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Young Cobb Pays The Death Penalty In Electric Chair

Had Absolute Control Of Himself When He Walked to Execution

Acknowledged The Crime

Said That He Shot Thomas Shaw, Merchant, But Did Not Intend Kill- ing Him

(Special to the Journal.)

Raleigh Mar 6

R. W. Cobb the young white man who last May in Halifax County, shot and killed Thomas Shaw, a merchant, paid the full penalty of the law this morning at ten thirty o'clock when eighteen hundred volts of electricity were shot through his body, in the death chamber of the state prison. Blanched as he walked to the chair, but otherwise he had absolute control of himself, showing much greater coolness than the guards whose frames shook as they adjusted the appliance. He entered the chamber in advance of his guards, shook hands with Warden T. F. Sale and walked alertly to the chair. The current was on for six seconds. Surgeons then examined Cobb and pronounced life to be extinct. Rev. Dr. W. McWhite, Pastor of first Presbyterian Church, Cobb's spiritual adviser, today made public a statement made to him Wednesday by Cobb. In this Cobb confessed to killing Shaw but said he did not shoot to kill.

Story Of The Crime.

The killing of Thomas Shaw, who ran a store about two miles from Roanoke Rapids, took place in May of last year. Mr. Shaw, who was a middle-aged man with a wife and nine children, was in the habit of keeping the store open on Saturday nights until 10 or 11 o'clock, and carrying from the store to his home across the road and about a hundred yards away, the money taken in on Saturdays, usually between \$400 and \$500.

Cobb, having learned of this habit, went to Shaw's residence one Saturday night about 10 o'clock and secreted himself in a corner of the porch where it joined the house, by the steps. About 15 minutes later Shaw came along with a shot bag containing about \$400 or \$500. He was accompanied by his little boy, about 11 years old. When he reached the steps of his residence, Cobb rose up and presented a pistol, and commanded Shaw to hold up his hands. Shaw stated, before his death that he thought it was one of his neighbors fooling with him, and simply told Cobb to go on away, and quit his foolishness, and continued to walk on toward the steps without raising his hands. Cobb again ordered him to hold up his hands, and about the same time fired, hitting his victim in the stomach.

Shaw fell and cried out. His wife heard the cry and went to him, while the little boy ran down the road and overtook two or three men who had just left the store when Shaw closed it, and brought them to the scene. Cobb had fled by the time Mrs. Shaw got to the porch steps, and she heard some one running, immediately after Shaw's outcry, toward an oat patch at the side of the house, surrounded by a wire fence.

Many neighbors soon gathered, and Shaw stated that he was unable to identify the persons who had shot him, but he was sure it was a white man. The bag of money was found lying among some scattered bricks six or eight feet from where Shaw fell. Evidently Cobb had been too much frightened to look for it, or had been unable to find it after it was dropped.

Following the Track.

Tracks were found in the jamb of the porch, where the murderer had stood, and no one was allowed to step on them until bloodhounds could be secured. Some of the neighbors went in an automobile to the north farm twenty-five miles away to

the hounds about five in the morning. The dogs were put on the track in the jamb of the porch, and immediately ran off in the direction Mrs. Shaw had heard the person run. To make sure they were starting in on the right track, they were brought back to the track in the porch, and they went off again in the same direction. It was then discovered that the man had jumped the wire fence into the oat patch and had run diagonally across it to the public road; the tracks were very plain across the soft ground. The dogs unable to get over the fence, circled the patch and struck the track out on the other side where it came out.

There was found the track of a bicycle that had come up the road from the direction of Roanoke Rapids and propped against the wire fence. It was evident that the person who had crossed the patch had taken the bicycle and ridden back down the road toward Roanoke Rapids. The dogs ceased to make music, and the people followed the bicycle track. At intervals, when the road was rough or he would lose his balance, the rider would step off the wheel and push it. Whenever those tracks appeared, the dogs would open up.

The track was followed in this way to where it entered the main avenue leading into Roanoke Rapids. The rider was joined by another, who had been waiting at this point with another bicycle, and the first rider changed to the other bicycle without getting to the ground, and the man who had been waiting took the bicycle the first one had been riding. The people continued to follow the original bicycle track and traced it to the home of Clyde Taylor, where it was found in the porch. This bicycle has a tread with nine little ridges in it, and the track all the way had corresponded with it. But the dogs would not run any track from where the wheel was found in Taylor's porch and this was quite a mystery until later, when Gherkin, who was the accomplice of Cobb, explained how they had exchanged wheels. It was afterwards ascertained that Cobb, on that same night, had borrowed Clyde Taylor's bicycle, and he admitted at the trial that he rode it that night, but he claimed to have gone to another house in the same direction. It was shown, however, that the track of the wheel did not go to that house, and its occupants stated that he had not been there.

Some of the Evidence.

The wheel track was pretty clear all the way from Roanoke Rapids to Shaw's place and back again, and the testimony was that no traffic had been along the road since the new track had been made.

Cobb had been heard to plan several months before to go out there and get the money, and it had been stated that the trip would be made on bicycles because bloodhounds could not run bicycles, and also that Clyde Taylor's wheel would be used. It was also stated and not denied by Cobb, that he had tried to borrow a pistol from several different people that afternoon. It was shown that he got to town that night about half an hour after the killing, dusty and hatless. On the Friday before he had said to a young man that he knew where there was a good thing in the country, and if his plans worked out he would go to Norfolk on Sunday, and invited the young man to go with him to Norfolk.

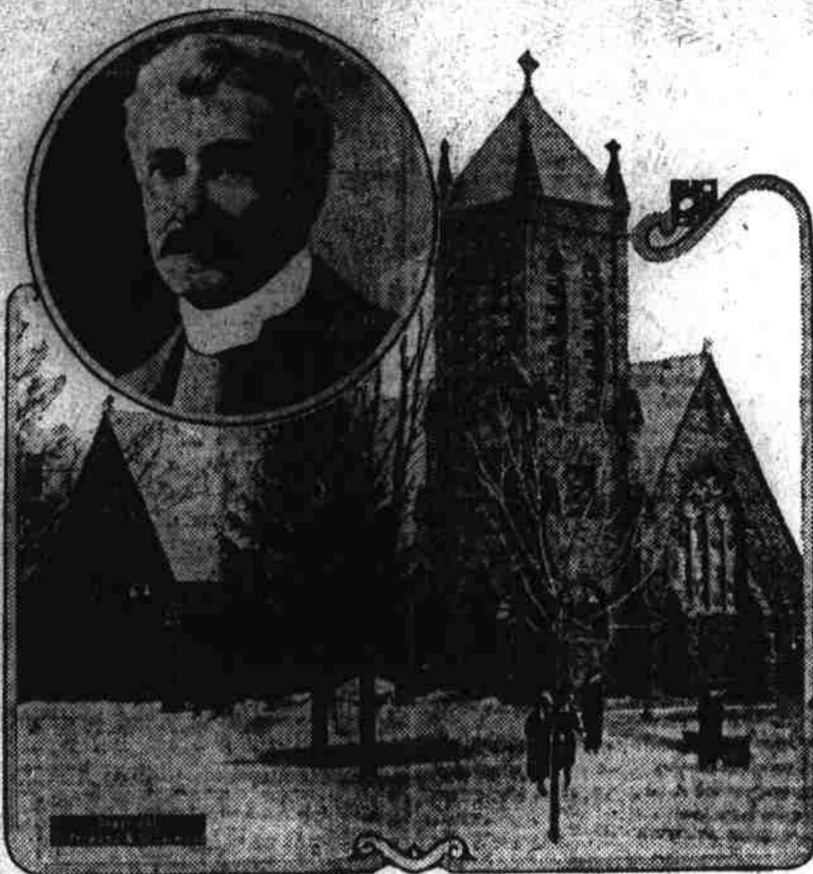
THE HYGEIA OPENS TODAY

Modern Ice Cream Parlor and Lunch Room

The Hygeia, an up-to-date ice cream parlor and dairy lunch room, will be opened today at No. 133 Middle Street by E. K. Howden, Mr. Howden intends conducting the Hygeia for the better class of people and their patronage is solicited.

The ice cream parlor will be located in the front part of the building while the lunch room will be in the rear.

Where Vincent Astor Will Be Married



St. Margaret's church at Staatsburg, N. Y., where Vincent Astor, the multi-millionaire of New York city, will marry the beautiful Miss Helen Huntington some time this spring. The inset shows Rev. Dr. Duncan, who will officiate at the wedding.

PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS OF STATE TO ORGANIZE

Call Soon To Be Issued For Meeting In Raleigh With The Purpose To Elect A Legislature Which Shall Represent The Sentiment Of The People of North Carolina For Progressive Measures.

Washington, D. C., March 6.—A call for the progressive Democrats of North Carolina to meet and organize in effective force for progressive legislation will be issued in a few days.

Its principal object according to information here, is to elect a Legislature which will represent the sentiment of the majority of people in North Carolina. This Legislature will be expected to enact progressive legislation of the sort which has previously been killed by the standpat element in the State's lawmaking body.

Leading Democrats in Movement

The idea was born in Raleigh about two weeks ago at a meeting in the office of Clarence Poe, where leaders in the State Farmer's Union and in the Social Service League came together and developed this idea as a common plan. Clarence Poe, Dr. H. Q. Alexander, of Charlotte, and J. W. Bailey, of Raleigh, were appointed as a committee to issue the call. About twenty-five attended the meeting. The call will be signed by the leading Democrats throughout the State.

In Raleigh Within Thirty Days.

The meeting will be held in Raleigh within the next thirty days. An organization in every county in the State ready to figure in the primary and conventions in which members of the Legislature will be nominated will be effected. The platform of the organization will be modeled along the line of the one framed by J. W. Bailey and published in The News and Observer on the fourth of January.

In State and Congressional Races

The organization has now planned, and expects to figure to figure not only in State election but in the Congressional races. Its backers expect it to be the strongest force in the politics of the State throughout the organization and at the next session of the Legislature.

Action Before Election

A legalized primary, equalization of taxes, and other progressive measures will be pushed in advance of the elections instead of only after the Legislature, generally a hostile one meets. W. E. Yelverton.

GEORGE W. VANDERBILT DIES AT WASHINGTON

UNDERWENT AN OPERATION IN THAT CITY SEVERAL DAYS AGO

(Special to the Journal.)

Washington, D. C., March 6.—George W. Vanderbilt, the millionaire founder of Biltmore, one of the finest estates in the world and which is located near Asheville, died today in this city following a surgical operation several days ago.

MALONE VS. PHILLIPS.

Interesting Exhibition of Billiards At Wilmington

After a very interesting exhibition of pocket billiards at the Crescent Cigar Co., last night, Malone, ex champion, conceded odds of 15 start in a 50-point match to Sam Phillips. Malone won by one point, 50 to 34. High runs: Malone, 31; Phillips, 15. Mr. Malone will play two members of the Cape Fear Club in their quarters tonight. Malone will play ballroom while the members will play unrestricted.

BAKE AT THE PARISH HOUSE THIS MORNING

This morning a "bake" will be held at the Parish House and the public is requested an invitation to be present.

FOUR SOUTHERN STATES FEEL THE EARTH SHOCKS

Georgia Probably Was Center Of Disturbance

LASTED SEVERAL SECONDS

The Tremors Were Light And Rap- id—Recorded At Mobile

Atlanta, Ga., March 6.—Seismic shocks, slight but distinct, were felt late today in many cities and towns of Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and the Carolinas. At numerous points business buildings and residences trembled, windows rattled and mild excitement prevailed. In the rural districts negroes were badly frightened. As recorded by the seismograph at Mobile, the tremors were light but rapid, indicating that the disturbance was not far distant. Reports from many sections tonight were that the shocks did no damage and that no one was injured.

Recorded at Mobile

Mobile, Ala., March 6.—Seismic disturbances, the third to be recorded within the last two weeks, were registered by the seismograph at Spring Hill College here at 3:05 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The waves were rapid and the recording impression was slight, indicating, according to the authorities, that the disturbance was not far away. The seismograph recorded a succession of tremors within a period of about ten minutes, but those occurring about 3:05 were the most violent.

In Sunny Tennessee

Chattanooga, Tenn., March 5.—A distinct earth tremor, slight but unmistakable, was felt here late today. The disturbance was noticed but by few persons.

Distinctly at Anderson

Anderson, S. C., March 6.—At 4:15 this afternoon a distinct seismic shock was felt throughout this county.

At Greenville, S. C.

Greenville, S. C., March 6.—A slight earth tremor was felt here late this afternoon. No damage has been reported.

Lasted Several Seconds

Columbus, Ga., March 6.—An earth shock, lasting several seconds, was felt here and at Girard, Ala., just across the river late today.

Felt at Athens

Athens, Ga., March 6.—A distinct earth tremor, apparently an earthquake, was felt here at 4:05 this afternoon.

Shook Buildings

Macon, Ga., March 5.—An earthquake shock was felt here at 3:06 P. M. It shook chandeliers in the Federal building and houses in the residence sections trembled. The shock was felt throughout Central Georgia.

THE TABERNACLE'S HEAT- ING PLANT IN READINESS

WILL BE RUNNING FULL BLAST FOR SERVICES ON SUN- DAY

Rev. J. B. Phillips and his congregation are happy over the fact of having the heating plant in shape so that everyone can keep warm while they worship in the Tabernacle.

The Sunday school will assembled at 9:45 tomorrow and every pupil is urged to be present.

Preaching at 11 a. m., by the pastor Mr. Phillips will conclude at this time the study he began last Sunday on "Pentecost." All lovers of the deeper Christian life are invited to attend and bring their Bibles. The service at night will begin at 7 o'clock and the pastor will hold only a brief meeting and then the congregation will go in a body to the First Baptist Church to hear Mr. Martin. The public are cordially invited.

RECEIVES ANOTHER CAR OF FORD AUTOMOBILES

D. H. Gaskins, local agent for the Ford Motor Company, yesterday received another car load of these machines. The Ford is proving very popular down in this section of the state and many of them have been disposed of.

ALLEGED MINISTER DESERTS BRIDE IN ASHEVILLE

Started To A Laundry And Never Returned

HIS WIFE WITHOUT FUNDS

Local Police Asked To Be On The Lookout For the Missing Man

The police down in this part of the State, and in fact all over North Carolina, have been asked to keep a watch for John S. Haymes, a man who posed as a minister and who on last Monday deserted his week-old bride at Asheville.

The Asheville Citizen yesterday carried the following account of the affair: "Trusting with implicit faith in the love and integrity of the man she married less than a week ago, Mrs. John S. Haymes, formerly Miss Matilda Roberts, of Madison county, came with her husband to Asheville Monday with the understanding that they were to make a tour of the cities in the Southern States and finally go to the home of Haymes in Fort Smith, Ark., where they were to make their future home, only to be deserted here without friends or funds to make her way back home to her people. Haymes disappeared Tuesday afternoon and although the Asheville police have scoured the city and sent out warnings not a trace of him has been found.

"Following the complaint to the police Mrs. Haymes told her story to a representative of The Citizen. She is a young woman of modest and intelligent appearance and seemed to be completely crushed by the misfortune that had befallen her. In spite of her evident anxiety to have the man apprehended there was little bitterness in her words, only a seeming numbness of sense of injury. Her story in part was as follows:

"His name is John S. Haymes, and he came to this section about three weeks ago as far as I have been able to find out. He first came to the Hot Springs section where he stayed more than a week. He walked from there across the mountain to the community where the farm of my father, William Roberts, is located, about three miles west of Benard station. He claimed to be a preacher and showed papers from the Ozark circuit in Arkansas. "He preached at the church near home three days and stayed at our house another week afterward. We were married then and he brought me to Asheville last Saturday. We went from Asheville to Weaverville that same afternoon and remained there until Monday, when we came here. "We rented rooms over a restaurant on North Lexington avenue and stayed there until yesterday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, when he left me, taking his suit case and a little leather grip. He stated that he was carrying some clothes to the laundry in the suit case and some minerals to be assayed the other.

"He never came back. I waited until a late hour last night and then complained to the police but they have not yet been able to find anything of him. I guess I had better tell you what he was like. He was about five feet eight inches tall, was forty-five years old, weighed about 166 pounds, being rather heavy set, had blue eyes and rather heavy eyebrows wore a dark suit, has perfect teeth and a double chin. He was always pleasant and nearly everybody liked him. Besides being a preacher he also claimed to be a lawyer and stated that he had been an attorney for the Frisco and Rock Island railroads. He also stated that he had been engaged in the mining of minerals and had at one time been employed by the Pittsburgh Iron Ore Company.

"He was well educated and had a pleasant address. He could translate both Greek and Latin and quote passages from the Bible very readily. He stated that his home is at Fort Smith, Ark., but that he has wandered over the greater part of the country during the past several years. He stated that a business matter would make it necessary for him to be in Springfield, Mo., April 10, and seemed anxious to get away from Asheville."

THE WEATHER

For New Bern and vicinity—Generally cloudy today. Not much change in temperature. Light west winds.