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SHELBY, N. C. FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1931

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Rafe King Given Life Term In Prison This Morning At 9:05

Shelby Man Calm As He Listens To Judge

Counsel For King Fail To Make Motion For Mental Examination To Determine Sanity. To Seek Examination Later By Permission Of Governor. No Demonstration.

(Special to The Cleveland Star.)

County Court House, Lancaster, S. C., May 8.—Contrary to their announced intention last night, counsel for Rafe King made no motion this morning asking for a court order directing a mental examination of the defendant, and at 9:05 o'clock the prisoner was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Judge Featherstone, in imposing sentence, said:

"Rafe King, you have been convicted by a jury. I shall not attempt to lecture you. The sentence of this court is that you be confined for the period of your natural life in the penitentiary. Be seated."

Hands In Pockets.

King apparently was calm as sentence was pronounced. He stood erect, with his hands in his trouser pockets.

Defense counsel told the judge it was their purpose at a later date to seek a mental examination of the defendant and Judge Featherstone informed them that the governor of the state has the authority to order such examination at any time counsel may see fit to ask it. He held that no court order is necessary.

Court Room Filled.

The court room was well filled with spectators, friends of the King and Wilson families, and witnesses when the sentence was pronounced, but there was no comment and no demonstration.

Jury's Verdict.

The verdict of guilty of first degree murder with a recommendation of mercy was returned by the jury last night at 11:23, only 53 minutes after being given the case.

Counsel for the defense obtained delay in sentencing until 9 o'clock this morning when they were expected to ask for further delay until King may be examined by experts as to his sanity. The move was thought to be made in an attempt to get him sent to an asylum instead of prison, it is believed.

This is the second time King has been convicted for the murder, a Chester county general sessions jury finding him guilty in July, 1929. At that time he was sentenced to die in the electric chair, but was saved when the supreme court granted him a new trial. The case was moved to Lancaster when a change of venue was made.

Regains Composure. King took the verdict calmly. He was sitting down when it was rendered. For a moment, he turned pale, but quickly regained his composure. At the first trial, he laughed when the verdict was received.

No Evidence. Early yesterday defense counsel said they would introduce no evidence and the sensational case drew rapidly to a close.

Doctor To Get \$500 For Testifying In Trial Of Rafe King

Better Examination Could Have Been Made To Find Poison.

Lancaster, May 8.—Nine of twelve specimens taken from the home where the state charges Rafe King with murdering his wife, Faye Wilson King, contained human blood, Dr. John A. Kolmer of Philadelphia, professor of bacteriology at the University testified here Wednesday afternoon during King's second trial.

Dr. Kolmer, previously described by surgeons testifying here as probably the most eminent authority in the United States on blood stains, identified 12 specimens from the King home, including chips of wood from the floor, parts of a suit of clothing found in the attic of the King home, a part of a shirt found in the attic and a part of the dress shown by Mrs. King the day she died. One specimen showed no blood he said, and the other two were so small he was not willing to make a report on them.

On cross-examination he said he received \$500 from the state for his services prior to and his testimony (CONTINUED ON PAGE NINE.)

Fails To Show Any Emotion



Rafe King (above) listened calmly this morning as he stood on his feet in the court room at Lancaster, S. C., and was sentenced to life imprisonment by Judge Featherstone after a jury, for the second time, declared him guilty of killing his wife, Faye Wilson King, former Shelby school teacher.

Autos, Clothing Stolen In Raid Here Wednesday

Rob Eskridge Garage, Cohen's Store

Get Six Suits, Shoes, Brand New Car. Another Car Stolen Tuesday.

Another robbery wave swooped down upon Shelby this week and two automobiles, one stolen from the storage room of an auto agency, and a quantity of clothing are missing.

One of the cars and the clothing were stolen some time Wednesday night. The other automobile was stolen Tuesday night.

The thieves on Wednesday night entered the Cohen department store on LaFayette street, from the rear and made away with six suits of clothing and five pairs of shoes.

In Eskridge Garage.

On the same night the same thieves presumably broke into the Eskridge garage by a side door and stole a new sport model Ford coupe.

May Know Them.

City officers were today positive that they knew the identity of one or two of the thieves. Their names, however, were not made public so that the thieves might not learn that officers were seeking them.

Get Kendall Car.

Some time Tuesday night thieves made away with Whitelaw Kendall's Ford coupe from his parking place at the home of his mother, Mrs. Henry Kendall, on North LaFayette street. The doors and motor of the car were locked.

Luxury Tax Not To Pass, McSwain

Local Senator Says Senate Will Not Pass It. Anti-Sentiment Growing.

"In my opinion the senate will never pass the so-called luxury tax method of supporting state schools," Senator Peyton McSwain, home from Raleigh for the week-end, told The Star this morning.

4 Possible Verdicts.

Judge Featherstone then defined circumstantial evidence, declaring it to be as convincing under the law as eye-witness testimony.

After defining the difference between murder and manslaughter, the judge told the jury of the four verdicts as follows: 1—Guilty; 2—Guilty with recommendation of mercy; 3—Not guilty; 4—Not guilty by reason of insanity.

Scout Committee Meets.

A meeting of the executive committee for Shelby Boy Scouts will be held Monday night at 8 o'clock at the Hotel Charles at the call of Capt. B. L. Smith, county chairman.

All scoutmasters of the city, as well as members of the committee are requested to attend the meeting.

Invite Methodist Choir To Festival

Central Church Group Highly Honored By Westminster Choir Leader.

The choir of the Central Methodist church here, of which Mr. Dale Kalter is director, has been highly honored by being invited to participate in the annual music festival of the Westminster choir at Ithaca, New York, this year.

About 10,000 voices will take part in the outstanding national event. Only former members of the famous Westminster choir or alumni of the Westminster school who now have choirs of their own are invited. The invitation was forwarded by Dr. Williams, Westminster director.

Washington Observer Hears That Congressman Doughton Is Popular.

(H. E. C. Bryant.) Washington, May 8.—North Carolinians fresh from the state report strong indications of a contest for Senator Morrison in the primaries next year. This sort of talk has been going the rounds here since Mr. Morrison took the oath of office. It starts up and dies down and then starts all over again.

Early speculation named Governor Gardner and Clyde R. Hoey as probable opponents. The discussion of these two waned when it was stated by friends of Mr. Gardner that he would not enter the race, and that Mr. Hoey was making too much money practicing his profession to devote any more time to public office.

Rev. L. B. Hayes Is Kiwanis Speaker

Rev. L. B. Hayes, pastor of Central Methodist church and newly elected president of the Rotary club, was the speaker last night at the weekly luncheon of the Kiwanis club. Mr. Hayes is one of the most entertaining of dinner speakers.

He has been the pleasure of the club to hear for some time. After a series of witty flashes, Mr. Hayes spoke on "Work and Play, Love and Worship." Max Washburn was in charge of the program.

18 Gallons Booze, Five Gallons Home Brew Nabbed In Raid Today

Eighteen gallons of corn whiskey and five gallons of home brew were captured about 10:30 this morning by county and city officers at the home of Jim Porter, white, three and a half miles east of Shelby on the Cherryville highway.

The whiskey, stored in 36-half-gallon fruit jars, was found in a shed near the Porter home, and the five gallons of home brew in the house.

Porter was not at home when the raid was staged but his two sons, Eddie, 18, and Jesse, 15, were brought to the city by the officers and held in custody at the court house. About 30 or 40 minutes later officers found Porter and brought him in. All three were still in custody at noon.

To Collect Ballot Boxes In County And State If Expenses Are Assumed; Boxes Now At Precincts, Mull Says

Edwards Introduces Bill To Assemble Bailey-Fritchard Ballot Boxes.

If the United States senate investigating committee will give assurance that the boxes will be safeguarded and returned and all expenses borne, the ballot boxes in the Bailey-Fritchard senatorial election in Cleveland county will be assembled at the office of the superior court clerk, sealed and turned over to the committee.

Name Solicitor At Meet Today; Decide On Taxes

A new solicitor of the Cleveland county recorder's court will be named some time this afternoon by the county commissioners. Chairman A. E. Cline stated at noon. Unconfirmed rumors have it that Attorney W. Speight Beam will get the appointment, but today reports were that a surprise appointment might be made.

It could not be foretold at noon whether the commissioners would reach a final decision on the tax advertising and sale matter. It is probable, however, that before adjourning this afternoon they will decide whether to go ahead now and advertise and sell property for unpaid taxes or postpone the sale until fall.

This morning's session was given over to instruction of tax listers for the listing of personal property.

Postpone May Day At Boiling Springs

The May day festival at Boiling Springs college scheduled to be held yesterday afternoon has been postponed, because of inclement weather, until Monday afternoon, May 11. Jane Irvin will be crowned May queen and Hubert Huggins May king. There will be folk dances and other features.

Four Shelby Men Succeeded Selves

In Wednesday's Star it was erroneously stated that Mayor S. A. McMurry was the second mayor to hold office for two consecutive terms. Three other mayors held office for two or more consecutive terms. They were Mr. Joe L. Suttle and the late Col. J. T. Gardner and the late Mr. W. H. Jennings.

Young Girls Given Orders To Depart

Three young girls, facing disorderly conduct charges of varying types, were among the defendants in the county court here this morning.

Two of the girls, dressed in overalls, were picked up last night in the Lovers' Lane section on disorderly conduct charges. The third, neatly dressed, came from the Grover section and was charged with drunkenness. She was taxed with the costs and given a suspended sentence. The others were taxed the costs and ordered to leave the county.

Today's Boost

(Charity and Children.) Cleveland county farmers are making their plans on living at home and boarding at the same place this year. While Cleveland is a great cotton county they are determined to raise plenty to eat this year for man and beast. They are going for corn and wheat, and if they do, want and hunger will give them little trouble. Hoorah for Cleveland!

Hold Meeting.

A called meeting of the present city board, attended by the mayor and Aldermen Washburn, Schenck and Thompson, was held Wednesday night. At this meeting a representative of a special gas stove concern, appeared and asked that he be given permission to demonstrate his stoves here. This permission was granted, but the board did not express itself further about the matter.

Bill Combining County Offices Here Is Passed

Consolidated Office Goes To Cline

Hereafter No Commissioner Can Be County Auditor. Salary Same.

The McSwain bill, as amended in the house by Representative Henry B. Edwards, to consolidate three Cleveland county offices passed the senate in Raleigh yesterday and became a law.

The consolidation combines into one office the offices of county accountant, county auditor and county tax supervisor, the consolidated office to be known as county auditor and the present county auditor-manager, Mr. A. E. Cline, is named in the law to fill the office until the next election. The salary, \$3,000, is the same that he now draws.

Appointive.

A feature of the consolidation is that after the present term no member of the county board of commissioners may hold the office as the auditor is to be appointed by the board. Mr. Cline, who is named to the office is now a member of the board and chairman, but after the present term no commissioner can be named to the post.

The bill was introduced early in assembly session by Senator Peyton McSwain. The original bill named Mr. Cline to the office but required that he resign from the board to accept the consolidated office. There was some sentiment against this measure as it was contended that he had been elected by the people to the board and should therefore complete the term. When the bill reached the house it was amended by Representative Edwards to permit Mr. Cline to complete the remainder of the term as commissioner. Another amendment made the office appointive instead of elective.

The reason advanced for this change was that the office of auditor, or manager, is one in which the holder of the office must cut expenses and save on every possible purchase, a task that might not be popular as interests which might not relish an economical management would fight at election time. With this in view, to keep the office out of politics and on a business basis, the office was made appointive.

Comes Back Up.

With State measures taking up the major attention of the Senate the bill did not come back up until yesterday when Senator McSwain accepted the bill as amended and had it passed in the Senate to final ratification.

Harris Opens New Insurance Office

Mr. Will C. Harris has opened a new real estate and insurance office in the second floor of the Whisman building, North LaFayette street, over the McKinney market. Mr. Harris, formerly associated with Oliver Anthony in the realty business in the Lineberger building, now has the general agency for the Continental insurance company in addition to his real estate business.

New City Board To Take Office On June 1; No Changes Until That Date

Shelby's new city board, in which there will be only one change from the present board, will take office on Monday, June 1, and changes in city employees and policies, if any, will not be made until that time.

As a result of the biennial election Monday of this week there will be only one new face and the meeting of the city officials Monday evening, June 1. The new officer will be Alderman D. W. Royster, representing ward two, now represented by Alderman Ab Jackson, who did not seek reelection. The others, Mayor S. A. McMurry and Aldermen P. M. Washburn, John Schenck, jr., and Z. J. Thompson, were all reelected.

"I presume the board will hold a meeting on the night of June 1, after the new member of the board is sworn in," Mayor McMurry stated today. "If any changes of any type are made, they will not be made or announced until that time."

The mayor had nothing more to say when asked if any changes in

Heavy Traffic Between Shelby And Mooresboro

Auto Per Minute On Highway

Total Of 1,327 Vehicles Pass Point On Highway In One Day. Second In District.

In 24 hours time 1,327 vehicles passed a given point on Highway 20 between Shelby and Mooresboro, according to a traffic count made one day last month. The majority of the vehicles were motor cars.

That count means that almost one vehicle per minute passed along the highway during the 24 hours.

Second Heaviest.

The Shelby-Mooresboro point was the second heaviest traffic spot in the eighth highway district, the heaviest being between Valdese and Connelly Springs, on Highway 10, where 2,093 vehicles passed in one day. The third heaviest traffic point in the district was on Highway 20 between Shelby and Kings Mountain with 1,109 vehicles passing in one day.

Traffic decreases from Charlotte west it is shown by the count made. Between Charlotte and Gastonia 3,129 vehicles passed in one day, while the traffic between Bessemer City and Kings Mountain was 2,764, or more than twice that between Kings Mountain and Shelby.

The heaviest traffic point in the State was on the highway between Thomasville and High Point where 6,419 vehicles passed during the day, which was nearly five per minute. The second heaviest traffic point in the State was between Raleigh and Cary.

Tax Listers To Begin Monday

Appointments Made In Various Townships For List Takers. Farm Census Also.

Eleven township tax listers will begin on Monday listing all property and poll in Cleveland county for 1931, according to an announcement made today by R. L. Weather, county tax supervisor who had the list takers here to receive their supply of blanks and instructions as to values.

In this issue of The Star will be found the appointments of the list takers in the various townships for the month of May. Those who fail to list their property and poll will be penalized by law.

Names Of Listers.

Listers for the various townships are J. A. McCraw, No. 1 township; W. C. Hamrick No. 2 township; A. A. Betts No. 3 township; H. B. Stowe No. 4 township; M. P. Harrelson No. 5 township; T. P. Jenks No. 6 township; R. W. McBrayer No. 7 township; B. P. Jenkins No. 8 township; C. S. Beam No. 9 township; M. N. Gantt No. 10 township; and A. A. Horton No. 11 township.

In addition to the listing of property and poll, there will be a farm census taken. All property owners will be required to report the acreage of each crop, amount of land lying out, number of bearing fruit trees and tons of fertilizer used. This farm census is required by state law, but is not for taxation purposes.

County Club To Meet Tuesday At Grover

On Tuesday evening, May 12, at 8 o'clock the Cleveland County club will hold its monthly meeting at the Grover high school. J. Lester Herndon has charge of the program and says he has an interesting offering for the members.

Poultrymen To Meet Saturday Afternoon

R. W. Shoffner, county farm agent has called a meeting of poultrymen to be held in the court house here Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock. All poultry raisers in the county are urged to attend as business of importance is to come up.