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Man Found Has Record That Checks Closely With Charlie Ross Missing For 50 Years

Newspapermen Interview "Lost Soul" And Get Unusual Story Of Wandering.

Has Charlie Ross, the little four-year-old hero of the tragedy of the '70's at last been found?

Maybe so; there is a chance. Down in a little hamlet in a pine grove a short auto ride from Shelby lives a gray-haired man who believes, and believes sincerely, that he is Charlie Ross.

Realizing from early childhood that he had been stolen, and that the man and woman who claimed him were not his parents, this man has spent more than 40 years trying to find out who he is, and where he came from—has tried to rend the veil that was drawn across his early memory.

And the end of that long trail is the firm belief that he is the lost lad from Philadelphia.

The story, the chain of facts the man had forged connecting himself up with Charlie Ross, holds water. It is convincing. But this may be said: whether he is Charlie Ross or not, Julius Dellinger, that being the last one's name, tells one of the most remarkable narratives ever heard, of a restless and ceaseless wandering over the earth, scourged in his early youth by a brute of a man posing as his father, and later endeavoring ceaselessly to solve the riddle of his birth.

A representative of The Star visited Dellinger at his home Wednesday night. He found a man of some fifty-eight years—robust, powerful of frame, but gray haired, and surrounded by a wife and family of ten children.

One touch of the narrative he revealed tells something of the character of this remarkable individual. When the World war broke out although past fifty he enlisted. And he got into the service by dying his hair a coal black. And he marched with the colors by the side of his two sons.

Such is the vigor of the man with which this strange narrative has to deal.

He sat for two hours in his home and told the story of his life. It is a stranger story than fiction. He told of a life with a man and a woman—posing as his parents, the man a brute, and the woman living in daily terror of him.

Under such conditions he roamed over the South. When he grew to be a young man he would every now and then beat up his supposed father, who continually refused to tell him who he was.

This eternal query, Who am I? rang in his ears ceaselessly night and day for years, and led him finally to insert an advertisement in a newspaper asking the question—Who Am I?

The answer to that letter from the late Colonel Sharpe, in Statesville, is a link in the chain of circumstance which he has forged, leading him to believe he is Charlie Ross.

A rough outline of the man's story, as he has pieced his history together is this: The curtain rises on him as the young (four or five) year old child of a man named McHale.

He does not believe that McHale was his abductor, but he does believe that those who stole him turned him over to McHale and the woman who posed as McHale's wife.

The fact is pretty well established that two men Mosher and Douglas stole Charlie Ross. Dellinger believes that these men turned him over to McHale, and the woman whom Dellinger called mother, who was a Mary Jane Cathcart.

Traveling with McHale and the Cathcart woman, the lad turns up in Gaffney, S. C., at about the same time that news and pictures of the kidnapping of Charlie Ross were thrilling the country.

According to the story told by J. F. Gaffney, of Shelby, who lived in Gaffney at that early time, the child scarcely resembled the published pictures of Charlie Ross that certain people in Gaffney were starting an investigation when the child was suddenly spirited away.

Dellinger told The Star representative that he has a hazy recollection of being taken away from a place by a negro. As a matter of fact, according to the details of the case he has collected, he was taken from Gaffney by a negro, and removed to Belton, Ga. There he was joined by McHale and the Cathcart woman some few days later.

The story goes that when the negro who had taken the child away from Gaffney returned, the citizens were on the point of lynching him.

The young child took the name of McHale, his first name being Coley, and he went under this name until some two years ago when a circumstance occurred which changed the tide of his life.

Living in Florida, and worried conscience by the query as to who he

Star Scores Beat On Charlie Ross

So far as any other newspaper in the world was concerned The Star in its last issue scored a "scoop" on the probable finding of Charlie Ross that proved to be a nation-wide story.

Published first in The Star the story was next published in the Gastonia Gazette, first daily to use it. Since that time Shelby has been the query center of numerous newspapers and press associations checking up on one of the best human interest stories of the year.

The story was probed to the bottom and started by A. D. James of The Star staff, who during his newspaper career in Philadelphia many times wrote of the apparently never-ending mystery of the Philadelphia boy's disappearance and was well acquainted with the history of the case. The story is today being followed up closely by numerous reporters and newspaper photographers.

Wednesday night Clarence Scroggs, Asheville Times reporter; Bob Bannelle, newspaper photographer, and Renn Drum, of the Star staff, visited the man who believes himself to be Ross and obtained from him his complete story. Scroggs is the son of Rev. J. R. Scroggs, former Shelby Methodist pastor and presiding elder of this district.

Those in the party, although not definitely certain that Dellinger is the missing Ross, are positive that his story checks closely with the Ross incident. They were further convinced that Dellinger was kidnapped and that his life has been an unusual one whether or not he is Ross.

He inserted an advertisement in a Northern paper, asking the question when am I? and outlining briefly the history of his life.

Colonel Sharpe, of Statesville, North Carolina, answered him and as a result of the correspondence McHale went to Statesville. There he learned that "way back in the seventies, a child named Julius Dellinger, had been kidnapped from the Statesville section. And the circumstances surrounding the case were such that he then believed that he and this lost child were one and the same.

So he took the name of Julius Dellinger. And has been known as Julius Dellinger ever since. But he subsequently learned that a youth of that name had been buried in Birmingham Alabama, years ago at the age of 19.

So that he abandoned this trail, as the one that would lead him to the revelation as to who he was. But he retained the name.

Throughout his career it had been continually suggested to him that he might be the lost lad, Charlie Ross. But he did not seriously entertain this conception until, in tracing his history back bit by bit, he had the postmaster in Gaffney, S. C., post a notice in the postoffice of that city asking if there was anyone thereabouts who knew of the residence there of the McHales in the early seventies.

That notice put him in communication with J. F. Gaffney, now a resident of Shelby, but who at that time lived in the South Carolina city. It was Mr. Gaffney who recalled the incident of the resemblance between the boy who suddenly appeared there a stranger, and that of Charlie Ross.

Dellinger now says there is a photograph owned by Mr. Gaffney's sister, taken about the time he was in Gaffney, and he is anxious to get hold of it as it would reveal the identity between the boy he was at that time and Charlie Ross.

According to Dellinger's statement, Mary Jane Cathcart, whom he called mother, died of a broken heart, driven to desperation by McHale's cruelty, 30 years ago. Later McHale died.

He has lived in many parts of the South, moving about restlessly. Most of his life was spent in Florida, where he was a deputy sheriff in Jacksonville and a detective. He married in Florida.

He now lives in Denver, a little village not far from Charlotte, where he is a carpenter and brick mason.

The man may not be Charlie Ross; but there is a gambling chance he is. But in any event he is a lost soul, and he is sincerely and earnestly seeking to establish his identity.

Stamp Tax Comes Off Of Deeds On Monday, March 29

On and after Monday March 29th, the revenue stamp will not have to be affixed to deeds of conveyance, according to Postmaster J. H. Quinn, who has received notice from the U. S. Treasury Department and so notified register of deeds R. L. Weather at the Court House. Congress has repealed this war measure which was inaugurated to raise war revenue. The news will be learned with pleasure in Shelby where real estate has become so active. The revenue tax is taken off of a number of other documents, but it concerns custom ports and does not directly affect local people. The revenue stamp on documents has been gradually disappearing. It went off of notes about a year ago. Now it comes off of deeds of conveyance made on and after Monday. Deeds dated prior to that time must bear the stamps.

HONOR ROLL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Ninth Grade Places More Students On Coveted List Than Any Other Section of High School.

The honor roll for the Shelby High school for the past month shows that 44 boys and girls attained to coveted distinction of the honor listing. Of the 44 only nine were boys.

The roll by grades follows: Grade 8-1—Margaret VanStory, Madie Gillespie, Mae Ellen McBrayer, Robert Gidney, Alex Gee, Mary Frances Carpenter, Dorothy King.

Grade 9-1—Milan Bridges, Lee Roy Ledford, Billy McKnight, William Webb, Boneta Browning, Selma Branton, Kate Bridges, Lucile Bridges, Freelove Crawford, Marsha Eskridge, Eva Hamrick, Minnie King, Sara Riehbours, Lallage Shull, Ethel Webb.

Grade 9-2—Sara Best, Mildred Harrell, Verda Wright.

Grade 10-1—Margaret Blanton, Irene Bridges, Alice James, Helen Leuphrige, Madge Rollins, Madge Spurling, Zeila Sipe.

Grade 11-1—Jennie Mae Callahan, Ruth Gladden, Kate Grigg, Lela Boyle, Dorothy McKnight, Charlotte Tedder, Bloomfield Kendall.

Grade 11-2—Gene Clendenin, Roberta Royster, Myrtle Crawford.

Grade 11-3—Attie Mae Eskridge, Steve Woodson.

School At Lattimore Closes Next Week

Rush Padgett to Deliver Sermon, and Clyde Hoey Literary Address At School Closing.

Lattimore High school will close next week, the commencement exercises to be held March 28th at 2:00 p. m. Invitations have been issued which show that a pageant will be rendered in which 600 pupils will take part. Rev. Rush Padgett will deliver the annual sermon and Clyde R. Hoey the literary address. Program is as follows:

Sunday, March 28th, 2:30 P. M. Sermon—Rev. Rush Padgett, Shelby, N. C.

Wednesday Evening, March 31st, 8 o'clock—Class Day Exercises.

Thursday Morning, April 1st, 10:30 o'clock—Readers contest.

Thursday P. M. 2:00 o'clock—Declaration Point.

Thursday Evening, 8:00 o'clock—Pageant by 600 pupils.

Friday Morning, April 2nd, 11:00 o'clock, Literary address—Hon. C. R. Hoey, Shelby, N. C.

Dinner on the ground.

Friday P. M. 2:00 o'clock—Graduating Exercises.

Friday Evening 8:00 o'clock, Four Act Play—Out of Court.

Marshalls

Edgarsonian: Wilbur Wilson Chief; Elijah Brooks, Willie Falls, Asst., Bernette Hunt.

Newton: Paul Wilson, Austin, Austin Jones, Lillian Cabanis, Asst. Chief; Madge Wright.

Class Roll—Lillah Maye Crawley, Mildred Belle Cabanis, Olin C. Green, Thelma Lee Horne, Stella Francis Jones, John L. Kennedy, Zacher Ree Lovelace, Lala Estelle Martin, James Sturgeon Rayburn, Marion Thomas Champion, Glenn G. Grigg, James Nesbit Harris, Julia L. Jones, Mattie Lou Johnson, Mary Elizabeth Lovelace, Maxine Melton, Allen Columbus Melton, Imogene Wilson, Clara Blooma Wright.

At Central Methodist Church.

Special decision day services will be held at Central Methodist church at 10 a. m. by the pastor for the primary, junior and intermediate departments of the Sunday school.

At 11 a. m., Rev. F. D. Short, D.D., of New York city will preach.

INSPIRING TALK BY DR. F. B. SHORT

Dr. Short Delivers Long Address, Appealing for Less Prejudice and More Religion.

"Religion in Business" was the subject of an inspiring address by Dr. Francis B. Short of New York before the Kiwanis club on Thursday night where he was heard by 100 Kiwanians and their guests, including a number of ladies and non-member merchants. Dr. Short made an appeal for the elimination of prejudice in business, religion and politics, and made many straight from the shoulder remarks, taking a jab at big-bound partisans. It was an address full of humor as well as wholesome business doctrine. Dr. Short declared that he gave up the ministry when his voice got so weak that he could not hold out to preach two hours, but he seemed to have regained his vocal powers and endurance and although having spoken 80 times since first of January, held out for an hour and a quarter. His audience, however, gave him the best of attention and declared that his address was one of the most wholesome ever heard here. Dr. Short is being sent over the country by the J. C. Penney company organization to do what good he can in eliminating prejudice in business and instilling religious principles in merchandising and manufacturing.

Dr. Short declared that when religion is practiced in business, the problems of the nation will be solved. Men who work want a sympathetic relationship with men and capital that furnish employment. It isn't how much you get, but what you do with it when you get it and he announced the new business principle that is being inaugurated today for a division of profits with the men who help make wealth. Dr. Short declared that John D. Rockefeller is the only rich man of this generation who has inherited a fortune which did not make a fool of him because Rockefeller distributes his profits with his employees and gives them shorter hours of employment. Men can't make millions without the help of others and Dr. Short declared that the men who help make such fortunes should share in the profits because they furnish the physical energy and spiritual power. He put great stress on service for others, pointing to the Salvation army which did more for the soldiers overseas than any denomination, having in mind always what it could do for others and not what it would get out of them. He expressed no confidence in a man who amasses a fortune and lets the laborers go empty handed. His formula on how to be successful was: be industrious, sagacious, work, be thrifty and economical. While taking a dig at Democrats, he held up Bryan and Wilson as two of the five greatest men America had ever produced and closed with an appeal for fair dealing and a more human relationship between employer and employee.

Well Known Man Of Fallston Is Dead

Mr. Phillip Wright, one of the best men that ever lived in Cleveland county, according to the many friends who knew him, died there Sunday at the age of 72 years, following a stroke of paralysis which confined him to bed for two months. He joined Friendship church in early life and was a most consecrated Christian. His wife died about a month ago and his sister-in-law Miss Rebecca Wright is seriously ill at his home. He is survived by three children namely Mrs. Viney Leonard, of Lincoln county; Miss Lizzie Wright and Mr. Avery Wright of Fallston. He leaves two brothers, Messrs Noah and Andy Wright, who live in the Fallston community.

Nolan To Stage Big Auction Sale

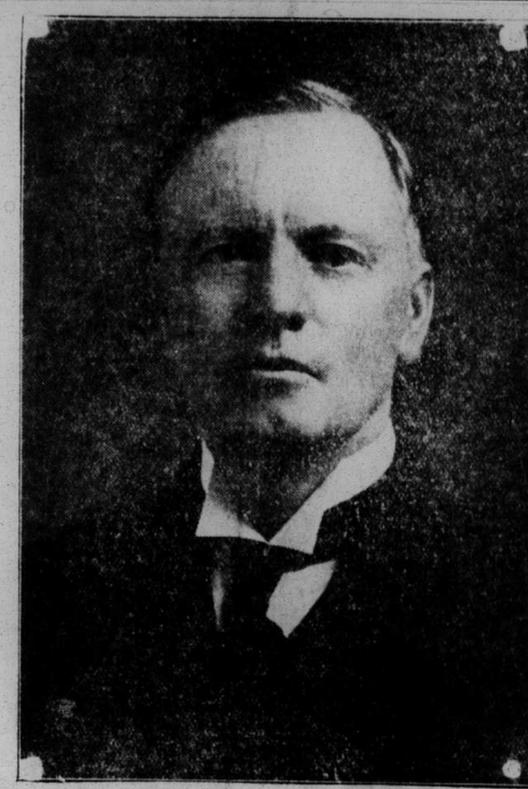
Among the big real estate trading events of the current glad season, is an auction slated to be held April 3rd by the J. B. Nolan company.

This is the second auction sale the Nolan company will have put on this year, the first, as has been recorded, having been an unqualified success.

The forthcoming event will be put on by the Carolina Land company, for the Nolans, selling a big tract of land in South Shelby. It is the McEntire property that is going on the block, a tract some 40 acres in extent.

Mr. Nolan states that there is a road frontage on this property of some 2,000 feet. This frontage will be subdivided into building, but the rear of the tract will be devoted to larger acreage, fitted for small farms.

Play at Beams Mill. A play entitled "Deacon Dubs" will be presented Friday night April 2. String band music will be furnished. Admission 15 cents.



Rev. L. R. Pruett Here Sunday

Rev. Lee R. Pruett, native of Cleveland county who was pastor of the North Avenue Baptist church in Charlotte for 32 years, will fill the pulpit at the First Baptist church, Shelby on Sunday in the absence of the pastor, Rev. Zeno Wall who is conducting a ten-day revival meeting at Brown Memorial meeting, Winston-Salem. Rev. Mr. Pruett is held in highest esteem in Cleveland. The

people are proud of him for the remarkable record he has made in the ministry. He recently resigned his charge in Charlotte to take a much needed rest. Today he is regarded as one of the outstanding Baptist ministers of the state and will no doubt be heard here by a large congregation of people from the town and county.

Grand Jury Clears Up Visit Made To Home Of Tony Porcelli

Night Visitors Who Warned Tony Were Not Robbed and Acted Only As Citizens.

The matter of the visit by night to the home of Tony Porcelli, ice cream vender, wherein it was said Tony was advised to leave town, has been cleared up by the Superior court grand jury headed by Mr. R. L. Mauney.

Following the general report of the visit Judge James L. Webb presiding over Superior court here, ordered an investigation of the matter by the grand jury. Their report was turned in Thursday afternoon after a careful investigation of the entire matter.

The main facts in brief derived from the report are: The visitors to Tony's home were not klansmen, or did not represent themselves as such.

They were not robbed or masked. Tony is a law-abiding citizen and permits his daughter to read English Bible although she is Catholic.

The daughter was not found to be ill-treated. Tony, frightened at the visit by night, told the grand jury he could not remember that he was ordered to leave town.

The visitors were individual citizens according to grand jury findings and represented no organizations whatsoever.

Local officers tendered Tony all protection possible.

That the individual who told Tony to join a Christian church told him that privately on another occasion from the visit, and that as a statement by an individual citizen does not constitute a violation of the criminal law.

Citizenship and grand jury condemn the unscrupulous act.

Every man in the county shall have the privilege to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience with none to molest or make him afraid.

Complete Report. The report by the grand jury follows in full as given under the signature of R. L. Mauney foreman:

"We the Grand Jury of Cleveland County, respectfully report that, pursuant to the directions contained in Your Honor's charge, we have made a diligent and thorough investigation of the alleged visit of certain persons to the home of Tony Porcelli on the night of March 11th, 1926, and that we have examined, under oath, many witnesses and have sought and investigated all possible sources of information. We find that Tony Porcelli, an

Italian of the Catholic faith, came to the United States about 1913 and that he removed to Shelby about four years ago and that since that time he has resided in Shelby with his family which consists of his wife and four children, the eldest being a daughter, Marie Porcelli, aged fifteen years. We further find that Porcelli is now and has been engaged for several years in the business of peddling ice cream and other wares from a wagon and that he has been a law-abiding, industrious and peaceful citizen.

We further find that Marie Porcelli who has completed the fifth grade in the public schools of Shelby and who is qualified for admission to the sixth grade but has been prevented during the past year from attending school owing to the necessity of her aiding her mother in caring for the younger children of the family, purchased an English new testament about a year ago and that she reads the same frequently, without any objection on the part of her family.

We further find that many months ago an unfounded rumor was circulated to the effect that Tony Porcelli had stricken his daughter, Marie Porcelli, with a wash tub and that certain neighbors acting upon their own initiative and upon that alone, made an investigation for the purpose of laying the matter before the County Welfare Agent, but that upon this investigation the rumor proved baseless and nothing was done in connection therewith.

We further find from the testimony of Tony Porcelli that at or about 11 o'clock P. M. on the night of March 11th, 1926, certain persons to us unknown, dressed in the usual civilian fashion, came to the home of Tony Porcelli in a Ford touring car, having stopped in front thereof on the street, called for Porcelli several times and that Tony Porcelli, upon the third call, went to the door of his house and that one of occupants of the car got out and went to the edge of Porcelli porch which is situated some twelve or fourteen feet from the street and that another occupant of the car got out and stood in the street in front of Porcelli's house. Porcelli was unable to state whether there were other in this party. The man who went to Porcelli's porch told Porcelli that "we, citizens of the town, have heard and understood that you have burned a Bible and have mistreated your children and have made your daughter wash on Sunday." Porcelli there-

(Continued on page seven.)

COURT GIVES CODY SENTENCE OF YEAR

Dean Draws Eight Months in Gang Camp Held-Up, Barn Burner Gets Two Years.

Practically all of the criminal docket of the spring term of Superior court was completed Thursday afternoon, leaving one case to be tried before taking up the civil calendar Friday.

Wednesday and a portion of Thursday was taken up in hearing the evidence in the charges against C. L. Cody and Crawford Deane of prison breach, highway robbery and assault. The charges, it will be remembered, were connected with the freeing of Dillard Dean, Crawford's brother, from the No. 6 convict camp last fall. Both state and defense presented strong cases, Attorney Jack Dillard, veteran barrister of Murphy, and Horace Kennedy representing the defendants. A verdict of guilty was returned by the jury and Judge Webb sentenced Cody to 12 months and Dean to eight months on the county roads.

The charge against Grover Ray, colored, charging him with burning the barn and cotton of Mr. A. M. Palmer, attracted much interest in trial. Evidence disclosed that Ray became angry at Mr. Palmer and a colored man over division of some cotton. That night the barn with a big amount of cotton was burned. Ray was found guilty and given a two year sentence. He is a native of Blacksburg, S. C.

Sentences Friday. Before taking up the civil calendar Friday morning Judge James L. Webb passed sentence on convicted defendants of the preceding day.

Archie McNeill, who brought the wife of a Lexington man here sometime back was given three months on the roads. The woman who was convicted in recorder's court, was after a conference with her husband, it is understood, permitted to return to her former home with her husband, the sincerity of the reunited family being responsible for the legal aid to the act.

In the auto larceny case against Henry Padgett and Will Gamble, Padgett was sentenced to not less than 18 months nor more than two years in the state prison. It appearing from evidence submitted in court by competent physicians and others that young Gamble was suffering from tubercular kidneys and bladder, an order was arranged by the court whereby he will be sent to the state prison and transferred from that place to the state sanatorium for a year's treatment for the tubercular trouble there.

In the store-breaking case of upper Cleveland, Tom Justice was given 12 months and Clem Davis six months, while it is likely that Pressley Self will be transferred to the hospital department of the state prison or to the state sanatorium.

Ed. Dixon Announces For County Sheriff

Mr. Ed Dixon, of Belwood, and a citizen well known over the county, in this issue announces his candidacy for the office of high sheriff of Cleveland county subject to the will of the Democratic voters in the primary.

Mr. Dixon, son of the well-known Capt. Ed Dixon, Confederate veteran, has been a deputy sheriff of the county for 10 years and court officer in Shelby for the same period. In his service as an officer he has followed the strict line of duty and bears the record of being a good officer. He is a prominent farmer and business man in his section and is a high official of the Junior order and has been connected with many progressive moves in the Belwood section.

He says that he decided to be a candidate nearly two years ago through the request and urging of friends. Of recent months friends have continuously, he says, advanced the idea that he be a candidate for the office and this week he consented to their advice and publicly announces that if elected he "will serve without fear or favor."

Auction Sale Near Resort Development

The Shelby Real Estate Company is putting on an auction sale extraordinary April first, a big tract of property on the Cleveland Springs road to be sold by the Cyclone Auction company, a Forest City company, well known in Shelby.

The property to be knocked down is on highway 20, the big paved thoroughfare, fronting 1225 feet on the boulevard. It is known as the Jim Allen property.

Colonel Foster, of the Cyclone forces, will wield the gavel. This will be the second auction sale this season for the Shelby Real Estate company, and advanced comment indicates it will catch the enthusiasm of the buying public.