one gun that I bought in 1911 and its handle is as free of notches as the bars of this cell. I have always sought to live only as a man should and to maintain my self-respect. But I never did and never do intend to let anyone drive me away from what is mine."

(Taken from ASHEVILLE CITIZEN)

FROM MARS HILL

Each year Dr. William Marvin Scruggs, Surgeon of Charlotte, N. C., gives through the Euthalian Literary Society a medal to the member who wins in a debate contest. To encourage those who have had little experience in speaking, only those who are still in high school are allowed to take part. This year Mr. R. A. Britt of Lumberton, N. C., won. Others taking part in the final contest were Charles McConnell, of Asheville, J. L. McPhagan, of Georgia, and Clarence Patrick, of Mars Hill. The query was Resolved, that the Ku Klux Klan should be abolished.

Work on the school Annual, the Laurel, is well under way. Photographs have been made, individual and group, and the editorial matter will soon be in shape. It is not proposed to issue a costly publication, but one at a modest price as nearly representative as possible of the spirit and work of the institution.

The young women of Mars Hill will meet the young women of Cullowhee State Normal in debate on the query, "Resolved, That Congress should have power to annul Supreme Court decisions." The Mars Hill representatives are Miss Edith Mayes, of Tennessee, Ethel Lineback of Surry County, Ethel Frye, of Winston-Salem, and Pauline Huff, of Mars Hill. Misses Irene Willis and Ellen Teague are alternates.

Mrs. C. J. Biggers, Housemother of our girls' dormitories, is spending the winter with her sister in Florida and is reported to be improving so that she is expected back at Mars Hill about April first. During the absence of Mrs. Biggers, Mrs. Robert of Mississippi has charge of the young women and is rendering admirable service.

Dr. J. R. Saunders, missionary of the Southern Baptist Convention at Canton, China, is spending the winter at Mars Hill. He and Mrs. Saunders brought their only child, Mary Louise to place in the College and will leave her at the conclusion of their furlough. Dr. Saunders is author of three or more books which have a good circulation and writes frequently for the religious press. Almost every week he speaks at some church or meets with some ministers.

THE SEVERAL AGES

(By EDGAR A. GUEST)

This good old world, with all its woe,
And all its cares a-plenty,
Is still a glorious place to know
When one is nearing twenty.
And later when you've won the hand
Of Nellie, Jane or Gertie,
I'd say it is a lovely land
When one is rounding thirty.

Adventuring with loss and gain
And taking chances sporty,
With all that age may bring of pain,
Life still is sweet at forty.
And though the brown gives way to gray,
A shade some term as nifty,
There's many a game a man can play
Although he's nearing fifty.

Though sorrows must more swiftly come
With grim old age encroaching,
Life is not wholly burdensome
When sixty is approaching.
The glad grandparent age is sweet
With smiles and glad caresses,
One still can laugh and love and eat,
Though seventy he confesses.

And so for young or middle age,
Or gray old beards and hoary,
Upon this old world's changing stage
Life tells a gripping story.
At twenty—with a shout of glee
Youth takes what life is giving,
And shall he come to seventy-three
He'll still be glad he's living.

COUNTY FOREST WARDENS TO MEET SATURDAY, FEB. 20

The Madison County Forest Wardens will meet at the court house in Marshall Saturday, Feb. 20, at 11:00 o'clock A. M. Mr. W. C. McCormick, Assistant State Forester, of Raleigh, will be there; also Mr. T. W. Alexander, District Forester of Asheville, will be there. We are trying to get the United States District Forester to be present also.

The purpose of the meeting is to get all the wardens together and let them become acquainted. Speeches will be made by the visiting officers. It is hoped that all the wardens can be present.

conference.

The eleven B. Y. P. U's are doing the best work of the years, enlisting nearly all of the church members in school in active training for worthwhile service in all lines of church endeavor. There are between thirty and forty members in each of the eleven Unions, the Presidents of which are as follows: "A" Union, Miss Fern Alderton, Washington, D. C.; "B" Union, H. C. Hopkins, West Jefferson; "C" Union, Simon Parker; "D" Union, L. C. Ward; "E" Union, Paul Grady, Kingston; "F" Union, Robert Moore, Cary; "G" Union, B. C. Steele, Florida; "H" Union, Miss Mary E. Carter; "I" Union, Knolan Benfield, Lenoir; "J" Union, W. B. Carr, Hillsboro; "K" Union, Paul Caudill, North Wilkesboro. Paul Cooper is Head President, Chas. Roper, Vice-President, and Lucy Bennett, Secretary.

The old, neglected trees in the orchard will be much helped by removing all dead, diseased and weak branches before spring growth begins.

THE ALPHABET OF LIFE

Act promptly
Be courteous
Cut out worry
Deal squarely
Eat wholesome food
Forgive and forget
Get religion
Hope always
Imitate the best
Judge generously
Knock nobody
Love somebody
Make friends
Never despair
Owe nobody
Play occasionally
Quote your mother
Read good books
Save something
Touch no liquor
Use discretion
Vote independently
Watch your step
X-ray yourself
Yield to superiors
Zealous means eager, earnest, and enthusiastic

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S COLUMN

Edited by O. S. DILLARD

From a recent study of the school system of Madison County the following information was gained:

There are sixty three school districts in the county. Of this number of school districts, there were forty-five of them that had a term of only six months. In the six months term there were enrolled a few more than 2700 children, or nearly one half of the children of the county are in six months' terms. In the local tax districts of the county we find approximately \$7,000,000.00 worth of the property of the county, while but a fraction of over half of the children live within the local tax districts.

If we take into consideration the fact that it takes eight months of school for a child to finish a grade in school, every year there is lost in this county by reason of the six months' term 5400 months. This is equivalent to 680 years. According to figures filed in this office, it cost \$16.40 per pupil per year to educate. Therefore it will require the sum of \$11,152.00 to give these children the extra two months of school. But the trouble of this is the fact that this will require the child to have to stay in the elementary grade over two years longer. This, then, is a total loss to the child. If we will look up the attendance record of our children, and see the great number that have to repeat part of the grade, or stay out of school in the upper grades for economic reasons or because the work is too hard for the preparation that they have had for it, anyone can plainly see that the six months' term of school is very wasteful.

There is plainly but one remedy for this state of affairs. That is an eight months' term of school that will enable all the children to go up regularly from grade to grade as far as the length of term is concerned.

Another interesting fact that was found is that there are thirty-eight teachers in the system this year that have not taught before. That is one teacher out of every four is teaching her first term this year. I do not believe any business that changes as much as one-fourth its personnel every year is going to succeed as it should. There should be more of permanency in the profession. A still greater loss is sustained each year by the moving about from place to place of the teachers. Out of the 152 white teachers employed in the county this year, one hundred four are teaching in a different school than the one they taught last year. Two-thirds of the teachers have changed places, and go into new communities, where they must learn the children, the community and many other things. If a teacher is giving success in a community she should be retained. If the teacher moves of her own accord, it is regrettable unless she is bettering herself from financial or professional standpoint. If she is, then it is well for her to make the best use of her opportunity. But if it is just moving to have the change of moving it is a distinct loss to her. Most superintendents do not care to have "rolling stones" in the profession.

There are one hundred thirty-eight teachers employed in the elementary grades of the county this year. There are fourteen high school teachers. Out of the one hundred thirty-eight elementary teachers, only 12 hold certificates as high as the grammar grade or primary certificate of class B which represents two years of Normal training. This is practically 3.7 per cent of the teachers measure up to what educational authorities agree should be the standard. Out of the 14 teachers who are doing high school work, thirteen of them hold the High School certificate of Class A. That is the highest certifi-

cate issued by the State Department of Education. Upon this basis, it is self-evident that our high school teachers show a higher degree of training than the elementary teachers.

From my observations, and experience, it requires greater skill to be a successful primary teacher than a high school teacher. Yet we never question what kind of special training our teachers have had who take charge of our primary grades. The old notion has prevailed to long that "just anybody can teach the little ones." It is in the primary grades that we ought to place our best teachers. It is here that the child's attitude toward the school will be fixed largely, then the groundwork will be laid for the child's further progress. But if he must go to school where the teacher has had no experience, and no training, and must go at her job in a hit or miss method, the child's whole attitude toward school work will be changed and the whole future of the child ruined.

Mars Hill's group commencement was held last Friday. This was a very successful affair. Four schools of that section participated in the various contests, and showed the results of careful training. The winner of these contests will take part in a county wide commencement to be held about the middle of March. Three other group commencements will be held this week. One at Walnut on Thursday, at Spring Creek on Friday and Marshall Saturday. The public is cordially invited to attend these meetings.

Mars Hill and Marshall schools are backed by two strong Parent-Teachers Associations. These organizations are doing much to increase the usefulness of the schools. Much financial assistance has been furnished the schools, enabling them to secure much needed equipment that the schools were not able to provide otherwise. The morale of the schools has been strengthened very much by these organizations. It is our desire to see every school in the county have some kind of community organization that will better the conditions of the school and the community. By such will the school be able to do the greatest good.

Tom Tarheel says that a farmer may not mean much individually to the business man but collectively he is the foundation stone of the State's business.

HANDWRITING

(From Morganton News-Herald)
Who is there who has not had to worry some time or other over bad handwriting? It is the bane of existence in a newspaper office, possibly consuming more time and causing more errors than any other one thing. Often-times the greatest statesmen and the most highly educated people—otherwise—write the worst hands.

The Columbia State gives the classic example of the translation of a letter scrawled by Horace Greeley. Replying to an invitation to deliver a lecture in Illinois, Mr. Greeley wrote:

I am overworked and growing old. I shall be sixty next February 3. On the whole, it seems I must decline to lecture henceforth, except in this immediate vicinity, if I do at all. I cannot promise to visit Illinois on that errand—certainly not now.

The Illinois committee gave several hours to deciphering the hieroglyphics, and thought they had done so successfully and made this reply:

Your acceptance to lecture before our association next winter came to hand this morning. Your penmanship not being the plainest, it took some time to translate it; but we succeeded, and would pay, your time, February 3, and the terms, sixty dollars, are entirely satisfactory. As High School certificate of Class you suggest, we may be able to get you other engagements.