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Jones Gets Year Sentence On Roads In Crime Enigma

Court And Attorney Puzzled At Unusual Nature Of Crime. To Look After Girl.

Jim Jones, found guilty of an assault on a female—a little eight-year-old girl—was just before noon today sentenced to the No. 6 township convict gang for a period of one year. The jury returned the verdict of guilty several days ago in court but decision was withheld by Judge Shaw so that he might consider a just decision for what the defendants attorney termed a "crime enigma."

In a plea for mercy to the judge prior to the passing of the sentence the defense counsel, O. Max Gardner, stated that to him the crime of which his client was found guilty still remained a puzzle, one of the few that had failed to clear up in his court experience. His client, Mr. Gardner stated, contends still that he is innocent of the first charge preferred and the one for which he was declared guilty. Judge Shaw agreed with the statement regarding the enigma and could see, he said, no other explanation of the crime than "moral depravity" such as is not shown on the likeable face of Jones.

With the sentence Judge Shaw advised the clerk of court that the welfare officer be advised to look after the welfare of the little girl, who was prosecuting witness in the case. "She is the most sensible girl for her age I have ever seen in the court room," the jurist declared, "and it will be a credit to the state to make of her a fine woman and see that she is not led into a life of immorality." Her chances for the future were discussed and considered not of the best as to environment and instruction.

Jones, it will be remembered, was brought into court charged with criminal assault on the little girl at a spring in Flat Rock near her home on Sunday afternoon about two weeks ago. From the unusual evidence and circumstances the grave charge was supplanted by the charge of assault on a female and the jury verdict was guilty. Spectators were barred from the court room while the little girl testified and through the run of evidence, it seems as if there was some connection between the crime and another woman of bad reputation, who was with Jones at the time. Just what part this woman, who is said to be out of the state now, played the public generally does not know.

Pass Other Sentences.

At the Friday morning's session a number of other prisoners already convicted were sentenced. Solicitor Huffman returned during the morning from Newton, where he investigated a homicide case, and the few remaining criminal cases were disposed of before the civil docket was resumed.

Carl Blackwood, the young boy charged and convicted of entering several stores, was sentenced to the state prison for six months at hard labor, the judge considering it better to send a boy to the prison than to the road camp.

W. B. Owens, pathetic figure to whom the honor, or dishonor, came of being the oldest defendant in court—40 years of age—was given an eight months suspended sentence and to pay the costs for the larceny of a bale of cotton. With a wife and seven children and only a poor crop the judge gave Owens another chance with capias to issue on his sentence by order of the court at any time within a three-year period.

Docia Spurlin, white woman, who faced a charge at the last court, but was not sentenced because of the sudden death of her father, was given six months sentence in jail.

A youth found guilty of store breaking and the larceny of cigarettes proved to be under 16 years of age and he was turned over to George P. Webb, judge of juvenile court.

On Civil Docket.

A number of issues were taken up and disposed of on the civil calendar Wednesday, Thursday and today. Three divorce cases were continued and others disposed of. A divorce was granted Ernest Bratton from Minnie Mozella Bratton at the last term of court, but through an oversight of the counsel in the case the court order was not signed until this term.

The divorce cases, following the precedent of the last term of court, made up a big portion of the civil docket.

Court was not in session for a part of the afternoon Thursday and County Solicitor Chas. A. Burrus acted as solicitor in the few criminal cases taken up Friday morning before the return of Solicitor Huffman.

Is He Another?

Robert Brown, captain and center for Michigan this season, may bring All-America honors again to Michigan. Vick and Blott have made the All team during the last three years, and sport writers are picking Brown to repeat. He is a protege of Blott and already is recognized as probably the best center in the Big Ten.

McBrayer Sells Clothing Store

Evans E. McBrayer has sold his men's clothing and furnishing store on S. LaFayette street to Sam Blanton and W. L. Wright who have moved to Shelby from Raleigh where they have been connected with Gilmer's Raleigh department store for a number of years. McBrayer has been in the mercantile business for himself 20 years and including his clerkship before he entered for himself, has behind him an experience of 33 years except for three years rest. In order to take a much needed rest he has closed out his stock here to Blanton and Wright who take charge the early part of next week. Mr. Blanton is a native Shelby boy, son of J. H. Blanton, S. DeKalb street. He has been in the mercantile business 18 years. Mr. Wright has had 10 years experience in the mercantile business. Both are hustling young men who will no doubt make a splendid success here.

The new company will be incorporated under a name to be selected soon and continue the business at the same stand on S. LaFayette street.

Mrs. Roxana Wilkie Buried Wednesday

Mrs. Roxana Wilkie, wife of T. B. Wilkie died at the Ella mill Tuesday following an illness of about two weeks and the funeral was conducted at the Second Baptist church Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock by her pastor, Rev. Rush Padgett, assisted by Rev. A. C. Irvin. The interment was at the Hawkins cemetery near Moorresboro Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Wilkie before marriage being Roxana Hawkins and a native of that section. Mrs. Wilkie kept a boarding house in South Shelby for a number of years and was an energetic and beloved woman. She was 49 years of age and leaves surviving her husband and five children, Mrs. A. V. Rippy, Baline and Maude Wilkie, a son Guardie Wilkie and another married daughter of Gastonia.

Mrs. Wilkie will be greatly missed by her host of friends and neighbors.

ADDED NEWS FEATURES.

With the advance to tri-weekly publication The Star offers its readers an added news attraction in a weekly letter from Raleigh by M. L. Shipman veteran observer and statesman. In Shipman's weekly letters readers will find much of general interest covering events of state importance that occur at the capital.

Another feature that from new subscriptions coming in must be pleasing Star readers is the increased amount of community correspondence. Recent issues of The Star carry items of interest from practically every section of the county with more correspondents starting in next week. Little by little the added news features are enabling The Star to "Cover Cleveland Completely."

Chicken Thieves Working At Night In County Again

50 Chickens Stolen from Dargan Grigg and 15 From Alonzo Hamrick. Looks to be Gang.

Thieves, who several months ago made many raids on Cleveland county hen houses are at work again according to reports coming in from the county. Wednesday night sometime, 50 chickens were stolen from the chicken house of Mr. Dargan Grigg, well known farmer of the Beaver Dam section and 15 fowls from the chicken house of Mr. Alonzo Hamrick, his neighbor. The chickens taken from Mr. Grigg were Rhode Island Reds and those from Mr. Hamrick were Wyandottes.

Two cars formed the marauding party, it is thought, and on leaving headed towards Newhouse. That it was the work of a chicken gang was seen in the feathers shaken out of the sacks. These feathers were Plymouth Rock and perhaps were shed by chickens stolen on some previous night. At Mr. Hamrick's some corn was poured out of a sack so that the sack might be used in storing the chickens.

Both chicken houses are only a short distance away from the residences, but it is not known at what time of night the thieves carried out their work. Just how so many chickens were sacked without waking anyone up is not known, but there is some conjecture along the chloroform idea used in preceding raids, it being thought by some that the chickens were doped in some manner and tossed into sacks while in a stupor.

Officers are on the lookout in neighboring towns watching for the sale of the chickens and there is some hope that the thieves may be caught. However, future marauders face a dangerous task as the farmers are now on the watch out and determined to protect their flocks against the chicken gang.

Highs In Gastonia For Title Contest

"Casey" Morris Takes Shelby Eleven to Gastonia for Game This Afternoon. Gastonia Favorite.

Coach "Casey" Morris and his little Shelby High eleven are in Gastonia this afternoon for Shelby's 1st contest in the state elimination series. The game is being played at Loray park there and several Shelby fans accompanied the eleven.

Every indication is that Pat Crawford's experienced machine should defeat the practically first year outfit of Morris and only a big upset could give Shelby a victory, according to the "dope." "However," says a Gastonia dispatch, "no one seems to be overconfident as Shelby always puts up a hard fight". Playing here last Friday Gastonia tramped Shelby 21 to 0, and several of the local players who performed then will be unable to play this afternoon which should give Gastonia a still better advantage. Morris with all of his experienced players gone this year could not hope to figure much in the championship race and has been devoting his time to building an eleven that should be dangerous by another season should all the present boys remain in school. Next year the present little eleven will have "filled out" considerable and with one season's experience will make a winning combination, it is believed. Several of the new boys on the squad, young and small now, look to be future stars equal to any ever turned out by the school.

Play Clover Next.

It is practically certain, according to Coach Morris, that the Highs will play the Clover, S. C., Highs here next Friday afternoon. The Clover eleven was ruled out of the South Carolina race and as it peappears Shelby will be eliminated the game seems likely. Clover has a strong outfit and fans predict a good game. Although the Highs lose in the state race the intention is to have them finish the season and gain as much experience as possible for the benefit of another year's play.

OYSTER SUPPER AND BAZAAR AT LAFAYETTE ST. CHURCH

The ladies of LaFayette Street M. E. church, South, will serve oysters at the church basement Saturday evening November 7th. Beginning at 5:30 p. m. The stewards of the church will be served in a body at 7 p. m.. Rev. A. S. Raper host. A Bazaar will be held the same evening at the same place and same hours. The public cordially invited.

Alas! the "natural state" idealists gush about would mean unrestricted whiskers.

STATE TAXES PASS FORMER HIGH MARK COLLECTIONS SHOW

General News of Interest In Week At Raleigh As Seen By Shipman Bankruptcies In State.

(By M. L. Shipman)

Raleigh, N. C., November 5.—An unusually quiet week was passed at the Capital last week for this time of year. Usually the fall months find business of all kinds picking up and the governmental business picks up in corresponding degree. Speculation continued rife over the report of the Salary and Wage Commission. The report is in but the employes are wondering if the commission is going to cut the annual vacation from two weeks to one week. The Commission has indicated that it will do this unless the number of legal holidays observed is cut to six. The Attorney General has ruled that the Commission has no right to eliminate any of the 12 days set aside by the General Assembly as legal holidays.

The death Mrs. Martha Jenkins at the Methodist Orphanage where for 24 years she was matron caused a wave of sorrow to sweep over the city in the last days of the week. Mrs. Jenkins was called "Mother" by hundreds of those who passed through the Orphanage in the past 24 years and was beloved by many. She died after ten days illness with puneumonia.

The state taxes, exclusive of the auto license taxes have passed the million dollar mark for any one month. This record was set up by the October taxes stated Commissioner Doughton and was the first time the state has ever collected such an amount in one month.

The fight is on for what the next Legislature will consider. Speaker Pharr of the house has come out in opposition to an eight months school term so long as the present school equalization fund law is in operation. He believes it unfair to a number of the counties and says it imposes an unjust tax burden on some. On the other hand Superintendent of Public Instruction Allen while admitting the defects of the equalization law, says that the eight months school term should be approved by the legislature and an amendent to the constitution submitted to the people. The matter is destined to come up before the 1927 general assembly.

Considerable interest is displayed locally in the forthcoming trial of two negroes at Asheville charged with attacks on white women. At the same time 44 members of a mob which stormed the Buncombe county jail also will go on trial for this offense. They were after one of the negroes. Governor McLean has ordered troops to be ready at Asheville at the trial in case anything takes place. Feeling in Asheville, where there have been four attacks on white women by negroes in recent weeks is reported at high tension and Mr. McLean does not want to have any mob violence. He believes presence of troops will prevent any.

Governor McLean spoke at Durham last week before the State Federation of Women's Clubs Council and lauded the part of women an public life. He also reviewed for the women the things which he has accomplished, or set out to accomplish, in his administration. He was favorably received by the ladies and made an excellent impression. He also addressed the Durham Kiwanians and lauded James B. Duke and the great opportunity he had given Durham by establishing the Duke Foundation and giving so much money for Duke University and for a modern hospital and medical school. He predicted a great service to the State because of Duke's benefactions.

Farmers are advised by Commissioner of Agriculture Graham to borrow from the Federal Reserve Bank through the savings and loan associations organized under the state law. Mr. Graham fears that many farmers will be unable to get through the winter because of drought losses and makes this suggestion whereby groups of farmers may obtain co-operative credit by organizing together for the common good.

The year 1925 is a bad one for North Carolina business, there have been 139 bankruptcies up to October which is 23 more than the entire year 1924. Attorney General Brummitt represented the state in the action at Charlotte to prevent the Southern from getting control of the Atlantic and Yadkin Railway. Judge Webb reserved decision until this week. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the State, with pneumonia second. The first took 3,661 lives in 1924 while pneumonia

(Continued on page six.)

Pride of Scotch Mountains

Black-faced Scotch mountain shearling rams were kings for a day at the Yorkshire Agriculture Society's 78th annual show at Bradford. An entire day was given over to judging the rams.

ASHEVILLE NEGRO TO DIE IN CHAIR

Mansel Found Guilty of Criminal Attack. Preston Neeley, Another Attack Negro, on Trial.

Asheville, Nov. 5.—Alvin Mansel, 17-year-old negro youth, was found guilty of a charge of criminal attack on a white woman by a jury in Superior court here this morning, and was sentenced by Judge A M. Stack to be electrocuted at the State prison in Raleigh on January 13, 1926.

"I hope to meet you all in Heaven," said the negro when asked by the court if he had anything to say before sentence was pronounced. "If the ury have said I am guilty. I have no more to say."

The verdict was read in open court at 9:40 o'clock this morning. The case was given the jury at 8:20 o'clock last night. Upon completing his charge to the jury, Judge Stack said he did not want to receive a verdict before morning as he deemed it more expeditious not to take the verdict at night.

The local guard troop was reinforced in court today by a detachment from Company B, 105th engineers of Morganton. There are now over 80 guardsmen on duty.

Mansel was accused of criminal attack on the woman, a flower peddler, on Sunset Mountain, on September 19. An attempted alibi was the basis of defense.

Motion for new trial was overruled by Judge Stack and notice of appeal to the Supreme court was given.

Preston Neely, second negro to be arrested for alleged criminal attack on a white woman, went on trial this morning.

Mansel was the object of a mob attack on the county jail on the night of September 19 when a crowd forced entrance to the gates and building seeking the negro, who had been spirited away an hour previously. He was held in jail at Charlotte preceding the trial and state guard troops have formed a body guard during the court procedure.

Preston Neely, another negro who is charged with an offense similar to that for which Mansel was this morning convicted was placed on trial today.

The prosecuting witness, a married woman of West Asheville, had completed her evidence when court adjourned for the afternoon. She positively identified Neely as the negro who assaulted her in West Asheville three weeks ago and told of how she herself had caused his arrest when a few days after the attack she saw him in a five and ten cents store and pointed him out to a police officer.

Bessemer City Woman Killed By Fast Train

Mrs. Dave Watts, aged Bessemer City woman, was instantly killed early Thursday in that place while crossing the Southern Railway tracks. She was hit by northbound passenger train No. 36, her head being crushed. It is understood that the woman was not all the way on the tracks, her body escaping harm.

Old Indian Peace Pipe Is Found

A relic of early America was found in the county this week—an Indian peace pipe, known to present Americans through the history of the warring Indian tribes of by-gone centuries. The big stone pipe, a valuable relic from point of interest, was found on a creek bank in this county, it is understood, by Morris Hamrick.

The broken bowl of the pipe all that remains is shaped out of hardened soapstone and resembles one of the clay pipes of our grandfather's time. When a treaty was made between warring Indian tribes the chiefs of the tribes took puffs off the pipe as a solemn pact that they would go no more upon the warpath against each other. Just how the relic came to be washed up or dug up has not been learned, but the major portion of the pipe bowl is intact and in good shape and it being possible to "draw" through it.

MR. GOLD'S DEATH FIRST IN FAMILY

Aged and Respected Citizen of Lattimore Community Dies at Age of 78. Burial Today.

Mr. Benjamin Franklin Gold, one of the most respected citizens of No. 7 township, passed away Wednesday evening at 5 o'clock following a protracted illness with high blood pressure and paralysis. For two years he was in declining health and confined to his bed for the past two weeks in a critical condition with the end expected any day. Mrs. Gold who before her marriage was Miss Cynthia Pannel has been seriously ill and for a few days the condition of both was such it was not known which would die first. Mrs. Gold cannot hold out much longer.

Mr. Gold was an honest, energetic and thrifty citizen, holding the highest esteem of all his neighbors. His death is the first in his family although he is the father of ten children the oldest of whom is 58, the youngest 33. All his life he lived at the home place two miles northwest of Lattimore.

The funeral will be conducted at 2 o'clock this afternoon by Rev. D. G. Washburn and the interment will take place at Double Springs Baptist church.

Surviving besides his wife are the following children all of whom were present at the funeral: Mrs. J. R. Crawley, of Lattimore; Mrs. J. C. Bridges of R-2, Shelby; Rev. W. M. Gold, of Ellenboro; R. C. Gold of R-1, Kings Mountain; Mrs. W. E. Covington, of Lakeview this state; Mrs. Hart Justice, of Lattimore; T. P. Gold, of Dunellen, Fla.; L. V. Gold, of West Palm Beach, Fla.; Mrs. S. C. Cooper, of Hamlet, and Miss Ida Gold who lives at home.

Methodist Protestant Church.

Sunday school only will be held next Sunday, beginning at 10 o'clock. The newly elected superintendent, Mr. S. Clyde Tate, will preside. No preaching services.

Court Order To Clean Up Convict Camp

Grand Jury After Recommendation to Judge Will With Solicitor's Aid Make General Investigation.

The grand jury of the present term of Superior court, which was excused by the judge after the report to the court, will be called back one day next week for a full investigation of the No. 6 township convict camp, according to an order by the court just before noon today.

The outstanding item of the grand jury's report to Judge Shaw was the recommendation of a general clean-up at the convict camp. The grand jury, according to the report, found by general information that whiskey and lewd women are permitted at the camp. With this information the grand jury in one terse sentence recommended the clean-up.

In reviewing the report this morning Judge Shaw referred the matter to Solicitor Huffman with the statement that something should be done about the investigation. Solicitor Huffman stated that he would look into the matter and it was decided that the grand jury be brought back to look further in the reports spoken of. An order was left by the court to have the grand jury brought back on the day next week selected by the solicitor for the investigation and until that time Mr. Huffman will go over the matter.

Just what information the grand jury had about the convict camp is not known, but the result of the investigation is awaited with much interest by those who heard the court order.

Jail Conditions Good.

The report other than the portion touching on the gang camp was complimentary to county charges and affairs. The jail was found to be in practically ideal condition and the court house in good condition as was the county home and farm. It was recommended that the keeper of the home be allowed another helper to assist in work there.

Gang Kitchen Insanitary.

The committee of seven that visited the gang camp found that the kitchen was not sanitary and recommended more room in the kitchen department, it also being recommended that camp quarters be made more comfortable and the bedding be washed more often.

The full report of the grand jury as signed by Mr. J. A. McBrayer, foreman, follows:

To His Honor, Judge Shaw, presiding:

We the grand jury for November term of court 1925 beg to submit the following report, to-wit:

We visited the jail and find it in good sanitary condition, and the prisoners reported conditions ideal.

We as a committee have visited the county home and find the buildings sanitary, grounds and farm in good conditon. We find the inmates both white and colored well cared for. We recommend that the keeper be allowed one more helper to assist in doing work at the place. The crops on the farm are practically gathered. The stock and the cattle in good condition. Good supply of feed in the barn.

We visited the convict camp in a committee of seven and find the kitchen not sanitary. Building two small.

We recommend more room in the kitchen department.

We recommend that the camp quarters be made more comfortable and the bedding be washed more often. Find the barn needs repair. ?

We find by general reports that whiskey and lewd women are permitted there.

We recommend a general clean up.

Ellis Will Case Is Compromised

A compromise judgment was reached this week in the Mrs. Ellen Fitzgerald Ellis will by which the contestants of the will and Dr. R. C. Ellis will divide half and half a 45-acre tract of land on the edge of the town of Waynesville, Mrs. Ellis' old home. When Mr. Ellis died she left a will, leaving this estate to her husband. Witnesses to the will who were relatives of Mrs. Ellis claimed that she was forced to sign the same and therefore tried to break it. The will was made 37 years ago and no contest was started until last year. Local witnesses identified the hand writing of Mrs. Ellis, the entire will having been written by her, but in order to avoid further litigation Dr. Ellis allowed the contestants to take half of the property in controversy.