

Charges Five of Family With Conspiracy And Murder In Girl's Death

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up by the opinion of L. T. Yarborough, handwriting expert of Raleigh who has had 23 years experience and who has worked with the United States treasury department. Mr. Yarborough, in a letter to Solicitor Jones, which was read to the jury, stated that the Childress note was written by Mrs. Luther Tilley. Mrs. Hill Cox, sister of Leoda Childress, was the next witness to take the stand. She stated that her home burned down about 2:30 a. m. on the Tuesday following the finding of the mystery note on Monday, and in the fire, from which she and her husband and two children narrowly escaped with their lives, a shoe box full of letters from Leoda Childress were destroyed.

Mrs. Cox further testified that several days before the home burned she saw two men approach the house. Both had shotguns. They stopped near the front of the house, she said, and she overheard one of the men say: "That's her there." Mrs. Cox later identified Luther Tilley as one of the two men.

In regard to the letters which were destroyed, one was about the way the Tilley's were treating Leoda. Upon receipt of this letter Mrs. Cox testified that she went to the Tilley home with her husband and brought Leoda away. She said Leoda asked Mrs. Tilley for her bank book, and that Mrs. Tilley replied "If you go you'll never get it."

Questioned about the burning of her home, Mrs. Cox testified that there was no trace of fire when she and her husband retired. She said the kitchen stove was cold. Upon being awakened by a neighbor about 2:30 in the morning the entire kitchen was enveloped in flames and she and her family had to run through them to escape.

Leoda later went back to the Tilley's to live, Mrs. Cox said. She said she didn't know Leoda had been killed until the Wednesday following the murder.

Deputy Sheriff Tyre Barker, upon taking the stand, testified that he talked to Luther Tilley the Monday the note was found. He said Luther told him how badly the girl's death hurt him and that he didn't believe Andrew Smoot did it. "I know he didn't pull the trigger," Barker quoted Tilley.

The deputy also testified that W. W. Tilley told him on Monday morning after the funeral that he didn't have any doubt but that he would get his money and papers back, because Leoda often hid them, and that she was good to look after things like that.

Mr. Barker also testified that he had heard that Mrs. Luther Tilley, upon her release from jail after her first arrest, went to the home of some friends and that she sent for Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Tilley, who came and held a secret conference with her.

Deputy Sheriff C. S. Foster testified that he questioned Luther Tilley before Tilley was arrested, and that Tilley told him the story of jumping the rabbit and running towards his father's home. He said Luther denied there had ever been trouble in the family over Leoda.

Mr. Foster also stated that he questioned Kelly Brown about his part in finding the girl, but that Brown didn't want to talk.

I. J. Bell testified that he went to the Tilley home in the afternoon of the Sunday the girl was buried. He said "one of Tilley's girls" wanted to show him the clothes Leoda was wearing when killed, but that Tilda

Solicitor Jones and Star Witness



Left, Solicitor John R. Jones, whose untiring investigation of the death of Leoda Childress has resulted in the apprehension of five of the Tilley family. Right, Nate Tharpe, who was one of the first to find the slain girl and who gave damaging testimony against Luther Tilley at the coroner's hearing today.

Jane Darnell wouldn't let him see the clothes.

Another witness, Miss Lexie Settle, said she was at the home soon after the murder occurred. She stated she saw the tablet upon which the murder note was supposed to have been written, and that some of the people there were looking through it. She said Mrs. W. W. Tilley asked them what they were looking for, and when they replied they thought there might be a note, Mrs. Tilley said "you won't find a note in that tablet."

Miss Settle also testified that it was she who put through the call for Dr. H. C. Salmons when the body of the girl was first found.

Mrs. J. M. Yarborough testified that she had loaned Nate Tharpe a .22 rifle and several cartridges several days before the murder was committed. Mr. Tharpe having already testified that he had a cartridge in his pocket upon reaching the murder scene. He said he had been killing pigs. It was shown that the cartridges which Mrs. Yarborough had loaned him were .22 shorts.

Mr. Sides was called back to the stand to identify a .22 bullet which he said W. W. Tilley had given him as the one Mr. Tharpe had slipped into the death rifle upon reaching the Tilley home the day of the murder. However, this cartridge was of the long variety.

Mrs. Dessie Cockerham stated from the stand that she had a talk with Mrs. W. W. Tilley after Leoda's death, and that Mrs. Tilley said when she first heard of the affair as she was in Dr. Salmons' office at Elkin she got the impression that some of Luther's children had been in an automobile wreck. It was on the way home from Elkin that it suddenly came to her that Leoda had been killed, the witness testified Mrs. Tilley told her.

The witness also stated that Mrs. Tilley told her that her husband felt as if Leoda wanted to speak to him.

Erskine Pardue stated that he had a talk with Mr. Tilley on Sunday after the girl's funeral and that Mr. Tilley told him that he wasn't uneasy about getting his money back.

Deputy Barker, upon being recalled to the stand near the end of the hearing, testified that he had talked with Clyde Tilley since the boy's arrest, and that Clyde told him he believed Leoda killed herself and that he wished the note hadn't been found. He said Clyde told him that if it wasn't suicide, then Mrs. Luther Tilley did it or else had it done.

The witness also stated that Clyde admitted having gotten himself into a mess and said he might get two years over it. When reminded by Deputy Barker that he might get 25 years, Clyde replied he would get only six years. Said he had been reading law.

The courtroom was crowded to full capacity, an estimated crowd of over a thousand being on hand. Eugene Trivette, attorney for Mrs. Luther Tilley, was present and requested that his client be present. She was brought into the courtroom by Sheriff Bill Somers.

Prominent Harmony Physician Is Dead

F. L. P. Gross, 36, widely known physician of Harmony, Iredell county, died at his home Friday from an illness of about one hour from heart ailment. Dr. Gross was a graduate of Wake Forest College and later studied his profession in Baltimore. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Gross of Harmony. Surviving is his wife and two small children, his parents, four sisters and three brothers. Funeral services were held at Harmony Saturday.

Change Name of Firm To Elkin Electric Co.

The Wiles Electric company, of North Wilkesboro, which for the past several months has had a branch store here on a temporary basis, has

announced that the store will be made permanent and that it will be operated under the name of Elkin Electric Co.

The firm handles Crosley radios and all kinds of electrical goods and supplies. Electrical repair work on appliances and radios are also a part of the new firm's services. The store is located in the W. J. Snow building on East Main street.

Deputy Collector To Be Here 12-13

J. S. Atkinson, deputy collector of the federal department of revenue will be in Elkin February 12 and 13 to assist tax-payers in filing their income tax returns. He may be seen at Hotel Elkin during the two days.

Mr. Atkinson will be in Mount Airy February 14-15, and in Pilot Mountain February 20, for the same purpose.

Destroys Still

A steam still running at full blast when captured, and several thousand gallons of still beer were destroyed Saturday in the Traphill section by Deputy Sheriff W. B. Hall.

NOTICE

Having qualified as Administrator of the estate of Mrs. DeEtte Kapp Hanes, all persons holding claims against said estate will hereby take notice that they are required to present the same to the undersigned within 12 months from this date or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Also all persons owing said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This the 26th day of January, 1934.

W. L. REECE, Administrator.

WANTS

Wanted: Candy Salesman for Elkin and surrounding territory to distribute line of penny and five cent candies and peanut butter sandwiches to retail stores. Applicant must own light type sedan automobile and be able to furnish personal Surety bond. Address reply to Rawls-Dickson Candy Co., Box 2098, Winston-Salem, N. C. 2-8c

REAL ESTATE

For Sale: 123 acre farm 11 miles from Elkin, 1/4 mile from hard surface highway and school bus. 15 acres or more of creek bottom. A fine corn and tobacco farm. Price \$10 per acre for cash.

For Sale: 42 acre farm, 3 1/2 miles from Elkin, 1/2 mile from National highway and school bus. 7-room house, garage, smokehouse, feed barn, cow barn, chicken house, tobacco barn, pack-house with good casing basement. 8 acres bottom land, 20 acres fenced for pasture. More than 100 nursery fruit trees. Spring a few yards from kitchen door. Less than 1 mile from two churches and consolidated school. Price \$1800., one-half cash, balance on good terms. Phone us just when you want to move.

D. C. MARTIN and W. S. REICH

SOCIETY.

Doughton-Turner

A beautiful wedding of cordial interest to a number of friends of the contracting parties was that of Miss Pauline Elizabeth Turner to Claude Thomas Doughton, which was solemnized at the Centenary Methodist church in Winston-Salem Saturday afternoon at 4:30, with Rev. G. Jordan Ray, pastor of the church, officiating.

Mrs. Doughton is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Turner, of Winston-Salem and is an exceptionally talented and attractive young woman. Mr. Doughton is the son of Congressman and Mrs. R. L. Doughton of Washington and Laurel Springs. He is cashier of the Deposit and Savings Bank at North Wilkesboro, where they will reside.

When purchasing an article advertised in The Tribune, tell the merchant you saw it in this paper.

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