

## MILTON PRESNELL CONVICTED OF SECOND DEGREE MURDER

Sentenced to 15 to 25 Years  
Hard Labor on Roads

### SUPERIOR COURT DISPOSING OF NUMEROUS CRIMINAL CASES

Superior Court convened in Marshall Monday, August 23, Judge A. M. Stack presiding.

Hon. G. Lyle Jones is acting solicitor for this 19th district, which embraces Madison and Buncombe Counties. Judge Stack delivered a fine charge to the jury and the court then proceeded with a full docket, most of the cases having to do with the violations of the liquor laws. The case which attracted most attention was that of Milton Presnell who shot and killed Fred Anders Sunday afternoon, May 2, 1926. A true bill was soon returned against him and Wednesday afternoon was set for the trial. Meanwhile some 30 or 40 cases of less importance were disposed of. In practically every case, liquor was the cause of the trouble.

#### The Presnell Case

From a special venire of 75 men, the following were selected to sit as jurors in the trial for the life of Milton Presnell:

Eli Hipps, Aler Worley, S. S. Keys, R. N. Pinkerton, J. T. Rice, Dillard Sluder, J. J. Rice, W. H. Roberts, D. G. Slagle, J. B. McGallin, H. O. Porshia, Jack Caldwell.

The State then put on as witnesses, Mrs. Hattie Anders, mother of the deceased Fred Anders. Following her Jeter Anders, brother of Fred was examined and cross examined. Witnesses were then put to show the character of Jeter Anders and the following gave him a good name: Garrett Buckner, L. C. West, George Bruce, Will Austin, Thomas Dill and Sheriff Rector. Regan Shelton was examined and Dr. Sams was asked if a bullet shot through the back of the head as described by the witnesses would be fatal. George Ogle, 14-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ogle was also examined.

The defense then put up "Milt" Presnell, the defendant, who under cross examination, practically convicted himself, his testimony being so confused and contradictory as to make it useless to put up any other witnesses.

It required all Wednesday afternoon, after the case was taken up to select the jury and it was noon Thursday when the examination of Milt Presnell was concluded. The court then adjourned for dinner until one-thirty. Immediately after reconvening, the defense entered a plea to submit to murder in the second degree and the same was accepted by the state. Judge Stack then sentenced Presnell to not less than 15 years and not more than 25 years at hard labor on the county roads. He was given permission to see his 19-day old child, whom he had never seen, as soon as the mother was able to bring it to him, before being carried away to the State prison.

Milt Presnell declared himself to be 30 years old, weight about 135

pounds, not very strong, grew up mostly on Big Laurel and had lived about nine years on Grape Vine, the most of which time he had been on public work in Haywood and Jackson Counties. His father and mother were at the trial but his wife could not be. The defense was ably represented by Attorneys Geo. M. Pritchard and Guy V. Roberts.

The grand jury finished its work Wednesday and its members were highly commended by the Judge for their faithful, efficient service promptly rendered. Their report we publish below:

### REPORT OF GRAND JURY NORTH CAROLINA, MADISON COUNTY.

We the Grand Jurors of the August Term of Madison County Superior Court have completed the work assigned to us and beg to submit the following report:

We have carefully considered all bills of indictment coming before us and made diligent investigation into the facts in each case, and have made presentations of all violations coming under our observation or brought to our attention.

All the county institutions have been visited and a thorough investigation made as to the manner in which each was being conducted.

We find Court House clean and in good condition, except office of Board of Education needs door repaired. Also window in Tax Collector's office needs repairing.

We found all offices well kept and conducted in an efficient manner.

We visited County Jail and found same in good condition, except leaky pipes and steps in run down condition and need repairing. We recommend that these repairs be made.

We visited the County Home and after wandering up and down the banks of Walnut Creek for about forty minutes, leaving car about four hundred yards from home, we walked through mud to Walnut Creek, which is about two hundred yards from home, but could find no way to cross creek, there being nothing but a horse trail or ford. We finally found high rock projecting out of water that we were able to cross on after making long broad jumps. We recommend that road be made from Route 20 to County Home. We found yard of home muddy and no grass growing. We recommend that grass be sown and other shrubbery be planted to give yard and home a more home like appearance. We recommend that buildings be given coat of paint. We find plumbing out of order and no running water in home. Water being carried from well outside for flushing toilets and all other purposes. We find chimneys in bad condition being dangerous as well as unsightly. We recommend and urge that they be fixed. We recommend that water pipes be connected with city water at nearest point, being about 600 yards. We found home as sanitary and clean as can very well be kept under present conditions. Inmates of home say they get good food and are well satisfied. Beds were clean. Kitchen in fair

condition. We have reports that bridge between Bridge Street and Cotton Mill is in very dangerous condition. We recommend that this bridge be repaired at once.

Respectfully submitted,  
R. S. McDEVITT, Foreman.

The calves raised, the skim milk available for feed and the manure for soil building purposes, are about as valuable as the cream check to the dairy farmer, states one leading dairy educator.

One man who answered an advertisement offering 100 useful household articles for ten cents got 100 pins for his dime. Pins are useful it's true but it's always better to trade at home where one can see the purchased materials.

## INTELLIGENT, CAREFUL HANDLING OF TOBACCO MEANS MUCH

After tobacco has been stacked away it requires thoughtful attention. The roof must be tight, and it is a good idea to make certain of this. I have seen many stacks of tobacco badly damaged by small unnoticed leaks. Care should always be exercised that the building is kept tightly closed during damp, rainy weather.

#### If Tobacco is in Too High Order

In the rush of taking it out of the curing barns it is not always possible to have the tobacco in the proper order for stacking away. The condition of each barn that is unloaded should be carefully noted and a little later as soon as time is available the stack should be rehandled according to the condition of the tobacco. If it was stacked in too high order a bright days should be chosen and the tobacco restacked. If it is seen that merely restacking will not dry the tobacco sufficiently it should be hung up in racks for a short time before it is restacked. If the tobacco has been allowed to get wet it may be necessary to hang it and dry it out. The sooner such work as this is attended to, the less the chances will be of having damaged tobacco. At all times every effort should be made to keep the leaves straight.

#### If Tobacco is Too Dry

Tobacco that is in the right order will be considerably improved in appearance by allowing it to stay in the stack for a while. This is particularly true of tobacco that has been cured out a little green. Tobacco that is too dry, however, will change very little in the stack. Therefore, if any of the tobacco had to be moved out of the barn while it was too dry, it will be a good idea to pick a rainy day and restack such tobacco.

#### Taking it Off The Sticks

When tobacco is to be removed from the sticks there should be no mistake about its condition. As long as it is on the sticks the tobacco

## THE FARMER BOY

The farmer boy can speed to town When chores are done and sun is down, Or he can see the bright lights glow By tuning in his radio, And he can hear the orchestras. Farm life is not as once it was When each long, weary day was done— The town and country are as one!

The farmer boy in denim clad Has more than town boys ever had; His wildest dreams he can pursue Across the green, beneath the blue; His world is not a world of frills— It is the valleys and the hills Unchanged in their environment. Since Time's initial day was spent.

Stay on the farm, lad garbed in jeans— You know what independence means! Life's promises are all revealed In yonder rich and fertile field, And through your ardent toil they'll pay Tomorrow's gift from work today. Stay on the farm, O farmer lad, If you are wise—and you'll be glad! —The Burley Tobacco Bulletin.

## SHORT HIGHWAY FROM ASHEVILLE TO KNOXVILLE NOW PROPOSED

Would Link Asheville With Tennessee City By Shorter Route

PLAN MEETING IN SEPTEMBER

Prominent Speakers Expected To Be Present For Occasion

A new highway linking Knoxville, Tenn., and Asheville providing a hard surfaced route 40 miles shorter than the present route, will be the motivating theme of a mammoth all day mass meeting of citizens of Haywood, Madison and Buncombe counties at the Forks of Sandy Mush in Buncombe county September 18.

The meeting, plans for which are rapidly going forward under the direction of a committee of highway enthusiasts of the three western counties, will follow up an earlier gathering of the same type at Max Patch several weeks ago.

Among the speakers selected for the Sandy Mush gathering are Gallatin Roberts, Congressman Zebulon Weaver and A. L. Bulwinkle, and Plato Ebbs.

#### Short Stretches

Proponents of the new and shorter stretches in the Western Carolina counties the entire route to the east Tennessee metropolis will have been hard-surfaced when work authorized by Tennessee officials is completed. Within a year the road from Knoxville to the Carolina line is expected to be entirely hard-surfaced.

An effort will be made at the meeting next month to arouse strong public support for the paving of the few short stretches in Haywood, Buncombe and Madison counties that will shortly mark the solid ribbon of concrete between Asheville and Knoxville, a scenic route unsurpassed in eastern America and one of the most potentially important traffic arteries leading into North Carolina.

The proposed shortened route would extend from Asheville through Leicester and across Doggett's Mountain, through Doggett's Gap to connect with the Spring Creek. Leaving Spring Creek the road would pass across to Meadow Fork and from this point to Max Patch, where it would connect with the present highway to Knoxville.

#### Serve Dinner

Dinner will be served at the mass meeting, in September.

#### "VARSITY COACH"

The Expression Department of the Mars Hill College summer school will present at the College Auditorium on Saturday evening, August 28, the "VARSITY COACH," a four act drama. This is a typical College play, full of life, pep and fun for all. Admission, twenty-five cents.

The graduating students of the Expression department will give additional performances between the acts of the regular play. This will consist of readings of wide enough variation to meet the wishes of the most exacting audience.

A good time is in store for all who come.

One or more speeches are expected to be made in the morning and several in the afternoon. It is considered probable that motorcades will be run from Asheville and other Western North Carolina towns. In the event of rain the mass meeting will be held in the Sandy Mush school building.

It is expected that prominent state highway officials will be invited to the mass meeting, which will draw heavily from the citizenship of the three western counties.

—From Asheville Citizen.

## IN THE MOUNTAINS

We are writing this morning back of the Balsam Range. The tall, dark green peaks of the mountains are obscured by a fog that settled after last night's rain. All among the highways yesterday we saw rich lands with waving corn, wheat-stacks awaiting the threshing machine, trees weighed down with apples and peaches. The people of the North Carolina mountains have not the feeling of discouragement which the severe heat drought of last summer made inevitable. This year prosperity beckons smiling. It may mean much to the religious as well as the economic side of life, for surely the material blessings of God will enable these stalwart Baptist people of the hills to respond to the call of Kingdom enterprises in a manner which was not possible a year ago.

#### THE NEW FOUND

The New Found is a small association of twenty or more churches scattered over the rugged slopes of Madison County. Solemn, high, magnificent in grandeur, the mountains rise above Payne's Chapel where the 75th session of the body convened. At the first night's service as we stood in front of the church, and saw the golden crescent of the moon set in the deep blue of the heaven, with a somber circle of hills rising up to meet the sky, our thoughts were lifted in faith to a triumphant future for this association.

The New Found is poorly organized; is served largely by absentee ministers; contributes little money to Kingdom causes. Yet on the night and later during Tom Lanning's sermon, based on the text, "Lift up your eyes on the fields," we were assured of the advance that will be made in the years to come. New attitudes and sentiments are being created and developed. Tomorrow practices will be the result. Today our loyal Baptist folk of the New Found are listening quietly, sometimes in surprise to the program of

(Carried to fifth page)

## CANTON MAN KILLED IN WRECK NEAR WALNUT GAP LAST SATURDAY

Mr. Ed Moore, a prominent young man of Canton, N. C., was instantly killed as his car went over a bank near Walnut Gap last Saturday about 5:00 o'clock in the morning. With him were Mr. W. O. Murr and Mr. Newman James, also of Canton.

Mr. Moore was driving his Star touring car. It was said that he looked down to make some adjustment about the car, when it went off where the mountain is very high, about 2 miles from Walnut Gap toward Erwin, Tenn. The other men were injured but not seriously.