

# The Polk County News.

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NO. 8.

## WAS A MYSTERIOUS KILLING

### Sensational Killing Wherein a Motive Does Not Appear

## FAMILY TROUBLE IS ALLEGED

### Killing Grows Out of Domestic Difficulty About Which There is Considerable Mystery—The Slayer an the Sain Brother-in-Law.

Clina Grove, Special. — Edward Ashby shot and killed Dan Overcash near Kammopolis, just over the Cabarrus line and made good his escape. A posse with bloodhounds are in pursuit of the slayer, but at a late hour at night no word has come from the pursuers.

Overcash and Ashby were brothers-in-law and the tragedy grew out of a domestic difficulty about which there is considerable mystery. Persons who have arrived here from the neighborhood where the crime was committed tell the story of the crime and these details are given for what they are worth.

Ashby went to the house of Reese Pethel Sunday and accused Pethel's wife of improper conduct with Overcash, declaring that if Pethel would go with him to the woods he would produce proof of his charges. Pethel accompanied Ashby to the woods but, it is said, Ashby was unable to show the husband proof of the wife's misconduct. Pethel declared then that the best way to settle the matter was to interview Overcash, and Pethel and his wife went to Ashby's home after him. Ashby accompanied the Pethels willingly, but instead of stopping at Pethel's home where it had been agreed the conference was to be held, the Pethels took him beyond into a thicket, where Ashby was secreted. Ashby stepped out from his hiding place as Overcash approached and shot him dead, immediately taking flight.

There is considerable mystery behind the crime and it will require much investigation to bring to light the truth. Ashby, it is said, had threatened Sunday morning some years prior to the tragedy to kill Overcash on sight. Suspicion rests upon Pethel and his wife for complicity in a plot to kill Overcash and it is presumed that they will be arrested on that charge.

Sheriff Crowder of Rowan county was informed of the crime Sunday afternoon and with a posse and bloodhounds undertook the search for Ashby but thus far without success.

Ashby has the reputation of being a desperate character. About four years ago he killed his father Jim Ashby a noted whiskey transporter, because the father had brutally whipped his daughter, Edward Ashby's sister. The elder Ashby was known to have possessed a violent temper on this ground chiefly acquitted the son. It is said that the gun which Ashby used Sunday morning is the same weapon with which he killed his father.

## Funeral of Senator Morgan.

Selma, Ala., Special.—With every business house closed, with the industrial plants stopped and their portals draped in mourning, in the presence of 5,000 citizens, 500 of them from other parts of the State and nation, all that was mortal of John Tyler Morgan, Alabama's Senator for more than 30 years, was laid to rest here Sunday. As the casket was lowered into the earth, the strains of "Lead Kindly Light" floated on the air and tears sprang unbidden from a thousand eyes.

## Secretary Taft at St. Paul.

St. Paul, Minn., Special.—Secretary of War Taft arrived here from St. Paul Sunday. He said he had entirely recovered from his indisposition. Several hundred people called on to pay respects. He attended church and at 1 o'clock left for Fort Snelling with Senators Gamble and Kitching and Governor Crawford.

## Will Pay Visit to China.

Gainesville, Special.—Mr. and Mrs. John Carter and Mrs. J. T. Telford, left Wednesday for the far-off China where they will spend two months with Mr. and Mrs. Carter's children Mrs. S. E. Stephens and Mrs. E. L. Morgan, who are missionaries in that land. Mr. and Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Telford go to China via Seattle, Wash., from which port they take steamer. Mr. and Carter have given two of their daughters to missionary work in China.

## CAPSIZED LAUNCH DISCOVERED

### Several Bodies Found, But on Account of Confined Space Their Number Could Not Be Counted.

Newport News, Va., Special.—With canopy frame crushed, but canvass still tightly fastened down the missing launch of the battleship Minnesota was located in 27 feet of water, about 1,400 yards west by south of Port Wool Friday afternoon about 5 o'clock. Across the little craft a teat-tale piece of towing line served to convince the naval officers that they are right in their theory that the launch was run down by a float of some kind in tow of a tug. The diver who went down to examine the launch reported that the heads and arms of three men were protruding from beneath the canvass covering; the men having made a desperate fight for life when they were carried down like rats in a trap.

It is believed that certainly nine of the bodies will be under the canopy, but the fact that uniform capes of Midshipmen Ulrich and Stevenson were picked up in the roads indicates that these two must have succeeded in getting free from the boat before they were drowned.

Aboard the battleship Indiana Captain Mahan confirmed for the Associated Press the report of the finding of the launch. He said that all the facts had been wired to Washington and that an official report would be given out later. Searchlights from all the American battleships are playing upon the spot around which two floating derricks, the naval tug Potomac and half a dozen launches and cutters are anchored.

A diver is at the bottom of the roads, placing the cables with which the derricks will raise the launch. Officers and men on board the Atlantic fleet are waiting anxiously for the raising of the boat.

The ill-fated boat was found by the launches of the battleship Ohio and Iowa.

## Orchard's Story Upheld.

Boise, Special.—The prosecution in the Steunenberg murder trial Friday entering in earnest on the corroborative testimony of Harry Orchard's testimony, showed a continuous thread of evidence connecting George Pettibone's store in Denver with Orchard at San Francisco while engaged on the Bradley murder plot, partly developed another direct line by which it is hoped to show that Haywood engaged and paid Steve Adams for the same desperate work, and added special touches of confirmation to Orchard's general story. Officers of the postoffice at San Francisco and Denver produced original records showing that in August, 1904, a registered letter was sent under the name of "J. Wolf" from the address of Pettibone's store in Denver to "J. Dempsey," at the Golden West Hotel in San Francisco. Orchard swore that he stayed at the Golden West Hotel under an alias that was either "Dempsey" or "Hogan," that Pettibone used the aliases of "Wolf" and "Pat Bone" and that under the name of "Wolf," Pettibone in the month mentioned sent him a registered letter containing \$100 to pay his expenses while attempting to kill Bradley.

## Three Women Died in Flames.

Cincinnati, O., Special.—Three women were burned to death and two men were seriously injured in a fire that destroyed the four principal buildings of the Shaker settlement at Whitewater village, near Harrison, Ohio. Mrs. Kuele Dear, Katharine Stern and Mary Middleton, three aged women who occupied quarters in the main building, were the victims. They were burned to death before any one could arouse them. Charles Stern and Andrew Bass were seriously injured in making their escape from the burning building.

## A Terrific Hail Storm.

Millen, Ga., Special.—A terrific hail storm, the path of which was four miles wide and 10 miles long, has wrought havoc with growing crops in Jenkins county. The 10-horse farm of E. Daniel was completely destroyed and a seven-horse farm of the Daniel Son and Palmer Company is practically a total loss. The hail stones killed grown chickens in many places and went entirely through watermelons.

## Negro Hanged For Murder.

Milton, Fla., Special.—Nathan Woodall, a young negro, was hanged here Friday for the murder of Walter Morgan, last January. He confessed his crime on the gallows and spoke for an hour, advising the people of his race to lead better lives. He was perfectly calm and assisted the sheriff in adjusting the noose. His neck was broken.

## DEATH OF SENATOR MORGAN

### Famous Southern Statesman Passes Away

## WAS AN OLD-TIME GENTLEMAN

### Distinguished Alabamian, for Thirty Years a Member of the Upper House of Congress, and Prominent in the Affairs of the Nation, Passes Away at the Ripe Old Age of 83.

Washington, D. C., Special.—United States Senator John Tyler Morgan, of Alabama, for 30 years a member of the upper house of Congress, chairman of the Senate committee on inter-oceanic canals and prominent as a Brig. General in the Confederate army, died at his home here Tuesday night. Senator Morgan had been in bad health for a number of years, but had more or less regularly attended the sessions of Congress. He suffered from angina pectoris, which was the cause of death. He passed away at 11:45 o'clock. At the bedside were his daughters, Miss Mary Morgan and Miss Cornelia Morgan, both of this city, and his secretary, J. O. Jones.

Mr. Morgan was a Democrat and was born in Athens, Tenn., June 20, 1824. His home in Alabama was at Selma, where the funeral will take place.

## Morgan Funeral Committee

Washington, Special.—The committee appointed by Vice President Fairbanks to represent the Senate at the funeral of the late Senator John T. Morgan at Selma, Ala., is as follows: Senators Pettus, Allison, Frye, Cullom, Daniel, Simmons, McLaughlin, Culberson, Perkins, Bacon, McCreary, Elkins, Tillman, Frazier, Gallinger, Rayner, Mallory, McEnery, Clarke of Arkansas; Nelson, Stone, Proctor, White, Talafiero, Overman, Foraker, Crane and Scott.

The following were named to represent the House of Representatives at the funeral: The entire Alabama delegation: Bartlett, Georgia; Livingstone, Georgia; Gillespie, Texas, and Brownlow, Tennessee.

No funeral services will be held at the Washington home.

## State Mourns Late Senator.

Montgomery, Ala., Special.—The State ceased business Wednesday to mourn the death of Senator Morgan. The flag on the Capitol is at half-mast and the Governor has issued a proclamation reciting the Senator's virtues, his service to the State and long public career. The death of the Senator was reported to the Governor by Senator Pettus, his colleague. By primary least summer ex-Congressman J. H. Bankhead was nominated for any vacancy that might occur by death or incapacity of either of the Senators. The endorsement is for appointment to an unexpired term and does not apply to an election, as the platform of the primary stipulated such appointment would be only to the next regular or adjourned term of the Legislature.

## Convict Chief Witness.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Special.—On the third day of the investigation of the charge of contempt of the United States Supreme Court by Sheriff Shipp, Arthur Waller, a convict, now doing time for manslaughter, was the principal witness. He testified as to a conversation with the day jailer on the day of the lynching which it is charged should have been prevented. Two other witnesses were called, their evidence being unimportant.

## Roosevelt Children on the Sylph.

New Haven, Conn. Special.—The president's yacht Sylph was in this harbor over-night and during the morning Masters Quentin and Kermit and Miss Ethel Roosevelt, with a governess, came here from Farmington and were taken aboard. The Sylph then sailed for Oyster Bay. The children had been on a visit to Mrs. Cowles their aunt.

## At Washington and Lee.

Lexington, Va., Special.—Commemorative day exercises at Washington and Lee University were held in Lee Memorial Chapel, presided over by President Denny. Degrees were conferred on 66 graduates, of which 28 were in the law course. Hamilton Wright Mable, of New York, delivered the annual address before the Literary Societies. The law class oration was delivered by David Scott MacDonald, of Keyser, W. Va., and the valedictory address by Carl Converse Crockett, of Wilmore, Ky.

## NORTH CAROLINA AFFAIRS

### Items of Interest From Many Parts of the State

## MINOR MATTERS OF STATE NEWS

### Happenings of More or Less Importance Told in Paragraphs—The Cotton Markets.

## Many New Pharmacists.

Lake Toxaway, Special.—The North Carolina Pharmaceutical Association convened here in the hall of the Toxaway Inn, with its president C. A. Ransom of Asheville in the chair. The address of welcome was made by Mr. J. L. Alexander of Toxaway Inn, and was responded to by Mr. C. R. Thomas, of Thomasville. At the session the reports of the officers and committees were made and new members received. The North Carolina Board of Pharmacy passed out of a class of 43 the following successful applicants: J. G. Abernathy, Lenoir; J. T. Abernathy, Gosport; Charles M. Andrews, Chapel Hill; D. G. Atkins, Durham; D. S. Chapman, Greenville; A. D. Currie, Jr., Salisbury; I. L. Davis, Jr., Morganton; A. G. Elliott, Durham; C. T. Edridge, Greensboro; T. L. Farrow, Jr., Winston-Salem; John W. Fuller, (Colored) Salisbury; H. P. Kennedy, Jr., (Colored), Greensboro; R. E. Kibler, Morganton; H. C. Lutz, Granite Falls; W. A. Lane, Newbern; J. E. Marion Elkin; Earl Morrow, Gastonia; R. E. Moody, Charlotte; J. H. Patterson, Jr. (Colored) Durham; R. R. Palmer, Warrenton; J. L. Robinson, Lowell; J. L. Ranson, Charlotte; A. M. Seest, Monroe; E. L. Webb, Roxboro; J. B. Whittington, East Bend.

## Horrible Self-Destruction.

Lumberton, Special.—A most horrible tragedy occurred two miles east of here in which Mrs. Francis Phillips aged 70 years was the victim. Her mind had been unbalanced for some time and she had repeatedly threatened to take her life. Two weeks ago she attempted to drink concentrated lye. At another time she was taken from the railroad track just before an approaching train. Arrangements had been made to take her to the asylum and when Deputy Higley and Mr. E. D. McNeill went for her she had disappeared. Searching they found her a short distance beyond the house lying dead in the road, with her clothing burned off her. A box of matches was lying near by. The inference is all too plain that she took her life.

## Doctors Hold Final Session.

Morehead City, Special.—The North Carolina Medical Association met in its final session. Papers were read by Drs. Jones, of Newbern; Headen, of Morehead. The report of the house of delegates was received and resolutions of thanks to the local committee and the Atlantic Hotel and Col. Frank P. Morton, the genial proprietor for the courtesies shown the society, were passed. Dr. Howell Way the new president was then introduced to the society which adjourned to meet in Winston-Salem, the date to be fixed later. The meeting was up to the average scientifically, but numerically it was not.

## Cleve Richardson Arrested.

Monroe, Special.—Cleve Richardson the negro who shot and almost fatally wounded Bob Brewer in a fight over a woman here last November and then escaped was arrested at Chester, S. C. last Monday just after finishing a term on the chain gang there. He has been brought to Monroe and will have a preliminary hearing in the recorder's court this week.

## The Rowland Case.

Raleigh, Special.—Although the chemists have reported that no evidence of poisoning have been found against Dr. Rowland, the cases against him will be tried in court. His friends now believe him innocent of the grave charges, but that he is a victim of circumstances.

## Tar Heel Notes.

A special order issued from the office of the Adjutant General accepts the Beaufort division of naval militia and also a company of infantry of the First regiment at Shelby. Another order disbands Company M of the 3d regiment at Sanford upon recommendation of the inspector general, who found in April that the company did not meet the requirements of the law.

State Auditor Dixon says that great numbers of corporation reports are now coming in. The entire time of one of his clerks is devoted to corporation matters.

In a few days there is to be a vote on the new county of which Jonesboro-Sanford will be the county seat. It is said that only three votes will be cast against it.

Both the North Carolina Senators and Congressmen E. Y. Webb were appointed to attend the funeral of Senator Morgan, of Alabama.

At Federal Court at Charlotte, Franc F. Jones pleaded guilty of embezzlement. He returned \$5,000 of the stolen money to the bank.

The North Carolina State Veterinary Medical Association meets in Charlotte July 3-4. The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners meets there on the 3d to examine applicants for license.

Petitions have been received for five new Masonic lodges. The Masons are growing rapidly in North Carolina this year, and it is believed the increase in membership will perhaps exceed that of last year, which broke the record. If it reaches 2,000, the figure expected, the total membership of 20,000.

## Acquitted of Peonage Charge.

Macon, Ga., Special.—Paul E. Wheeler, a farmer of Putnam county was tried here in the United States commissioner's court on a charge of peonage. It was claimed that Wheeler returned and held unlawfully, one Henry Smith. After hearing the evidence, Commissioner W. E. Martin released the accused man.

## Memphis Firemen Stop a Very Bad Blaze.

Memphis, Special.—By one of the most remarkable fights ever made by the Memphis fire department a disastrous conflagration was prevented and a loss that might have reached into the hundreds of thousands was limited to about \$10,000, when the fire fighters subdued in an incredibly short time the conflagration in the Hill cotton shed Madison avenue and Wellington street. The blaze was one of the most spectacular ever witnessed in Memphis and drew a large crowd.

## Dispatch From Secretary Metcalf.

Washington, Special.—A dispatch was received at the Navy Department at 2:15 o'clock Wednesday afternoon from Secretary Metcalf. It was dated at Fortress Monroe and made some inquiry about departmental matters. The officials here are now satisfied that the Secretary and party, whose vessel, the tender Maple, was long delayed in returning from a trip to Jamestown Island, is all right.

## Two Killed; 11 Hurt in Wreck.

Washington, Pa., Special.—Two were killed and 11 injured in a wreck on the Wabash road one mile east of Hickory near here, when the Toledo Express, westbound, crashed into a coal train on a siding telescoping the smoker and a Pullman car. The flagman of the coal train, who is said to be responsible for letting the passenger train in on the siding occupied by the coal train, disappeared immediately after the crash.

## JONES GIVEN SIX YEARS

### Judge James E. Boyd Sends Self-Convicted Bank Embezzler to the Atlanta, Ga., Prison for a Term of Six Years—Jones Makes Sensational Statement in Which He Tells the Story of His Fall and Implicates Several Others in His Wrongdoing.

Charlotte, N. C., Special.—Much interest has been felt in the trial of Franc H. Jones, the defaulting assistant teller of the Charlotte National Bank, who on March 16th left the city, having stolen approximately \$80,000 of the bank's funds.

Judge James E. Boyd Monday afternoon sentenced him to serve six years in a Federal prison as a measure of punishment for the crime.

The ending of his much-talked-of case was dramatic in the extreme. Jones himself took the stand and, in a statement full of sensational utterances told how he had come to fall and detailed the history of his operations from first to last. Demands made upon him by his distressed mother for needed funds for his invalid father he said had led him to take the first fatal step. Once started he could never recover, sinking deeper and deeper in debt and ever striving to recoup. His losses he estimated at between \$70,000 and \$75,000. Among those to whom he had lost money were Messrs. C. Bell, Bell & Fonville, D. A. Hurley, and V. P. Randolph & Co. He implicates Percy G. Fonville, the ex-Charlotte, Rock Hill and Fort Mill, S. C., stock broker whom he declared was his partner in business. As a result of his disclosures, another arrest was made last night, that of Mr. Boyce Bell, who will be called upon to answer the charges of "aiding and abetting" in this embezzlement.

In response to questions, Jones declared that there was much speculation going on around him, and that this means was the only one which appealed to him as one by which he could get-rich-quick.



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