

# The Gallows Birth The Noose Tightens, 2 Trials In One Day

By ROBERT L. WILLIAMS

The witnesses moved across the courtroom scene with great speed and efficiency as the trial progressed with alarming rapidity. Quickly the court heard testimony that Caroline Shipp had asked a man to buy her a box of rat poison, but she reportedly said that the poison was for her employer.

Called back to the stand, Solomon Holland testified that he had not at any time asked Caroline Shipp to buy rat poison for him. Miss Shipp was then asked to take the stand.

She did so, but she refused to be sworn in. She said, that on the day of her son's death, the child was well when she left to go to the barn, but when she came back to the house the baby was very ill. His face was swollen, and he was unable to keep food on his stomach. When she found the child ill and vomiting, she said that she tied a dish cloth around the boy's throat to keep him from vomiting.

The most damaging testimony was again provided by Solomon Holland, who stated that the previous March he had one day left for work at the nearby factory and that the baby was well and hearty. When he came home the child was ill and near death. He added that later that day he had been chopping wood and when he returned to the house the boy was dying.

Testimony about the partially empty box of rat poison was provided by several people, all of whom agreed in essence that Caroline Shipp had obtained poison and that immediately afterwards her child became ill and died.

Testimony was repeated that she did not want to see the body of her child and that she gave away his clothing immediately after the burial.

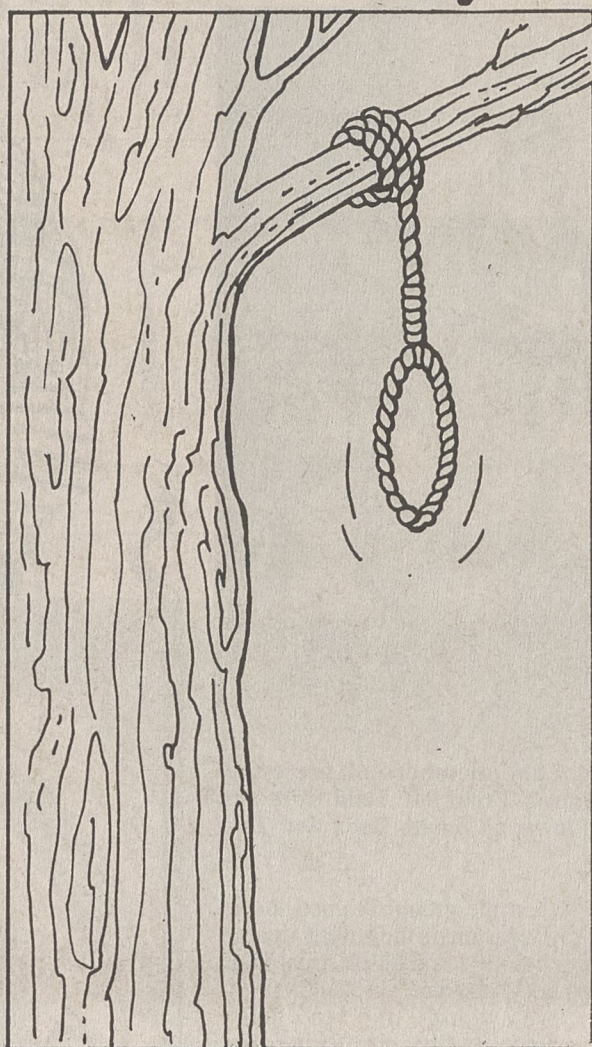
One witness testified that he was chopping wood and that he had to go into a small stream to retrieve some wood and that he saw a box that had been partially concealed near the bank. He pulled out the box, saw that it was rat poison, and sealed the box and turned it over to law enforcement agencies.

John Farrar testified that he was present when the box of poison was taken from the hole near the stream. He stated that the poison was "Rough on Rats," an arsenic-based poison. The brand name was the same that Caroline Shipp had reportedly obtained earlier.

Farrar testified that the box of poison had been opened and that a small quantity of poison had been taken out. The box appeared to have been opened with a knife, he said. He told the court that he had found the poison about two weeks after the death of James Shipp.

However, during all the testimony there was still the fact that the coroner's inquest report stated that there was no evidence of arsenic anywhere in the child's body. If James Shipp had been poisoned, as evidence indicated, by an arsenic-based compound, there would have been traces of the poison in his stomach, heart, liver, or other organs. But the medical examinations and subsequent tests had revealed not even a trace of arsenic, according to reports submitted.

The noose that had been tightening steadily from the time of the first complaints against Caroline Shipp suddenly became her death warrant as Dr. W.B.



Henderson appeared to testify.

Henderson, a graduate of the University of Maryland, stated that in view of his reading and experiences he would be able to form an expert opinion as to the symptoms prevalent in the death of the child.

"I made an autopsy of Jim Shipp," Henderson testified. "I examined the stomach and liver some two months or possibly a month after his death."

He reported that the body was well preserved, a condition that often accompanies death by arsenic. He described the conditions that are expected in such poisonings. He then told the court that he took a part of the child's stomach and liver and had intended to send these tissues to the state chemist but did not do so. Instead, he made the analysis himself.

The witness told the court that he had studied chemistry for two years at Davidson College but that he had not performed the test in question before. After a lengthy testimony, he indicated that in his expert opinion the child had died of arsenic poisoning, although the testimony was not consistent with what he had stated in the coroner's inquest report.

Next: Verdict, Guilty! Sentence, Death!

## 65 Find Jobs Through Local ESC Office

In November, 65 Kings Mountain people found jobs through the Kings Mountain branch office of the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina.

show that employers listed 20,693 job openings with the agency during November, and ESC staff filled 15,072 of the openings.

with 409; Concord with 354; Charlotte with 329; and Rocky Mount with 320.

In November, the greatest number of jobs listed by employers with ESC local offices was Dunn with 1058; Greensboro with 990; Winston-Salem with 972; Raleigh with 848, Kinston with 726.

A total of 234 individuals were placed by the Job Center.

Statewide totals release today

Figures released for specific Job Service Centers show the greatest number of individuals was placed in Winston-Salem with 429; Raleigh

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## Drivers To 'Tie One On'

During the holidays Revco truck drivers will be "tying one on" in support of "Project Red Ribbon," a national public awareness campaign sponsored by the Mothers Against

### Recommends Special Renewal

RALEIGH - Allowing safe drivers to renew their licenses for six-year periods, establishing "express" driver license renewal offices at shopping centers, and other ways of making it easier for drivers with good records to renew their licenses highlight a report by the Governor's Task Force on the North Carolina Driver License System.

The task force also recommended that new standards be adopted that would upgrade many of the state's driver license offices. Those standards would include improved access for handicapped citizens, requirements for adequate seating and other office amenities, and an increased emphasis on placing offices in locations that are safely and easily accessible.

The report has been received by Governor James G. Martin, who has said he will support many of its recommendations. The governor said that ideas contained in the report - along with administrative changes already made by the state division of Motor Vehicles - will do much to improve and to streamline the driver license system.

"The task force and the DMV have worked together to produce a much improved license system," Martin said. "I applaud their efforts to make improvements by cutting red tape and striving to increase highway safety. The combined efforts of the task force and the division will serve to develop a license system that provides better service to the public."

The governor said the Division of Motor Vehicles will make some of the recommended changes administratively, but many of the suggestions will require action by the General Assembly before they can be implemented.

Administratively, using available funds, express renewal offices have been opened in Asheville, Charlotte, Fayetteville, Research Triangle Park and Winston-Salem. Additional express offices are planned for Greensboro and Wilmington.

The report suggests that eventually an express renewal office should be located in each county with 100,000 or more drivers. The offices will serve people who have safe driving records and do not have to be retested to have their licenses renewed.

Drunk Driving to promote safe, alcohol-free driving.

According to David E. Lynch, Revco's vice president of Transportation, approximately 125 tractor-trailers bearing the drugstore chain's blue and red logo will be adorned with red ribbons as a visible reminder to all motorists to abstain from drinking and driving during the holiday season. Lynch said during the upcoming three weeks, the trucks are expected to log more than 700,000 miles transporting merchandise from the company's eight distribution center locations to more than 1,900 Revco drugstores in 27 states.

"As a drugstore chain, we are promoters of health and well-being, and we support programs such as 'Project Red Ribbons' that stress the

importance of life, health and safety. We hope that our participation in this program will help draw attention to a very serious message: 'don't drink and drive.'

"Revco's drivers maintain strict standards that are regarded as some of the highest in the industry. In the past 30 years, our drivers have logged more than 225 million miles and Revco has an outstanding safety record," Lynch added.

A privately held company with annual sales in excess of \$2.4 billion, Revco performs an important role in this country's health care delivery system, filling more than 65 million prescriptions annually and serving in its communities as a vital link between physicians and their patients' proper medication.

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