

Asheville Boys Kills Sweetheart-Wants To Die Now Himself

Birmingham, Ala. Dec. 5.—This is the story of a soul that is groping for happiness while it faces the possibility of death—not the remote death that is hidden under the surface of the unknowable for all of us, but a violent death that comes with clock-like precision, each swing of Time's pendulum bringing it nearer and nearer. It is a story that is finding hope in visions in the dark recesses of a cell at the Jefferson county jail.

That soul belongs to Robert Decey Edwards, formerly of Asheville, N. C., slayer of his pretty young school teacher sweetheart, Miss Imogene Lee, of Birmingham. Edwards does not want to live, and the reason was disclosed Tuesday night. Despite the fact that Edwards does not want to live, the state decrees that a right must be made to prove him innocent, and therefore he will face trial soon on a charge that will mean either the distasteful continuance of life, or death on the gallows.

For five days, alienists have been observing Edwards; some retained by the parents of the 25-year-old slayer in the hope that the evidence gathered in this way will prove him insane, and others by the state. In all these preparations for his trial, Edwards has taken not the slightest interest. He has said time after time that he wanted the execution to be over with as soon as possible.

His attitude has puzzled prison officials. They have sought a reason for this apparent desire of the former Y. M. C. A. director to die. Tuesday night, at a meeting at which Edwards was again cross-examined for signs of insanity, the reason was disclosed—the soul of the man was laid bare.

"We talk together every night," he said simply, referring to his dead sweetheart. "She tells me that she is waiting anxiously for me over yonder, and I am anxious to go to her. I don't want to stay here as long as she's waiting."

Edwards told his hearers of his life, of his great love for Miss Lee, of her refusal to marry him, and of her intention of going to Demopolis, Ala., to teach. He recited again the details of the slaying, when he held a short conversation with Miss Lee on a street corner in Central park, a Birmingham suburb, then knocked her off the sidewalk and fired four shots

into her body. He told with stolid directness of his own attempt to end his life with bicarbonate of mercury tablets, and so join her in spirit in the flight to the great beyond. "I wish they would leave me alone," he complained. "There is nothing unusual about the fact that I want to go to her. She tells me over and over that she wants me to come, and that's all I am interested in doing."

Edwards pleaded with his hearers to give him poison so that he could finish up "everything" and join his sweetheart.

Both men had heard the music between 9 and 11 o'clock at night. Interest was aroused by the double report, and finally the theory was voiced that radio waves from broadcasting stations had been picked up by ledges of minerals in that wild region and reflected back as sound.

Further investigation is probably necessary before this can be established as fact. But it starts a chain of interesting speculation. Perhaps it will be found that the mountainsides can indeed pick up radio waves and transform them into bursts of lovely music as effectively as a manufactured receiving set. Then the third verse of "America" will have new meaning.

"Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees, Let rocks their silence break The sound prolong."

WEALTHY ORPHAN DIES AS FINANCE SITS NEAR

Chicago, Dec. 5.—Private funeral services will be held tomorrow for William M. McClintock, known as the "millionaire orphan," who died as his fiancée waited at his bedside with a marriage license.

McClintock and Miss Asabelle Pope had been sweethearts since school days attended Dartmouth college but stopped his academic training to take up business courses to fit himself for administration of the \$6,000,000 estate which had come to him only seven months ago. Then he fell ill and he and Miss Pope planned to wed in the hospital. She obtained the marriage license, but death intervened.

Young McClintock was the fifth whose life was cut short before the fortune was enjoyed long but it is reported he had remembered Miss Pope in the will he had executed a few months ago.

Heavy Snow Fall. Jamestown, N. Y.—During a four-hour storm last night, 12 inches of snow fell here. Automobiles travelled with difficulty and some wires were carried down by the weight of the snow, but there was little other damage.

Trotting around dumb-bells is the only kind of exercise some men ever seek.

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2 MURDERERS DIE IN ELECTRIC CHAIR

King and Harrill, Slayers of Major McLeary, Electrocuted Friday At Columbia, S. C.

Columbia, S. C., Dec. 5.—As the sun came over the walls of the South Carolina penitentiary this morning, two lives went into eternity, and one of the worst crimes in the state's annals was expiated. Mortimer N. King and Frank Harrell were electrocuted in the death chamber of the state's bastille for their murder of Major Samuel H. McLeary, of the United States army.

The bells in the penitentiary offices rang 6 o'clock and ere the sun's rays pierced the gloomy darkness of the prison enclosure a large crowd of curious men had gathered at the prison gates. There has seldom been such a large crowd on hand for an electrocution.

Both men went to their death admitting lives of sinfulness, but both held confidently to the love of a Christ, whom they believed to have forgiven their black sin.

Harrell went first. At 5:30 the death warrant was read to him by Captain Evans, of the prison guard. In the death house with the doomed men at the time was Rev. Dean Crain, chaplain of the penitentiary, who prayed with the men and held up before them the love of a Savior.

Witnesses were admitted to the little chamber of death for the execution of Harrell at 6:12 o'clock. Four minutes later Harrell was brought in. With him was Chaplain Crain. He took his seat in the big oak chair. He coughed. He cleared his throat, and then he was asked if he had any final statement to make.

"My good friends," he began, and there was a tremor in his voice. "If I had lived for God, I would not be here today."

Harrell seemed to hold on to the last minute to a hope that he would escape the doom which the law fixed upon him. He declared he had not committed crime heinous enough to bring him to the chair.

"You feel that your sins have brought you here?" Chaplain Crain asked of the man in the chair. "Well no," he replied. "I won't admit anything wrong, unless my lawyer says so."

"Do you believe God has forgiven your sins?" the chaplain asked; "and that he will save you?"

"Yes," Harrell replied in low voice, and the chaplain continued, "He loves you; the Good Keeper will save you." The big switch was thrown at 6:24 o'clock. In four minutes and ten seconds, the attending physician declared life entirely extinct. One of the two criminals had gone to his eternal destiny.

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King's Death Scene. King was brought into the death chamber at 6:30 o'clock. He took his seat in the chair, and without hesitation, and in strong, clear voice he said: "Goodbye," to Chaplain Crain, and shook his hand. "I'm very sorry to have to sit down in this chair," he said, "I realize the disgrace I have brought on myself. I ask God to bless everyone of you; I ask God to forgive all my sins."

Looking straight at one of the spectators in the little chamber of death, a U. S. marine, handsome in his uniform of the service, King pointed, and said: "I say, friend, I don't know your name, but I want you to tell everybody, I died like a man. I hope God will forgive me, and that I will meet Him in heaven."

"The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all unrighteousness," the chaplain repeated, as the electrode was fixed on King's head. "All of this you will know in a few minutes."

At 6:40 o'clock the switch was thrown; in three minutes and 58 seconds the physician nodded his head and the circuit was broken. King had gone with Harrell to face a God of eternal love and judgment.

Coroner Investigates Skeleton in Old Well

Winston-Salem, Dec. 5.—The coroner and a jury are still investigating the mysterious case in connection with the finding of a human skeleton in an old abandoned well on a farm a few miles south of the city. The jury was in session two hours or more this morning, during which several witnesses were examined.

The investigation was held behind closed doors, though it is understood that sufficient evidence has been revealed to convince the officers that the skeleton was that of Bruce Snipes, who disappeared four years ago. A lock and chain was found in the well Thursday, and these are believed to have been the property of Snipes.

The coroner and his jury will meet again Saturday morning to continue their investigation.

Though nothing official has been given out, a rumor is current that one man, suspected of the alleged crime, has been arrested, and that the belief is entertained that the guilty parties will yet be rounded up.

Apes of better quality are being done out of the mountains this year due to more knowledge about pruning, spraying, cultivating and fertilizing the trees. The reports report that they are now making more money, too.

Clover helps to restore poor soils, find many Tarheel farmers.

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OPINIONS OF OTHERS

Billy Sunday. (From N. C. Christian Advocate.)

Billy Sunday lays little, if any claim to originality. And it has been stated repeatedly that this widely known and unique evangelist is wanting in the gift of originality. But he unquestionably has some little talent along this line, even if he is not in a class with the inimitable Sam Jones. A case in point is what he said when deploring the tendency of the church to rely upon ecclesiastical machinery and all sorts of organizations while the vital, personal element is left out. Whereupon Sunday ventured this remark: "I expect to read before long that somebody has invented an electro-hugographo-squeezephone, so a fellow can stand in New York, and hug and kiss his girl in Chicago!"

Paramount the Peanut. (From News and Observer.)

California has added millions to its annual income because it paramounted the prune—on almost every dining car you see "stewed prunes." You never saw that ten years ago. The prune growers organized, put up money to advertise and popularize the prune, and the increased demand made growing prunes on a large scale profitable. The lowly peanut can be lifted up to the lordly peanut if its properties are made known and if those interested will be as wise as fruit growers of California have been. So many things can be made of peanuts that the field is unlimited. It means big money, too, to North Carolina.

Eventually, Why Not Now? (From the Landmark.)

When an expiring congress meets for the short session, especially following a presidential election, there is always more or less talk about our antiquated political system, under which a congress elected in November does not meet in regular session for 13 months. The congress elected November 4th will convene in regular session the first Monday in December, 1925. Terms of members begin on the 4th of next March and the new congress can be called into extra session any time after that date. But unless called into extra session there will be no meeting for a year. Thus a Congress elected on some special issue, instructed by popular vote to enact certain legislation, could do nothing until more than a year after it was elected. Meantime a Congress elected more than two years ago has three months in which to legislate. The absurdity of this sort of thing appears on a moment's reflection. If in the midst of a presidential term, say two years hence, the populace should rebuke the administration at the polls; if the election should show conclusively, for instance, that the people opposed certain legislation and desired its repeal, their wishes as expressed at the polls could not be made effective for more than a year, while the repudiated congress would have three months in which to legislate. Say an administration is repudiated and a

new deal called for. The old administration and congress has three months in which to further impose its will after it is repudiated.

It is generally admitted that this arrangement, made for the stage coach era, is entirely out of date and ought to be changed. Almost every session of congress bills are introduced to amend the constitution for that purpose. One house of congress takes action the other doesn't and nothing is done. Every year there is more talk of the necessity for the change. By and by something will be done. But when it is generally admitted that something should be done, why not put it over without delay. The idea in government, however, is to take plenty of time. Never get in a hurry.

Banker a Suicide. Coatsville, Pa.—The body of Wallace Harlan, 65 years old president of the National bank of Coatsville, with a bullet wound through the temple, was found yesterday in his office. Nearby on the floor lay a pistol with one empty chamber. An investigation by Coroner Patrick resulted in a verdict of suicide.

You're Right Colonel. (From Charlotte Observer.) Judge E. Yates Webb is quoted as having made the boast that the Shelby High School football team "can lick the University of Virginia." Maybe so. At any rate, it is one football team that can take-down The Observer's silverware as fast as we can put it up. And the fellow who might feel that engagement in a first-class fight would be good for his constitution—well, all such a fellow would have to do is to get out on the streets of Shelby and suggest that the Shelby team cannot whip anything on earth. He would either have to leave town in barreled raiment, or take the ambulance route.

Armenians An Ancient Race. (Herbert Welsh in New Armenia.) The Armenians, established in their newly conquered country, have remained unshaken in all vicissitudes and by their courage have preserved until our days their Nationality, their language and their customs.

The races that the Armenians knew in their infancy have vanished from the face of the earth. Their brothers, the Phrygians, are today

only a vague memory. Among the contemporaries of the Armenians, only the Hellenes, the Italotes and the Gauls have survived, not, however, without undergoing many changes, and abandoning many of their former customs. Except the Greeks, one must seek the kinsmen of the Armenians among the Nations who were brought from the steppes of the north toward the shores of the Mediterranean by the same flood that brought the ancestors of Halk toward Thrace.

It can clearly be seen that the titles of nobility of the Armenians date back to more than 3,000 years before our era, and that they are much more ancient than those of most of the European peoples. About the time when Rome was being founded, Halk, the eponymous hero of Armenia, led the Armenians to Ararat. The Persians were just commencing their political life when Armenia had already constituted herself a State.

The Value Of A Boost. (From Gaffney Ledger.) A Boston capitalist once met a man from a small city some miles away and soon found that he was so thoroughly convinced that his home town was the best on earth, that the capitalist investigated. The capitalist yated the home town newspaper. "Just met one of your boosters," he is a wonder, and if your city is anything like him, I want to know more about it."

This led to an arrangement that was of mutual benefit to the capitalist and the city as well.

It merely shows that a community will advance only when it is composed of boosters instead of those who pull back in the harness. Every resident of Gaffney can be a real asset by saying something good about Gaffney every time they are away from home.

You never know when your words may fall on fertile soil. If you are not enthusiastic about the advantages here, you can not expect one living elsewhere to be.

We must have a wholesome enthusiasm for the whole community and the opportunities it offers others before we can hope for healthful growth and industrial development.

Taking boxing lessons before seeking a quarrel is a part of wisdom.

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