



THE ELKIN TRIBUNE



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ELKIN, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1934

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

TWO DEATH NOTES SAID SIMILAR

Childress and Eldridge Notes Written By Same Person, Jones Assesses

CONTINUE HEARING IN DEATH CASE TO SATURDAY, FEB. 3

Believed Noose Slowly Tightening About Guilty Parties

1,000 AT HEARING

(By Alan Browning, Jr.)

The original note left by Andrew Eldridge, who disappeared from the home of his parents in State Road on May 24, 1927, and whose lifeless body was fished from the waters of Klondike lake several weeks later, was introduced in evidence at the coroner's hearing at Ronda Wednesday afternoon as being in the same handwriting as the mystery note alleged to have been found in the apron pocket of Leoda Mae Childress, who was murdered at the home of W. W. Tilley Saturday, December 30.

Solicitor John R. Jones, who presented the note, revealed no evidence tending to show how it is known the two notes were written by the same person.

Following the hearing, which was continued until Saturday, February 3, at the courthouse in Wilkesboro, Solicitor Jones informed E. C. James, of Elkin, attorney for Andrew Smoot, that Smoot would be released Wednesday night under \$1,000 bond as a material witness, and freed of the murder charge upon which he was being held.

Luther and Clyde Tilley will continue to be held for further investigation.

Although no names were mentioned, evidence was presented which showed that Winfield Stanley, held in jail at Wilkesboro, stated to three persons that Andrew Eldridge was hung by parties described as "they" and was allowed to hang until he died. His body was then hidden for three days and thrown into Klondike lake, the witnesses testified Stanley told them.

The first witness to be examined at the hearing, which was held in the Ronda gymnasium before a crowd estimated at approximately 1,000 people, was Mrs. Hill Cox, a sister of Leoda Childress. Mrs. Cox testified that she was familiar with

(Continued on Last Page)

NOAH LUFFMAN, 40, PASSES SUDDENLY

Was Found Dead In Bed Last Thursday Morning

Noah Luffman, 40, died Thursday morning at his home near Pleasant Hill church, presumably from a heart attack. Mr. Luffman, who was an employee of the night shift of Chatham Manufacturing company, had worked the previous night and was awake and talked with members of the family early in the morning. When his wife went to call him about eleven o'clock he had been dead for some time.

The deceased joined Pleasant Hill Baptist church at the age of eighteen and for several years served on the board of deacons of this church. He was a highly esteemed man in his community.

Funeral services were held Friday from Pleasant Hill church in charge of the pastor, Rev. J. W. Bryant, assisted by Rev. J. L. Powers and Rev. Richard Day. Interment was in the church cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Rosamond Couch Luffman, one daughter, Mrs. Robert Wilmoth of Jonesville and three sons, Paul, Silas and Nathaniel Couch; also one brother and one sister, Arthur M. Luffman and Mrs. Ella Couch of Elkin.

PAID ROSNER \$12,500

New York, Jan. 13.—Col. Chas. A. Lindbergh paid \$12,500 to Morris Rosner for Rosner's services in trying to gain an underworld contact with the kidnapers of his infant son, it was declared today in Mrs. Ethel Rosner's suit for divorce.

Counsel for Mrs. Rosner said that Colonel Lindbergh gave Rosner a fee of \$10,000, and \$2,500 for expenses.

NORMAL RELATIONS ARE RESTORED

Havana, Jan. 23.—Normal relations between the United States and Cuba were restored amid unprecedented scenes of rejoicing tonight.

Jefferson Caffery, President Roosevelt's personal diplomatic representative in Cuba, formerly conveyed the message of United States recognition to the Cuban department of state at 4 p. m. He handed the note to Secretary of State Cosmo de la Torrienta and 15 minutes later departed.

REGISTRATION IS MOUNTING

Raleigh, Jan. 23.—Motor vehicle registration in North Carolina today passed the 300,000 mark which was reached last year on the 28th day of April, Allen J. Maxwell, commissioner of revenue said tonight.

Total registration today was 301,121, as compared with 300,452 on April 28, 1933.

HIGH SPOTS HEARING

The high spots revealed at the Childress hearing at Ronda today were:

That the note supposed to have been written by Leoda Childress was not in the apron pocket as was found, making it not a suicide.

That Luther Tilley was 175 yards from the girl's home when the fatal shot was fired.

That the pencil supposed to have been used to write the note was not there when the search was held.

That the note found in the apron pocket and the note on the table in the Eldridge home are very similar.

That there was a telephone call at the Tilley home on the night of the killing on Saturday.

That Leoda Childress is possibly the only living person who knew the murderers of Andrew Eldridge, and following the killing she was killed to seal her lips.

That Mrs. W. W. Tilley overheard to tell Luther Tilley in jail Sunday that "if Clyde she would die by hanging anything."

LATE NEWS

from the State and Nation

MISTER CAN YOU SPARE A BILLION?

Washington, Jan. 23.—The federal government called upon the country's investors to lend it another billion dollars today to meet the mounting expenditures of the recovery program which have depleted the government's treasury.

The billion dollars in new money was to be raised by the sale of that amount of new securities in the form of \$500,000,000 of 13 1/2 per cent. Treasury notes and \$500,000,000 of 7 1/2 per cent. certificates of indebtedness.

PROMINENT RONDA WOMAN DIES WED.

Miss Lenora Gwyn to be Buried This Afternoon

Miss Leonora Gwyn, 78, passed away at 3 o'clock Wednesday morning at the home of her sister, Mrs. V. McBee, at Ronda, following a brief critical illness from influenza and pneumonia. For the past several years Miss Gwyn's health had been very delicate.

The deceased was a member of one of the most prominent families in this section of the state, being a daughter of the late James Gwyn and Mrs. Mary Anne Lenoir Gwyn. She was a member of the Jonathan Hunt Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution here, and a member of long standing of the All Saints Episcopal church at Ronda. Miss Gwyn was a gifted musician and possessed a lovely contralto voice. She was a graduate of Salem College, Winston-Salem.

Miss Gwyn had spent the greater part of her life at the ancestral Gwyn home, "Green Hill," near Ronda, and was loved by all with whom she came in contact. Since the recent death of her sister, Miss Mary Gwyn and her brother, William A. Gwyn, she had resided with her sister, Mrs. McBee, who is the only surviving member of her immediate family.

Funeral services will be held this afternoon from All Saints Chapel at Ronda, in charge of Rev. Mr. Lackey, of Lenoir, rector of the church, and interment will be made in the family cemetery.

PLANS ARE MADE TO HOLD BIRTHDAY BALL AT HOTEL ELKIN NIGHT OF JAN. 30th

Not to be Held at F-W Chevrolet Company As Fear Expressed Floor Might Not Support Large Crowd Expected; Tickets To Event Are Now On Sale; Committees Are Appointed.

The Elkin Birthday Ball for President Roosevelt, will be held at Hotel Elkin instead of in the F-W Chevrolet company building as first announced. C. H. Brewer, owner of the hotel, stated Monday night that he would turn over the main dining room, the Kiwanis room and a portion of the lobby, if needed, for the event.

Plans to have the ball at the Chevrolet company fell through when the owner of the building, W. S. Gough, objected. He was fearful the floor might break through should a large crowd be assembled.

Tickets for the ball, which sell at \$1.50 each and are good for the admission of one couple, are now on sale, the pastebards having been turned over to the ticket committee at a meeting held Monday afternoon in Chairman W. M. Allen's office.

Of the admission price, \$1.00 will go to an endowment for the Warm Springs Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. The remaining 50 cents will go toward defraying expenses.

In addition to the local ball, plans are also going forward in cities,

SUSTAINS FRACTURED SKULL IN FIGHT

Rufe Wagoner, of Sparta, is in Hugh Chatham Memorial hospital here suffering from a fractured skull sustained in a fight at a dance hall in the Bull Head mountain section of Alleghany county. The blow which crushed the skull of Wagoner is said to have been dealt by Foley Wagoner, also of the Sparta community, who is in the Alleghany county jail awaiting a court hearing.

An operation on Wagoner's skull was more successful than it was hoped for and he has a chance to recover, according to hospital authorities.

Childress Murder Mystery



Above are shown several of the main figures in the Childress murder mystery. Upper left, Luther Tilley, oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Tilley, who is being held in jail at Wilkesboro for investigation, along with his brother Clyde Tilley, pictured just below. Bottom left, Ray Johnson, of Jonesville, who was arrested Monday as a material witness in the case. He was later released on bond. Upper right, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Tilley, photographed standing in front of the tobacco cellar in which the body was found, and in whose home Leoda Childress met death. Tribune Staff Photos.



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PLANS FOR AIRPORT AND GYMNASIUM ARE MOVING ALONG HERE

Kiwanis Club Pledges Total Of \$400 To Gymnasium

MEMBERS BEHIND IT

Prospects for a community building and an airport here, both to be constructed with federal funds provided the town provides the sites, were said to be bright by those working on the projects, at the meeting of the Elkin Kiwanis club at Hotel Elkin Friday evening.

Plans call for the location of the community building on the south side of Main street opposite the Baptist church, provided the lots are obtainable. It is thought the construction of the building there will call for a local outlay of cash amounting to approximately \$5000, over half of which was said to already be in sight.

In connection with the airport, options on several tracts of land have been obtained and necessary plans are being pushed forward rapidly.

Following a canvass of the club for a donation to the community building, a total of \$400 was pledged. It was also stated that the local post of the American Legion has pledged \$250.

In discussing the projects it was pointed out that the town needs the services of someone who can give his full time to the matter and it was suggested that Alex Chatham be named to head the work of getting the projects through. J. R. Poindexter was appointed a committee of one to see if it could be arranged with the Chatham Manufacturing company to give Mr. Chatham a leave of absence from his duties there long enough to put through the projects.

It was learned from Mr. Neaves Wednesday that Mr. Chatham would superintend the work.

A program, consisting of several piano solos by Miss Edith Neaves and two vocal solos by Miss Rosamond Neaves, was presented prior to the business meeting. The program was concluded by a 15 minute talk on "The New Deal" by Walter R. Shaff.

MEET TO ORGANIZE SCOUT TROOP HERE

Second Meeting Is To Be Held At School Building Friday

At a meeting in the school building Friday afternoon approximately 43 boys were present to assist in reorganizing the Elkin Boy Scout troop. The meeting was under the direction of Dr. C. E. Nicks, who began the movement when urged by the frequently expressed desire of the local boys to have a scout troop. The boys were very enthusiastic at the first meeting and another meeting is to be held tomorrow afternoon (Friday) at 4 o'clock in the school building, to which all interested boys are invited.

It is the hope of Dr. Nicks that Elkin can have a regular scout troop. The expense of membership will not be great, the dues are fifty cents a year, and the Scout Hand-

Sister of Local Man Dies At Statesville

Mrs. Diana Burgess-Tomlin, 70, Widow of the Late Frye Tomlin, of Statesville, and Sister of T. E. Burgess of this City, Died at her Home at Statesville Monday Night Following an Illness of Several Months. Funeral Services and Interment were from Hebron Baptist church, near Turnersburg, Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Tomlin is survived by one son, Jim Tomlin, of Statesville and two daughters, Mrs. Chas. Somers, Statesville, and Mrs. Ephesus Harris, Turnersburg. Two sisters, Mrs. Wilkinson Jurney and Mrs. William Parks, of Union Grove and two brothers, Jim Burgess of Statesville and T. E. Burgess of Elkin, also survive.

B. Y. P. U. TRAINING SCHOOL TO BEGIN

Starts Monday And Will Continue Through Friday

The annual B. Y. P. U. Training School at the First Baptist church in this city will begin Monday and will continue through Friday. The classes will be in charge of Misses Winnie Rickett and Alva Lawrence of Raleigh. Miss Rickett is State Secretary of the B. Y. P. U., and Miss Lawrence is State Leader of the Young Peoples' Work of the Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

They will teach classes in senior, adult and intermediate B. Y. P. U. work and the classes will be organized at the meeting Monday evening, which will be held at 7 o'clock.

On Sunday evening Miss Rickett will speak at the church at the 7:30 hour of worship. The public is cordially invited to hear her.

Misses Rickett and Lawrence are well known here, as well as throughout the state, having been here frequently to assist in work of this nature at the First Baptist church.

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