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FAIR

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Scoutlets

Preston H. Brown of Andrews called our hand this week when we asked "Give us a two word definition for a 'Northern marathon talkathon'. But not as we had planned. Our definition is "Southern filibuster". Mr. Brown's definition is "walkie-talkie". Undoubtedly Mr. Brown did some research in the dictionary for the word marathon means a long talk. Okay, Mr. Brown, we concede. You get the one year free subscription to The Scout we offered.

Our hat's off to Johnny Moore, 15 year old son of Mrs. R. A. Martin, of Murphy for his honesty. On his way home from the square dance at the Rock Gym last Friday night Johnny took a short cut through an alley between the New Regal Hotel and Murphy Tire and Appliance Store. After kicking a box that seemed a little heavy, Johnny investigated, to find a new shotgun in the box and took it to the City Police Station. The gun was claimed by the owner Saturday morning. Congratulations, Johnny, good work.

Mrs. Horace Hembree of Murphy, sister of Miss Tommie Almond, our bookkeeper, underwent open-heart surgery at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta Wednesday, Sept. 2. After a check with the hospital this afternoon, we learned that she came through the surgery fine. If you would like to send her a card her address is 3rd Floor, West; Room D-342; Emory University Hospital, Atlanta 22, Ga.

Mrs. Rosa Ledford has a unique vine growing beside the Sunset Motel which she allows must be a "male" watermelon vine. Now we don't know the difference between a male and female watermelon vine, but we did go over and take a gander at it. The vine has many blooms and a couple of small melons that are shaped like gourds. Mrs. Ledford said it must be a "male" vine because it hasn't borne a full-sized watermelon. The vine is really unique in several ways. It came up voluntarily through a patch of Bermuda grass and flowers. Also the vine came up in 1962, skipped 1963, and made its appearance again this year. Doesn't really look like a watermelon vine to me, but we'll get a picture of it to show you next week.

Boy, the Baptist Ball Club really tromped on the Jaycees in an unscheduled grudge softball game last Tuesday night. The Baptist Nine has been screaming for blood for the past several weeks cause we beat 'em so bad before. Well, they took revenge this time scoring 24 runs, behind the pitching of Preacher Bill. It wasn't as bad as it sounds as the Jaycees squeezed out 16 runs of their own. This doesn't really prove anything, for now both clubs have won one game each. I think the sensible thing to do is have a playoff. Scoutlet Note: I wouldn't have run this story this week since I pitched for the Jaycees, but I was being threatened by Preacher Bill and his ball club. And I'm skeered of 'em.

We realize that the escape of Seth Gibson and his crimes are very serious business. However, we must pass this little tidbit on to you. While cohort Red Schuyler and I were downtown having a pot of coffee yesterday morning, we heard the comment that if Gibson wasn't caught by Thursday morning, authorities should watch the newspaper racks, 'cause they were sure that he wouldn't be able to do without his SCOUT and they could nab him as he made the purchase.

We've been reading a very fine newspaper from down Copperhill way, THE COPPER CITY ADVANCE, and we noticed a weekly column that always ends "C'est la V." Our French isn't too good, but our interpretation is "That's life." However, the Nantahala Library informs us that the phrase is spelled "C'est la vie". How about it, fellows, how does the capital V on the end?

It's Fair Time again and the Lions Club promises a big to do with fine exhibits and rides for the kiddies. The

Retraction

In the August 20 issue of The Cherokee Scout, Lewis Ogle's name appeared in Recorder's Court stating that a 90 day sentence had been imposed on him. The editor of The Scout regrets this typographical error. Mr. Ogle's name should not have appeared in connection with this case.

Clothing Fire Fatal

To Child Near Murphy

MURPHY - A little girl died Friday night, August 28, in a Blairsville, Ga., hospital of burns received Thursday afternoon in her home near here when her clothing caught fire.

The child, Martha Tanya Payne, was believed to have been playing with matches. She was a year and a half old.

Surviving are the parents, Dennis Victor and Shirley Marie Deck Payne of Blairsville, Rt. 4, a sister, Bonita Marie; two brothers, Victor Dennis and John Lawrence, all of the home; the paternal grandmother, Mrs. Carrie Payne of Brasstown; and the maternal grandmother, Mrs. Isabelle Deck of Baldwinville, N. Y.

Services were held Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in Green Cove Baptist Church with the Rev. C. A. Smith officiating.

Burial was in the church cemetery. Townson Funeral Home was in charge.

Sheriff Raids

Still At Unaka

MURPHY - Cherokee County sheriff, Claude Anderson, assisted by Robert Hartness and Vergil Hogsd destroyed on illegal whiskey still at Unaka, in the Thompson Community, Saturday, August 29.

The raid took place about 2:00 p.m. Thirty gallons of white whiskey was destroyed by the officers.

According to Sheriff Anderson, the whiskey was in half-gallon jars. No arrests have been made at this time.

Negro Pupils

Are Attending

Murphy High

MURPHY - Negro pupils are attending Murphy High School for the first time, and their entry into the new sphere has been well received, officials said Monday.

Of 21 who registered on Aug. 20, 18 have enrolled in the school, which has 800 white students. "They have been received in a fine way," said Supt. Holland McSwain, who commended everybody involved for the way the innovation went.

Chairman H. A. Mattox of the School Board said Monday that the board voted on July 10 to enroll and Negro pupil who had completed the Texana Elementary School.

Commissioners To Meet September 14

MURPHY - The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners will meet in regular session Monday, September 14.

The set day for the Commissioners to meet is the first Monday in each month, but due to the first Monday being Labor Day, they will meet Sept. 14.

All offices in the Courthouse will be closed Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.

Hampton Reunion To Be Sunday

MURPHY - The annual Hampton Reunion will be held at the home of the Rev. and Mrs. C. A. Smith Sunday, Sept. 6, here is Murphy.

Fair opens Monday, Sept. 7, so let's all go down and have a ball. We can cry about the money we've spent while we're taking Alka-Seltzer for all the hot dogs we eat.



and Clay County Progress

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12 Pages This Week

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SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT MURPHY, NORTH CAROLINA



Dale Lee

Dale Lee, Murphy Business Man Dies

MURPHY - Dale Lee, 62, of Murphy, died at 8:45 p.m. Sunday, August 30, in his home.

He was a native of Hornbeak, Tenn., and came to Murphy in 1925 with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

He was a graduate of Hornbeak High School and attended Tennessee Tech and the University of Tennessee. He was a prominent Murphy resident. Mr. Lee had operated the Candler Department Store in Murphy for the past 15 years.

He was a member of the First Methodist Church where he served as Sunday School superintendent and official board member on a number of occasions.

He was active in local and regional Boy Scout activities and in the Murphy Lions Club and in district Lion activities.

He served on the Selective Service Board during World

War II and the Korean War. Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Martha Candler Lee; and his stepfather, Homer Moultrie, of Hornbeak, Tenn.

Services were held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday in Murphy First Methodist Church.

The Rev. Clark Benson, the Rev. William J. Thompson and the Rev. R. A. Potter officiated and burial was in Sunset Cemetery.

Active pallbearers were H. L. McKeever, H. A. Mattox, Bob White, John Gill, Harry Bishop and Dick Ramsey.

Honorary pallbearers were the Murphy Lions Club, members of the Men's Bible Class of the First Methodist Church, Dr. B. W. Whitfield, John Donley, Edgar Harshaw, Fair Hamby, and Frank Forsyth.

Ivie Funeral Home was in charge.



NEEDLES - DRUGS confiscated, along with a 1964 Falcon station wagon, when a couple was arrested here Monday, August 31.

Florida Pair Arrested On Narcotics Charge

MURPHY - An Atlanta detective, employed by a Miami, Fla., bonding company, arrested Jess Walls, 45, on charges of leaving Miami while under a \$3,500 bond. Walls had been placed under bond while awaiting trial on a charge of illegal possession of narcotics.

S. B. I. Agent M. G. Crawford and Cherokee County Sheriff Claude Anderson arrested Ruby Walls after a search of the couple's car revealed a quantity of drugs, hypodermic syringes, and loaded 30-30 and 32-20 calibre rifles.

Mrs. Walls has been released from Cherokee County

Search Narrows To Ranger Section For Escaped Rapist

MURPHY - A hard search for Seth Gibson, 39 year-old escaped convict suspected of raping two women in Cherokee County, and attempted rape of a third woman, continued Wednesday, September 2, with local law enforcement officers, Peachtree Prison Unit guards, and guards from the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th Prison Units west of Raleigh aiding in the search.

It has been reported that the search for Seth Gibson has been moved 11 miles west of Murphy on U. S. 64. The report to prison officers that an unidentified family fed Seth Gibson a meal about 4:30 Wednesday afternoon. The family said they fed him because they were afraid. Then they immediately notified authorities as soon as he left.

Officials cling to the belief that Gibson, a trusty at the Cherokee County prison farm, is still hiding out in the vicinity.

The search has been centered in the Peachtree section of Cherokee County, about five miles from Murphy.

Gibson had served 14 years of a 40 year sentence when he walked away from the prison Camp, Gibson allegedly raped two women in sight of the prison fences, and attempted to rape a third.

Victims were an elderly lady, 72, who is a widow and lives alone. According to officials aiding in the search, Gibson gained entry to Mrs. West's home on the pretext of selling Indian arrowheads. After entering, he drew a knife and threatened to cut the lady's head off if she resisted or tried to call for help.

After attacking her, he tore strips from her dress, tied her up, then called for her next-door neighbor to come over.

When the neighbor, a 26 years old mother of a six week old baby, arrived, he threatened her with the knife, then attacked her. Meanwhile, the elderly lady had managed to free herself. She grabbed a flashlight and began fighting Gibson, who fled, leaving his prison cap and knife.

Gibson proceeded on his way and his next stop was about a quarter of a mile from the West home. A lady was in her yard, and when Gibson tried to attack her, she fought and screamed, and he fled again.

Prison officials stated today that this was the last definite time that Gibson had been seen. Bloodhounds from the prison were unable to follow his tracks due to heavy rains over the area Saturday night, August 29, and early Sunday morning.

Both victims were admitted to Murphy General Hospital. Major R. K. Hayes, district superintendent of prisons, said Gibson was last seen Saturday afternoon, but believes he is still in this area.

Gibson's record with the law and prison sentences began in 1943 when he was 18. He was convicted on three counts of public drunkenness and sentenced to 90 days in prison.

He was released on March 14 of that year but was returned to jail 18 days later for a four-month term for damage to public property.

Those were his first arrests of record. Five years later, at 23, he was arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to die for the capital offense of rape. His victim was a 10-year-old Gaston County girl.

On September 5, 1948, the girl was raped in a wooded area near West Cramerton. A day later, Gaston Sheriff Hoyle T. Efrid disclosed that he had charged Gibson with the crime.

Gibson was convicted September 22, 1948, of the crime and sentenced to the gas chamber. The Supreme Court upheld the sentence, and he was scheduled to die December 10.

On Dec. 9, Gov. Cherry said his decision on a possible commutation of the sentence hinged on a sanity report by Dr. David Young, superintendent of the state mental hospitals.

The girl's parents, Sheriff Efrid, and Judge J.A. Rousseau urged the man's life be spared and Gov. Cherry commuted the sentence to life one day before Gibson was to die.

Gibson escaped from a camp in Macon County July 31, 1951, and made his way to Tampa, Fla., where he was recaptured there Oct. 16 and re-entered in a North Carolina prison Nov. 9, 1951.

In June, 1953, he again escaped from a Jackson County prison and fled to Englewood, Tenn., where relatives resided. He was recaptured on July 13.

July 12, 1954 saw Gibson on the run again, escaping from the Macon unit. He was recaptured three days later and was sentenced to 6 additional months for this escape, which was something of a technicality considering his life-time sentence.

On September 10, 1959, Gov. Luther Hodges reduced Gibson's life sentence to a 40-year term. Fifteen months after that he was granted parole and left prison to live in Spindale in Rutherford County and later transferred to Polk County.

Gibson operated a shoe repair shop in Columbus during the summer of 1961 and also remarried.

Almost one year after he was paroled, Gibson was sent back to prison, his parole revoked December 15, 1961.

Gibson was tried in the June 25 term of Polk Superior Court in 1962 and convicted of assault with attempt to commit rape, a charge made by his mother-in-law. His parole was revoked and he was sentenced to serve two to five years, with the sentence to begin at the expiration of the 40-year sentence.

Sometime during the past six months (prison records do not show exactly when,) Gibson filed a writ of habeas

corpus for a judicial review of his case on grounds he was being wrongfully held. No action had been taken when he escaped.

How Gibson earned honor grade status in view of his past record is uncertain. A spokesman for the Peachtree Prison Unit stated that this promotion was by Central Classification Committee in Raleigh.

Thirty-nine years old, Seth Gibson, Jr., is of slight build, 5 feet, 7 inches tall, weighs 129 pounds and has a ruddy face, light brown hair and brown eyes. He also has a tattoo on his left hand.



SETH GIBSON ... Escapee

Telegram To Governor Sanford

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a telegram to Terry Sanford, governor of North Carolina, written by Harry C. Bagley in behalf of the citizens of Western North Carolina, North Georgia, and East Tennessee. Money to pay for the telegram was also donated by the citizens of this locality.)

Dear Governor Sanford: You have probably received many letters and wires already from citizens of this area who are alarmed over the recent escape of Seth Gibson, a convicted rapist, from Peachtree Prison Camp. However, we wish to convey to you our own great concern about this matter.

First of all we wish to point out that we are aware that you, too, are gravely concerned about this unfortunate incident as we know you are at all times when unpleasant events occur anywhere in our state.

We also realize that in these waning days of your administration perhaps, there will not be very much you can accomplish in making changes to prevent a recurrence of like incidents. Nevertheless we respectfully urge that you use your powers and great influence to the extent to which you are able, in order to bring about the necessary changes in prison security for dangerous felons.

Seth Gibson was originally sentenced to death for rape. This sentence was subsequently commuted to forty years in prison. Some two months ago he was transferred to Peachtree Prison Unit

as an "honor grade" prisoner and allowed, apparently, to roam about at will outside the confines of the prison.

A few days prior to his departure from the cornfield where he was supposed to be working, he was alleged to have been down on the Hiwassee River bank where he hailed two young boys who were floating by in inner tubes. He sent these youngsters to contact a man who was a former prison inmate with Gibson, with a request that he meet him there.

Also, some few days, it is reported, prior to his escape, he allegedly poisoned the prison bloodhounds with rat poison.

Then when he walked away last Saturday, he attacked two women within sight of the prison fence, one of whom was a seventy year old lady, the other a young mother of a six weeks old baby. A third, but unsuccessful, attempt was made on a middle-aged lady.

Naturally, when something like this happens, all decent citizens become understandably alarmed over the laxity of prisoner security.

We understand the need of rehabilitation for prisoners in order that they may one day return to society as responsible citizens. However there is a question in our minds whether this program of rehabilitation should include such complete freedom of movement for felons who have been convicted of such major crimes as was Seth Gibson.

Western North Carolina, North Georgia, and Eastern Tennessee citizens would be

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