

THE WAYNESVILLE MOUNTAINEER

Has More Paid-In-Advance Subscribers In Haywood County Than All Weekly Newspapers Combined

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NO. 10

Homer L. Ferguson Gets Four Letters Demanding \$10,000 Be Paid To Gang

Death Promised If Demand Not Met By Ferguson

Former Haywood Man, Now In Virginia, Does Not Pay Demand; Is Safe.

CASE TRIED IN COURT ENDS IN A MISTRIAL

Ferguson's Family And Business Were Also Threatened By Gang.

Specific threats intended to make Homer L. Ferguson, former Haywood County man and well-known here, and who is now president of the First National Bank of Newport News, Va., and also president of the Newport News Shipping Drydock Company, to part with \$10,000 and also threats against the safety of the lives of him and his family were revealed in court in the Virginia City recently during the trial, when Herbert Young, former employee of the shipyard, was charged with extortion.

Young was arraigned and entered a plea of not guilty to a lengthy indictment which included quotations from six threatening letters received by the Ferguson family.

Police kept the plot a strict secret until several days after Young had been arrested. The first letter was received by Mr. Ferguson on September 27. Authorities hoped to lay a trap for the person sending the letter.

All letters were sent special delivery and were addressed to the shipbuilder's home in the North End section. The messages were printed in block letters with pencil on double sheet paper. No name was signed.

The contents of the extortion letters were not made public until the trial. In the letters, the anonymous sender made direct threats against Ferguson and members of his immediate family if the money was not paid. Death was the penalty for failure to meet the demands of the gang, the notes declared with blunt directness.

In the first letter dated September 27, the sender told of a plan to shoot up the First National Bank, of which Ferguson is president. The plot was subsequently discarded because "we don't want to kill any one unless we have to." Addressing the shipbuilder directly, the message stated:

"U were elected to pay up \$10,000 if you want us to leave U, and all the members of your family to rest in security. . . We have collected from a very close friend of yours, who played wise & kept all negotiations quiet and paid up, now his family's safety as far as we are concerned doesn't worry him."

Negotiations were to be opened, the extortionist wrote, by the insertion of an advertisement in The Times-Herald concerning a lost dog.

More emphatic language was used in the second note, postmarked October 4. "We have several means and directions in which we can strike and hit close home."

"Which do U think is most dear, your wife's life, your daughter's or yours or the \$10,000 which we ask."

"If U ignore this, U are inviting us to strike and strike we will."

A strong hint not to inform the police of the letters was contained in the one sent October 11. The extortionists promised that no one would get hurt unless "U insist on letting the police in if U do U will be the first one to get hurt."

"We want \$10,000 delivered and we won't bite at a dummy or decoy to deliver it in person at the point"

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Small Want Ad Sends Home The Bacon"—

You have often heard people say "bringing home the bacon," well, that's just what a small want ad in last week's Mountaineer did, only it "sent home the bacon."

Several weeks ago a stray hog took up at W. E. Brown's place near here. In vain Mr. Brown tried to find the owner of the pig so he sought the want ad column of The Mountaineer in an effort to locate the rightful owner.

Within a few hours after the paper reached the post office, the owner called to Mr. Brown's for the hog.

When you want to rent rooms, a house, or sell something you have no use for, the best way is with a Mountaineer want ad. The cost is almost nothing.

Jonah Jackson, 86, Died Last Thursday At His Son's Home

Had Lived In County For Nearly 10 Years. Was Active Church Worker.

Funeral services were held last Friday at the Clyde Baptist church for Jonah Jackson, 86, who died at the home of his son, J. L. Jackson, at Clyde, on last Thursday. The services were in charge of Rev. R. P. McCracken of Clyde and Rev. Mr. Hicks of Canton. Interment was made at Pleasant Hill cemetery near Clyde.

Mr. Jackson had been living in Haywood County for nearly 40 years and was well known throughout the county. He was born in Surry county in 1846. He married Miss Lucida Creed when he was 23. To this couple was born seven children. Those surviving him are: J. L. and Sam, of Clyde, Alec, of Canton, Stonewall and Charlie of Reidsville and Mrs. R. C. Chambers of Iron Duff, and one brother, Job, of Mt. Airy, N. C. The deceased is survived by twenty-five grandchildren, and twelve great grandchildren.

Mr. Jackson became an active church member when just a lad, and had been faithful ever since, having attended all services regularly until ill health forced him to remain in.

He was a member of the Clyde Baptist church.

The active pallbearers were six of his grandsons.

200 Masons Met Here For Annual Meeting Friday

Banquet And Memorial Services Are Held By All Haywood Masons.

Friday evening was a Masonic occasion in Waynesville, for at 7 o'clock more than 200 of the fraternity and their friends gathered in the temple to attend the annual dinner, roll call, and memorial services in honor of those who died during the year.

The annual banquet was the first feature of the evening's program. At 7 o'clock, the members of the Waynesville Lodge No. 259, A. F. and A. M., their guests from other lodges in Haywood county and other counties, together with their wives, daughters, sisters, or lady friends, gathered in the banquet hall for the annual dinner. Covers were laid for 250 guests, and nearly all of the seats were taken.

Dr. J. R. McCracken, last grand high priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of North Carolina was master of ceremonies. After the song, "Blest Be The Tie That Binds," in which the entire body of diners joined, the Rev. R. A. Sentelle, oldest Mason present, invoked Divine blessing. All justices of the peace, mayors, police officers, sheriffs, police judges and others are requested to be present Thursday night to hear the instructions given by Judge Clement.

The meal was state wide and an effort is being made to train all officers, and prepare them to perform their duty more efficiently. Each judge in each district has been asked to do this in each country in which he holds court.

Memorial services in the lodge room were eulogistic of the members who had departed during 1932. The following were eulogized: R. L. Underwood, tribute by W. A. Grahm; George D. Sherrill, by Dr. J. R. McCracken; F. G. Roberts, by Fred Doutt, W. S. Patterson, by Rev. Albert New; W. N. Mease and T. W. Mease by Clyde A. Hildebrand; C. C. Medford, by Glenn Brown; and Dr. S. B. Medford, by Grover C. Haynes.

An appropriate musical program was rendered. Mrs. Fred Martin and Miss Ida Jean Brown sang solo accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Albert New.

A feature of the evening was the presentation of bouquets to W. V. Willis, of Beaverdam township, who has been a Mason for 57 years, and to R. A. Sentelle, who has been a member for 54 years.

"FINES WON'T STOP LIQUOR SELLING," SAYS JUDGE

Judge Clement stated that "a man can't be made to stop selling liquor by fining him a few dollars. A term on the road is about all that will tend to put a stop to such things."

WAYNESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

GRAND JURY IS APPOINTED TO SERVE ONE YEAR

F. E. Branson, of Canton, is named foreman of new grand jury.

Approximately 500 people were present when Sheriff J. A. Lowe formerly opened criminal court here Monday morning, with Judge J. H. Clement presiding.

When the roll of jurors was called, two of the list failed to answer, and Judge Clement fined each \$40. The grand jurors drawn from the published list of jurors are as follows: F. E. Branson, J. J. Haynes, C. C. Willis, T. T. Green, A. M. Frazier, S. B. Reeves, S. D. Rich, W. L. Clark, Zeb Cagle, J. Byrd Smathers, E. A. Thompson, Paul Robinson, Walker Brown, R. L. Messer, C. S. Freel, S. W. Chambers, David Howell, and G. C. Hooker. F. E. Branson was given the oath of foreman of the body and R. M. Leathewood was appointed officer in charge.

Judge Clement's charge to the grand jury, appointed to serve one year from date, consumed about 40 minutes. He gave the history of the organization of the grand jury system, its inception by the Greeks and Romans and its beginning in its present form by the British people. He gave a clear illustration of why it is necessary for the existence of law and why enforcement is a prime necessity, using the changed conditions brought about by the coming of the automobile as an illustration. He said that the duty of the grand jury is not to try cases but only to find probable cause for the trial of cases that might come before them, and pointed out to them the procedure in carrying out the investigation of cases that might be sent them.

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Traffic Lights Will Not Be Used During Next Few Months

Discontinuance Will Mean Saving Of Over \$100 Per Month.

At a recent meeting, the city board of aldermen ordered that the traffic lights on Main street be discontinued for the winter months for the sake of economy.

It is understood that the cost of operating the traffic lights amounts to over \$100 a month. In each of the sets of lights there are 12 lights, it was said.

The traffic signals will be put back into service during the summer months a member of the board said.

Motors were cautioned about driving while the lights will be out of service, and to drive slow at intersections.

Officers Training School To Be Held Here Tonight, 7:30

Judge J. H. Clement will instruct officers of the county Thursday night, February 9, at 7:30 when and how to make arrests and other points of the law in the first of a series of a course which will be held over the entire state by each presiding judge.

All justices of the peace, mayors, police officers, sheriffs, police judges and others are requested to be present Thursday night to hear the instructions given by Judge Clement.

The meeting was called by Bishop Edwin D. Mouzon and arranged through his cabinet composed of the ten presiding elders in the Western North Carolina district.

Dr. C. N. Clark, of Canton, will open the services with the devotional exercises at 10 o'clock. This will be followed by an address by Rev. L. B. Hayes, on "Sources of Inward Strength." At 11:15 Bishop Mouzon will address the conference. Other addresses will be made in the afternoon by Rev. M. T. Plyler and Rev. Walter West and in the evening Bishop Paul B. Kern, who has just returned from the Orient, will speak.

In a letter to Rev. L. B. Hayes, Bishop Mouzon says: "There has been planned most important series of meetings for laymen, and preachers to cover the entire state of North Carolina. Last year was a great year for our church with more than 50,000 additions to our membership throughout the church at large. We plan now to move forward all along the line. Indications already are that these meetings will be large and enthusiastic. These conferences are to be Educational, Spiritual, Inspirational.

It is hoped that a large number from Haywood county will attend this conference.

Francis Introduces Far-Reaching Insurance Bill In Senate

The Raleigh correspondent of the Asheville Times had the following to say in regard to a bill recently introduced by Senator Francis from here:

A bill far-reaching in its effect upon insurance companies has been introduced in the senate by Senator W. R. Francis, of Haywood. It would require insurance companies writing workmen's compensation insurance in North Carolina to deposit with the state treasurer funds to protect outstanding liability.

It is recalled that Asheville and Buncombe county face heavy losses as a result of the receivership of the Union Indemnity company of New Orleans. This company, which wrote the workmen's compensation insurance for the city and county in 1929 and 1930, had been paying on several claims until its recent failure. It is probable that the city and county will have to make good the remaining payments.

JAMES L. PALMER PASSED AWAY ON LAST THURSDAY

Popular Banker, And Town Treasurer Passes After Long Illness

Last rites for James L. Palmer, 38, who died at his home here last Thursday morning, after an illness of several weeks, were held at 3 o'clock Friday afternoon at the Methodist church. The Rev. Wade Johnson, pastor of the Methodist church conducted the service, assisted by Dr. R. P. Walker, pastor of the Presbyterian church. Interment was made at Green Hill cemetery.

The First National Bank of this city closed Friday in honor of Mr. Palmer, who had been assistant cashier for that institution for about 15 years. The local post of the American Legion attended the funeral in a body, both at the church and grave services.

Mr. Palmer was an efficient employee of the First National Bank, and was clerk of the Home Building and Loan Association and also treasurer of the city of Waynesville, having held this post through the different town governments since 1919.

The popularity of the deceased was evidenced by the large throng that attended the services to pay their last tribute to Mr. Palmer. The church was crowded to overflowing.

At a recent meeting of the World War veterans at the University of South Carolina, he was a student at the University and volunteered for service. He was stationed at Newport, R. I., and was there in government service for the duration of the war. Returning

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Methodist District Conference To Meet In Asheville Friday

Dr. C. N. Clark And Presiding Elder L. B. Hayes Are On Program.

On Friday, February 10, at 10 o'clock there will convene in the Central Methodist church in Asheville a conference on Spiritual Life and Missions.

The meeting was called by Bishop Edwin D. Mouzon and arranged through his cabinet composed of the ten presiding elders in the Western North Carolina district.

Dr. C. N. Clark, of Canton, will open the services with the devotional exercises at 10 o'clock. This will be followed by an address by Rev. L. B. Hayes, on "Sources of Inward Strength." At 11:15 Bishop Mouzon will address the conference. Other addresses will be made in the afternoon by Rev. M. T. Plyler and Rev. Walter West and in the evening Bishop Paul B. Kern, who has just returned from the Orient, will speak.

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It is hoped that a large number from Haywood county will attend this conference.

Mrs. M. E. Reeves Is Buried On Saturday

Mrs. M. E. Reeves, 59, who died at her home on the Asheville road Friday morning, following an illness of three months, was buried Saturday afternoon at Green Hill cemetery following funeral services at the home, with Rev. B. B. Caldwell conducting the services, being assisted by Rev. Frank Leatherwood and Rev. Alf Arrington.

The cause of death was heart trouble.

She was the widow of Samuel Reeves, who died about 10 years ago.

She is survived by four sons and one daughter, Gilbert, Everett, James, Albert and Mrs. Leonard Hampton.

Active pallbearers were: John Curley, Frank Leatherwood, John Boyd, Jarvis Allison, J. H. Kuykendall, and Sam Galloway.

RATHBONE GETS 4 TO 6 YEARS AT HARD LABOR

Bill Rathbone was sentenced Monday from 4 to 6 years at hard labor at the state penitentiary at Raleigh for the attempt to burn railroad bridge of the Southern Lumber Company.

Funeral services were not complete when the paper started to press, but it was thought that they would be held at the Crabtree Baptist church Thursday morning at 11:00 o'clock.

The deceased was a nephew of John R. Hippis of this city.

Dave H. Clark Now On Trial Charged With The Killing Of Brady Brooms

Five Canton Men Given 18 Months For Destroying County Property

Windows, Chairs, Walls Of Garden Creek School Destroyed In July.

ROSE CASE IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN TODAY

Clark Case Likely To Go To Jury Sometime Before Noon Today.

Dave Clark took the witness stand in his own behalf at 3:30 Wednesday afternoon. He was giving his testimony when The Mountaineer went to press.

The trial of Dave H. Clark, Canton contractor, who is charged with manslaughter for the death of Brady Brooms, who was fatally injured last July at Clyde while he is said to have been walking along Highway No. 10, got underway Wednesday morning in Superior court here.

Thirty minutes was consumed by the state and defense in selecting the jury and Dr. J. F. Pate, of Clyde, the first state witness took the stand at 10:45.

Dr. Pate testified as to what position the body was in when he arrived at the scene of the accident.

State witnesses stated that they heard a noise in the vicinity of the school house and three men of the community went to investigate and upon arriving there found the defendant, getting in cars leaving the school yard.

The defendants denied having been in the building in several years, stating that they had gone to the river for fishing bait and had parked their car in the school yard.

Death was indirectly due to the blow received the physician stated.

L. J. Trantham near whose house the deceased was injured, was the next to take the stand. Mr. Trantham stated that the max was found at the intersection of Mulberry street in Clyde and Highway No. 10. His description of the body was the same as that of Dr. Pate. He stated that he heard the crash and looked out of his window and saw the man on the sidewalk, and immediately went out to investigate, but did not see any car anywhere near.

He found the hat, shoe and bucket,