

### Last Week's Mystery Farm Owned by Earl Bell



Last week's MYSTERY FARM in the JOURNAL was identified by a large number of readers very quickly as that of Earl Bell of Pollockville. It is the manor

house of Oakview Plantation which is located between Trenton and Pollockville. It is one of Jones County's finest and oldest homes, as well as one of the

county's best known homes. Take a look at this week's MYSTERY FARM and if you are one of the first five to correctly identify it you will win a free subscription to the JOURNAL.

## 'Crime and Punishment'

By Billy Arthur

Solution of the Brink's robbery after almost six years adds emphasis to the adage that "crime does not pay." One who thinks he's solidly in the clear gets nabbed by the law sometimes for the most unexpected reasons.

For instance, a Durham policeman, according to the Durham Herald of January 2, 1908, reported he arrested and obtained a confession from a robber because "he was sweating too much on the nose for a cold morning." And, some folks steal from the wrong person. In October 1901 a Baptist minister's son was caught after taking \$100 from, of all people, a Greensboro policeman.

Theft is attributed by psychologists partly to environment. People without education have to pick things up as they go along, and finally they are caught shoplifting.

During the aftermath of the banking holiday in the Thirties, the story was told around New

Bern that one cashier had stolen \$20,000 from the bank, and it nearly killed his father. Another the story went, left \$50,000 in cash lying in the till the day the bank closed, and that nearly killed the whole family.

Even in the boom Forties in Wilmington, the story was told about a fellow being held up on a dark street with a threat, "Gimme your money or I'll blow your brains out." The man is said to have replied, "Go ahead, blow 'em out. I can live without brains in Wilmington, but I sure can't live without money."

Too, want makes people steal. They want this and that. Judge Buxton Robertson of Burlington once related about a woman asking a pardon for her husband who was serving a jail sentence. "What's he in for?" she was asked, and replied: "I'll tell you

the truth. We got our grandchildren living with us, and as times were tough, he went out one night and stole two middlings of mops, and got put in jail.

"How long's he been in?" "One year. But he ain't no count in there to his children, and he ain't no count outside either . . ."

"Well, if he's no good in or out," she was asked, "why do you wish him out of jail?"

"We need some more meat," the woman replied.

Another reason for stealing could conceivably be opportunity. Take the man coming home and finding a burglar trying to get in his house. "I'll tell you," he offered, "I'll unlock that door for you, if you'll go in first."

Whatever the charge or crime, grief almost always comes to the perpetrator. Witness the April 21, 1881, Raleigh Farmer and Mecha-

nis team: "It will be remembered that in the late Legislature there were two brothers, Simpson and Murden. Both were applicants for Federal office. Both came in first. One through a fondness for his neighbor's goods, the other through a similar weakness for his neighbor's wife."

Assault is another crime cluttering court dockets. Federal Judge Wilson Warlick once told of a woman who was arraigned in court for assaulting her husband, and the judge asked if she would waive her rights to appeal. Whereupon the husband spoke up, "Judge, please don't let her waive any more rights. That's how I got this black eye."

Charlotte's F. Marion Redd, who was judge of the domestic relations court, then related about a Concord magistrate, who addressed a defendant: "You are said to continuously terrorize your wife. I'm not speaking in my official position, but, as man to man, how do you do it?"

Many assaults are attributed to alcohol. The Farmer and Mechanic May 1, 1879, reported: "There was whiskey in Robert Lipscomb, and his knife went into Robert Clemmons. Lipscomb went into jail, and Clemmons is expected to go into the grave."

Z. V. Walker, former clerk to the N. C. Supreme Court, wrote

of a case where an attorney sought to bolster his client's character by showing he had no money and joined the church.

"Doesn't he drink just as much as he used to?" the prosecutor asked.

With much deliberation, the witness replied: "I think he does, but he carries it better."



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