

Withrow, Merchant Prince Of Hollis, Died Suddenly

Alarm Clock Is Taken On Street In Holiday Theft

Thief Takes Clock From Riveted Bench In Garbage Can On City's Business Street.

Some folks take time by the forelock, others waste a lot of it, but Shelby on Thanksgiving morning was introduced to a new type of thievery.

George Alexander, the jeweler, is one of the advertisers who uses the modern "ad" garbage cans about town. His advertisement includes an alarm clock that is riveted inside the can and gives the time to all passers-by.

One of the cans is placed near Fanning's on South Lafayette street and Thursday morning pedestrians noticed that the clock had been torn from the rivets and taken away.

The pessimists may say now that such is proof enough that times are hard.

The odd part of it is that Judge Mull may let the fellow do time for taking the time—provided he is caught. Such however seems unlikely as there are no clues to the clock stealer.

DEMOCRATIC LEAD SHOWS SHRINKAGE BY LAST BALLOTS

Overman Has Majority of 76,000 Although Receiving Less Votes Than In 1920

Although receiving 11,000 less votes than were cast for his Republican opponent when he last ran six years ago, United States Senator Overman was elected to his fifth term on November 2, by a majority of 76,043, according to the official certification of the vote which was made by the State board of elections.

The Democratic majority this year was less than it has been at any time since the enfranchisement of women in 1920, but although the total vote polled in the State was less than half of what it was in 1920, the first time the women voted and was little less than half of the vote in the Presidential election of 1924, the total vote shows only a slight shrinkage over the last "off year" election in 1922.

The comparative figure since 1920 for leading offices follows: 1920: Total vote, 539,847; Overman's majority for Senator, 81,161; Morrison's majority for Governor, 98,814.

1922: Total vote, 266,725; Lee's majority for Corporation Commissioner, 84,881.

1924: Total vote, 480,068; Simmons' majority for Senator, 101,011; McLean's majority for Governor, 98,814.

1926: Total vote, 261,825; Overman's majority for Senator, 76,043.

Not Voting Straight Tickets The shrinkage in the vote, due largely to apathy in many eastern counties where there was no opposition to local tickets, was a no less striking feature of the election returns than was the failure of western counties to vote straight tickets.

Senator Overman carried 86 counties, leaving only 14 for Johnston J. Hayes, his Republican opponent, while the Republicans sent 16 men to the lower House of the legislature, together with three members of the Senate.

Prisoners Treated So Well On Gang They Cry To Stay When Time Is Up

Washington, N. C., Nov. 24.—Prisoners on the county chain gang receive such fine treatment while in custody of the officers that they cry with regret when their term of confinement expires. Some of them actually beg to be allowed to remain on the gang a little while longer. This information was revealed in the report made this morning by the grand jury to Judge R. A. Nunn, who is presiding over the November term of superior court. The jury visited the chain gang and their comment of what they found was as follows: "We have visited the county chain gang as a committee and found everything in good shape. The prisoners, are in most cases, sorry to see the expiration of their sentences. Therefore, we believe that they are being treated too good. Probably this is the first time in the history of North Carolina that a grand jury has brought in such a report. Whether the prisoners enjoy their penal servitude because of the edict recently enforced with respect to the wearing of night shirts was not brought out in the report. The fact remains, however, that many of the prisoners are genuinely sorry when their time is up and that in some instances they have asked to be allowed to stay with the gang just a little longer.

A. A. TONEY DIED SUDDENLY TODAY NEAR FALLSTON

Former Member of Legislature, Friend of Man and Public Spirited Citizen Dies.

Mr. J. P. D. Withrow, known sometimes by his three initials and again as plain Durham Withrow the "merchant prince of Hollis," died suddenly Thanksgiving evening about 6 o'clock at his home, following a protracted illness with heart trouble and high blood pressure. The "merchant prince" was born in Duncans Creek township of Rutherford county and for 35 years was a merchant at Hollis, building that little mountain town from a cross roads store to a thriving little village. Durham Withrow was known far and wide, for he was a big-hearted, jovial character who radiated joy and sunshine among all with whom he came in contact. He was honest in every particular broad-minded and public-spirited, a quick wit and quaint philosopher who lived a life of service for others. Evidence that he was a friend to man was often shown in the fact that he contributed liberally to all denominations and all fraternal orders, promoted many rallies and patriotic gatherings at the little town of Hollis, erected a monument to the soldiers who served in the world war, was a staunch advocate of good roads and better schools and was happy over the fact that he lived to see many of his dreams come true.

Mrs. Withrow was honored at one time as representative of Rutherford county in the state legislature which position he filled with trust and fidelity. He was prominent in church affairs, active in fraternal and business organizations and held many offices too numerous to mention.

His Mother Lives. Mr. Withrow was 60 years of age. He was married to Miss Laura L. Hamrick who died last August a year ago, leaving two children Grady Withrow of Hollis, and Mrs. R. L. Thompson of Tate Springs, Tenn. Also surviving are one brother James Withrow of Rutherford county and Mrs. W. A. Royster of near Fallston. His aged mother Mrs. Susanna Withrow still lives at the old Withrow home place at the age of 84 years.

Funeral Today. When Mr. Withrow's health failed, and the decline was more rapid after the loss of his beloved companion, he turned the store over to his son Grady who has continued to operate it. Mr. Withrow has since been somewhat retired but he never lost his youthful spirit, maintaining his interest in his friends and all uplifting causes. He sought the best medical attention in an effort to regain his health, but his once strong, robust body gradually withered under the physical troubles with which he was afflicted.

The news of his death is learned with deep sorrow in Cleveland and Rutherford counties where he was best known. The funeral and interment takes place at Big Springs Baptist church this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, the services conducted by the pastor, Rev. D. G. Washburn and others. A great crowd will no doubt gather to pay a tribute of respect to the beloved "merchant prince."

Mrs. Cabaniss Died Today At 2 O'Clock

Mrs. Wm. Cabaniss died this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Mrs. Cabaniss suffered a stroke of paralysis about ten days ago and since that time her condition has been very desperate, growing worse from day to day. Mrs. Cabaniss died at her home on N. Morgan street where she lived with her daughters, Misses Georgia and Kans Cabaniss. Funeral arrangements had not been learned.

Lattimore School Leads In Funds

A second check-up of the school contributions for the fund to create a World War memorial here shows that the Lattimore High school leads in the contributions. The Lattimore school gave \$51, which exceeded by a considerable amount that given by any other school.

The Morgan school of Shelby led the city schools and Lattimore led the county schools and also the total list.

Mr. George Small popular traveling salesman is spending the Thanksgiving holidays here with his friends.

Decorated by the First Lady

President Coolidge was decorated with a characteristic American medal recently by the first lady of the land. It was a Red Cross emblem, and indicated the president's enrollment as a full-fledged member.

Winston-Salem.—There is one man in North Carolina who is not afraid of Otto Wood," said G. M. Austin, known to his friends as "Red" Austin, last night. "And that man is myself. The guards at the State prison may be afraid of Otto, but besides not being afraid of him, I am hating for him. I want to see him."

"Austin is the man who married Mrs. Wood after she had secured a divorce from Otto, the "bad man of Western Carolina," when he was sent to the penitentiary for killing A. W. Kaplan, the Greensboro pawnbroker, in 1923. Austin lives with his parents at 414 Monmouth street, this city, but is working at Pine Hall, 25 miles from the city, being employed by the L. L. Tindall Paving company. He is 25 years of age and looks every inch a man.

Wife Granted Divorce After Otto had gone to State prison Mrs. Wood sued for divorce and was granted it by Forsyth Superior court. On December 6 two years ago Austin and Mrs. Wood were married and they now have one child 14 months old. Austin met Mrs. Wood at the coal store of Otto's brother, J. A. Wood, on Coal street, he living nearby and doing his trading there. The two children from the union of Otto and Mrs. Wood are living at the home of J. A. Wood.

Mrs. Austin is now critically ill with typhoid fever at Lawrence hospital in this city, having been there for the past 20 days. She was living with Mr. Austin at Pine Hall when taken ill and was taken to the hospital. Mr. Austin coming in every few days to see her. But yesterday he read in the papers that Otto was out again and so he came in not only to see Mrs. Austin but to see Otto if he happened to be about here.

Threats Alleged About a year ago Otto made one of his numerous escapes from prison and came here obviously hunting his former wife and Mr. Austin, who were at the time in Danville where Mr. Austin was employed with a construction company. It is understood that Otto stated freely that his former wife and her husband were hiding out from him and made numerous threats what he would do if he found them. And knowing that, Mr. Austin made a point to come into the city last night as soon as he learned Otto was out again.

But the courtship of Otto and Miss Rushey Hayes in Wilkes county reads like a page out of the book of fiction. At that time Otto was weaving the threads of life as automobile thief, holder-up of filling stations, and general desperado. He was spreading all over Northwestern Carolina a mortal fear of him as did Jesse James in the years of long ago. Otto must have read the books on the manner of life led by the famous James brothers for he, like them, loved to ride up and down Boone trail casting fear in the hearts of officers and others alike. It is said that in some places people looked at the setting sun with fear and trembling because Otto Wood might pass that way.

Drove Costly Cars But in his travels he met Miss Rushey Hayes, a member of one of Wilkes county's most highly respected families, one young woman loved by all who knew her and known for her kindness of heart. A typical honest Wilkes county country girl. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Deatur Hayes, of the Bella Plains section. But just as natural as could be when the young dashing Otto, this young Lothario who went

Romance In Career Of Otto Wood Very Colorful

about in the height of fashion, driving the cars of the costliest make, pressed his battle for the hand of Miss Hayes she fell in love. It is said Otto made it a habit to ride all over the Della Plains section of Wilkes county every Sunday afternoon in every type of car known. When Miss Hayes did not like the value of the car she was riding in Otto went out the following week and stole a black one. When she grew tired of the black car Otto would go out and steal a red one. When she did not like the rumabomb he would please the woman of his heart by stealing a big closed car. He saw to it that she rode in the finest cars that could be had in all Christendom. He never allowed her wishes to go unnoticed. He always saw to it that she got just what she desired along the matter of cars to ride in.

"Traveling Salesman" And all this time he was telling her he was a "traveling salesman" selling the best-known make of automobiles, and just as natural she believed what he told her. She never allowed the fear to trickle down her pillow over mortal fear of her lover. She listened to his fairy stories of his life and work and believed every word of them. Never for a moment did she doubt that Otto was the prince he painted himself to be. And never for a moment did she hear of his wild escapades for he managed warily to keep it all from her. In some manner she never learned her sweetheart was the desperado he was; she never found out that the man she put her faith in was riding up and down the countryside stealing, holding up, robbing and keep other sections of the mountain country in mortal fear of his presence.

Came Here To Live The courtship went on until she finally married him and came to this city to live with him in the home of his people down on Coal street. And even then he was so shrewd and clever in his criminal manipulations that he kept it all from her. She was the last to learn the truth. She kept faith burning always in her heart and soul for the man she had given her all for. She had gone down through the shadows for him the experiences that made a woman love the man she calls her husband and her all. Two little children graced the home and her life was wrapped up in them. She never knew what took Otto away from home so often. Little did she know he was on an expedition of theft. But one day the storm that had been brewing broke in all its fury over her head. Otto had slain his fellow man. He had taken the life of a Greensboro pawnbroker, and the State demanded his in return. He was tried and convicted and sent to the State Prison and after he had gone to pay the State for the crime she began to learn the whole truth of his past life. She soon asked the courts to free her of this bondage and it gave her a complete divorce.

She's Happy Now In the course of time she met "Red" Austin, who treated her kindly. A warm friendship grew up and in a short time it ripened into a love affair that has not ended yet. They were married two years ago and have one little baby. They live happily together.

Now that Otto is again away from the penitentiary he is expected by many to come back to his old haunts and Austin is not running away from him; is not fearing the presence of this desperado but calmly awaits his coming.

Farmer Dies After Plow Handle Punctures Body

Pleasant Foster, Of Beulah Section, Kicked In Abdomen, Died Thursday.

Mr. Pleasant Foster, farmer living in the Beulah section of Cleveland county near Kings Mountain, died in the Shelby Hospital Thursday morning about 10 o'clock as a result of an injury sustained when he was kicked in the abdomen by a plow handle.

Mr. Foster was plowing in his field last Tuesday when the plow point caught under a stubborn root from a tree, causing the plow handle to lift and kick him in the abdomen. For awhile it was thought the injury was not serious, but severe pain and dangerous symptoms developed and he was rushed to the Shelby Hospital Wednesday. An operation was found imperative and this revealed that his intestines had been perforated by the injury.

Mr. Foster died about 10 o'clock Thanksgiving day and his remains were taken to his home near Kings Mountain. He is a man 65 years of age and owns his own farm. He was well liked in his community. A wife and two or three children survive.

His remains were buried this Friday afternoon at the Hullender grave yard in No. 4 township.

Davidson Claims Title; Virginia Halts Carolina

Wildcats Take State Honors By Defeating Duke While N. C. State Downs Baptists.

The turkey day football game of North Carolina colleges, many of which were attended by Shelby fans, brought forth a state champion, made history of another big state classic, and furnished thrills galore to thousands of grid fans watching games that dropped the final curtain on a hectic, yet generally good season.

The Davidson Wildcats by virtue of a 20 to 0 victory over Duke holds outstanding claims to a state football title after years of struggle and brilliant play. The N. C. State Wolfpack helped along in the Wildcat honor taking. Doped to lose to Wake Forest by the dopsters and all others concerned Capt. Fred Logan, a Shelby boy in his final game led his husk eleven on to victory over the Baptists and their galaxy of star McDowell and Outen were the responsible for the victory, while Barney Rackley, the great Baptist quarter, and Bill Riley, the little end, fought valiantly in defeat.

Shelby boy, Hugh Arrowood, performed at end for the champion Wildcats and again it was a brilliant play of Dick Grey, the Davidson back and a brother Miss Nancy Grey, member of the Shelby school faculty, that carried Younger's eleven to the title.

Up at Charlottesville's numerous Shelby fans were among the 15,000 people who watched Virginia lie Carolina by a single field goal. To them and to hundreds of other back home it was encouraging to note that "Jay" McMurry, in his swan song on the grid, was one of the Carolina stars, while Steve Furches, former Shelby High quarter, generalled the Carolina team through a major portion of its gains.

PAROLE IS GIVEN WOMAN BANDIT BY GOVERNOR MCLEAN

Bonnie Sutton, Bobbed-Hair Auto Bandit of County, Gets Thanksgiving Freedom.

Shelby's one and only bobbed-haired bandit had reasonable grounds for being thankful yesterday. Among the 27 people in the State prison given paroles for Thanksgiving is Governor McLean was Bonnie Sutton, young girl who furnished several colorful episodes in the court news some two years ago.

The official reading of the parole gift was "Bonnie Sutton, Cleveland county, larceny and receiving stolen goods; served about 20 months on sentence of three to five years."

The official reading, however, fails to give the color that surrounded the case.

Took Taxi Here. Some years ago a young woman, not so hard to look at in street parlance, approached a taxi driver here and employed a car for a motor jaunt in the Boiling Springs section. Somewhere along the way the young lady asked the driver to get out and get her a drink of water. The driver complied and about the time he got to the ground his passenger threw the car into high gear and departed in a cloud of dust, leaving the driver to find his way afoot to Shelby. Several hours later officers here were told of the episode and the search began.

Some weeks, or months later, the bobbed-haired passenger was found at a tourist camp in Tennessee with several friends—and according to allegations, several cars. In the court proceedings that followed the young woman was also connected with a car missing from Charlotte. A man from Gaston county was also brought into the affair. After furnishing several amusements in the local court room the town's representative of the bobbed-haired bandit—at a time when such were popular—a lengthy sentence in prison was passed.

The parole—one of the State's Thanksgiving gifts—is the conclusion of that chapter.

Shelby Girl Marries A New York Boxer

Gaffney Ledger. Dr. Cecil V. Cook, pastor of the First Baptist church, is building a wide reputation among the pugilistic fraternity as a "marrying parson," it seems.

Not long ago he performed the ceremony that united Phil Kaplin, a heavyweight, of Richmond, Va., and a Shelby girl.

Monday he was called on to tie the knot for John Scott, of New York, and Miss Lena Mode, of Shelby. Scott is a boxer also.

Mr. and Mrs. Kaplin accompanied the bride and groom, the party being en route from Miami to New York.

Gin Cut Cotton Worth Much Less

A well known cotton buyer of Shelby says it is astonishing to know the amount of gin-cut cotton which is being offered on the market. This kind of cotton has a very low value and sometimes it is hard to find a buyer at any price because when it is opened in the picker room of a mill, all of it goes into the moat heap and is wasted. Farmers should guard against having cotton ginned while it is wet. It is all right to pick wet cotton, but it should be put in a dry place and allowed to dry completely before it is ginned. Stained cotton does have a market, but buyers shun gin cut cotton and hardly want it at any price.

This important matter should be remembered by farmers at this season of the year when weather is bad. Keep wet cotton away from the gin and remember that stained staple is worth much more than cotton.

Misses Katherine and Margaret Shelby of Gastonia were guests of Misses Evelyn and Sara Jane Adams on Monday evening.

Miss Virginia Hoy and a school chum, Miss Bee Smith, of Meridia Miss, both attending Converse college at Spartanburg, S. C., can to Shelby for Thanksgiving with Miss Hoy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Hoy.

Some folks are thankful today—because they're living.

When men steal alarm clocks, it's time for something. Such has happened in Shelby according to The Star today.

Bonnie Sutton, a woman sent to prison from this county, has been paroled, according to a news item.

A Cleveland county farmer died as the result of injuries receive when he was punctured by a plow handle.

Thanksgiving was quiet here and was not marred by any serious accidents according to a news survey.

Lattimore school leads in contributions to the World war memorial.

The football games of yesterday ended the season in the South. A survey of the final games appears in today's paper.

J. P. D. Withrow, "merchant prince of Hollis," is dead. Details of his death are in this issue.

Otto Wood, the notorious criminal of the state, has enjoyed a colorful career—some of his love affairs are cited by The Star today.

All the news and Thanksgiving events in The Star—be sure to read today's paper.

THANKSGIVING DAY VERY QUIET HERE

Services at Churches and Gifts to Poor Mark Holiday. Many Attend Games.

Thanksgiving passed quietly in Shelby and over Cleveland county. The usual atmosphere of the season prevailed. Generally it was a quiet day, many were away attending sport events, while others spent the day in "turkey tables" of friends or relatives elsewhere. Those remaining at home did so in every sense of the word and the streets here presented a Sabbath appearance.

Still Rabbit Hunt. This section boasts enough of the old stock to still send forth rabbit hunters galore and Brier Rabbit consequently failed to enjoy the holiday.

Thanksgiving services were held practically all of the Shelby churches and fair congregations gathered for the returning of thanks. The annual contributions to the orphanages of the state were taken and were well responded to.

Outside of the quiet, restful assemblage that spent the day at home the next largest number perhaps attended the various football games in this and adjoining states.

Accidents Few. So far as can be learned this morning, Thanksgiving accidents of a serious nature were few. A steady drizzle late in the afternoon and evening caused quite a number of lesser smash-ups and collisions, but information has it that no one was seriously hurt, and that no fatalities marred the day.

COTTON MARKETS (By Jno. F. Clark and Co.)

Cotton was quoted at 11:30 Friday on the New York exchange as follows: January 12.52; March 12.72; May 12.95; July 13.15; October 13.30; December 12.52.