

# The Lancaster Ledger.

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## Marion Parr Hanged in Columbia.

Said Whiskey Had Brought Him Down and Made Plea for Prohibition.

Columbia Record, 14th inst.

Marion Parr paid the death penalty this morning for the murder of Clarence Shealy last August. The condemned man showed remarkable nerve throughout and seemed to feel certain that he had made peace with the Almighty. In his talk on the gallows he made a pathetic appeal to those present to help in the cause of temperance and laid his crime at the door of whiskey. The drop fell at 11:12 and at 11:16 he was pronounced dead by County Physician Fishburn. The crowd present were affected at the pathetic scene on the gallows and many of them joined in the singing of the two hymns after Parr had concluded the religious exercises.

### THE PREPARATIONS.

Early this morning Sheriff Coleman was at the jail preparing for the execution, which seemed to affect him far more than it did the prisoner. There was a morbid crowd at the jail and many fairly fought to get in. Passes had been issued to those who were entitled to admission, however, and the rest of the crowd contented themselves with listening to a street preacher who had opened services on the streets in front of the jail and who created considerable excitement. Parr had been attended to by a white prisoner named Teague, who has listened with a great deal of interest to the religious exercises conducted every day. This morning the condemned man said that he was feeling well and was ready to die. He ate a hearty breakfast and then took a bath and changed his clothes. When Rev. Vernon L'Anson, who has been instrumental in interesting the man in religion, arrived, there was a wait of a few minutes and the sheriff then read the death warrant. Through all of this he displayed no emotion and only appeared slightly nervous when walking through the corridor he shook hands with the other prisoners and told them to trust in God. A little cell in the corner of the building had been reserved for the services and in this Rev. L'Anson and Rev. W. J. Snyder waited for the condemned man.

### RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

In the cell there was a short prayer and Parr then handed his pastor a Bible which he had read while in jail. Many of the passages were marked and it is evident that the man made as close study of the book as his intelligence would permit. Then there was a wait of a half hour while Parr sang and prayed and was prayed for. The services over he announced himself ready. The sheriff and deputy sheriff came in, and just before the march to the gallows commenced Parr handed Mr. L'Anson a letter to his mother.

### A LETTER TO MOTHER.

The letter was written on fine linen paper which contained a note from some lady who had interested herself in the case and had sent some flowers to the prisoner. The note from the unknown writer was as follows:

"I send you these flowers with the infinite prayer that you have found the infinite love of the Heavenly Father precious to you and that your soul has been made white in the precious blood of our Saviour."

On the back of this Parr had written a letter to his mother as follows:

"Dear Mother: Just as soon as you get the corpse open it and do not close it until you get ready to carry it away from the house. Always as long as you and my wife live be loving and kind to her and my sisters and brothers, as this is the last writing you will receive from your loving son. Hoping we will meet in heaven, W. F. M. Parr."

### ON THE GALLOWES.

Parr walked down the steps steadily and the officers on each side did not have to assist him in any way. Out in the yard the black hearse had been thoughtlessly left where he had to pass, but at the sight of this he never flinched and mounted the gallows unassisted. There the ministers sang, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" and there were a number in the crowd of spectators who joined in.

It was now a few minutes after 11 o'clock and the gallows had been enclosed in canvas to keep the hundreds who were on top of the surrounding buildings from seeing the gruesome ceremony. Inside it was intensely hot and the spectators were beginning to wish the affair over with. After the hymn and prayers, Parr was asked the customary question as to a statement. He said without a tremor of fear that he wished to speak.

"I want to tell you all that whiskey has been my ruin. I feel that you are all my brothers and you can see what whiskey has done for me. I want you to do all you can to make this a dry country and deliver it from the curse of whiskey. You see what it has done. Whiskey fires the brain and makes a man go off down the street and fill himself up and the first thing you know he is shot or cut up. I did the murder. It would be foolish to say that I did not."

Parr then turned to the ministers and asked them to sing "Rock of Ages." He then shook hands with all of those on the gallows and stepped upon the trap. The black cap was adjusted, his hands and feet tied, and as the sheriff came down the steps the body shot down through the opening with a crash.

### DON'T BORROW TROUBLE

It is a bad habit to borrow anything, but the worst thing you can possibly borrow, is trouble. When sick, sore, heavy, weary and worn-out by the pains and poisons of dyspepsia, biliousness, Bright's disease, any similar internal disorders, don't sit down and brood over your symptoms, but fly for relief to Electric Bitters. Here you will find sure and permanent forgetfulness of all your troubles, and your body will not be burdened by a load of debt disease. At Crawford Bros., J. F. Mackey & Co., Funderburk Pharmacy. Drug stores. Prices 50c. Guaranteed.

The ceremony of laying the corner stone of the new Court House at Camden will be held on Wednesday, May 3, under auspices of the Masonic order of South Carolina. The grand Master John R. Bellinger, of Bamberg, S. C., will attend.

## Safe Robber Tells Methods of Operation

Carefully Investigate Before Doing Jobs—Generally Operate Between Midnight and 2 O'clock.

Charleston Post.

"South Carolina's the easiest State to operate in," said John McCarthy, alias John O. Dandrell, the reformed yeggman, who has been given a short respite from the Vermont State penitentiary to come to Charleston as a State's witness, to testify in the safe blowing and postoffice robbery cases this week in the United States circuit court, the remark being made in prefacing a description of the manner in which yeggmen do their work.

The statement that South Carolina is an easy mark—"It's just like finding money," as McCarthy went on to explain—is not through any lack of efficiency in the care of postoffices and bank vaults in this State, but because of the sparsely settled condition comparatively speaking, and the "open character of the country," which enables the yeggmen to easily make their escape, after a "job," as the operation of breaking and robbing a safe is termed. In the more thickly settled communities of the North and West, the robbers run great chances of arrests, and when they find an easy mark they naturally work it, and this is why there have been so many safes blown and robbed in South Carolina during the past few years.

"The first thing we do when we reach our base of operations," said McCarthy, "is to secure a Cram's map, giving the names and location of banks in our vicinity, for we always try to proceed intelligently in our work, and the banks are more inviting than postoffices. A job is usually done by four men, although some times there may be three, but four at least is almost necessary for a successful operation. When we secure the map, we study the railroad time tables and the general topographical features of the immediate section. We select the bank and one or more of the gang will go 'scouting' to see that the job can be safely pulled off. The police protection of the town is investigated, and attention is given to the movements of trains and general avenues of escape, as well as a place where we may safely meet before beginning work. A man will go into the bank or postoffice to have a bill changed that he might survey the location of things and as the 'scouting' is a most important part of the job, it is always carefully attended to, some times two or three days being devoted to this work. The scout returns to the base, and acquaints the party of his investigation, and if his report is favorable, a time is then fixed for the job and arrangements made accordingly.

"The preparation of the nitroglycerine is a matter of the first concern, of course. On account of its dangerous nature, we can't buy it, and we are forced to extract it from dynamite, which we usually steal from a quarry or magazine, near the base of operations. We never start out on a job with less than a pint of the explosive, for we need at least

a quarter or a half pint for a job. We take about ten sticks, six inches long and a half inch in diameter, crumble it in a piece of cloth, and then place it suspended in a can of warm water. We keep constantly renewing the warm water, which gives the operation the name of 'cooking the soup.'

"One man will carry the bottle of glycerine and the tools, which consist of a few cakes of soap, drills and implements, but generally speaking, we do not laden our selves with tools, for we always find a blacksmith's shop, or a railroad section house at some point convenient to the job, which we break open and get the brace, sledge hammer and a few chisels or crowbars to prize the outside door of the bank or postoffice and then to operate with on the bank or vault.

"In going to the place we all do not go together. One or two will make some other point nearby, that the suspicions of the conductor and train crew may not be excited. We drop off the train as near together, however, as we can and then we make the point of rendezvous, generally in the woods at some point already agreed upon.

"The time of operating is between midnight and 2 o'clock in the morning. We time ourselves to begin work about 12 o'clock. The first thing we do, upon coming from under cover, is to take a stroll through the streets about the bank or postoffice. We look carefully. It may be necessary to catch a watchman, gag him and tie him up, but watchmen like to sleep when every thing gets quiet, and things are quiet in the average country town at midnight. We get the tools, and if our keys do not fit the locks we then break open the door and reach the safe or vault. Two men stay on the outside to watch, while the other two, with an electric flash light, or dark lantern, get to work on the safe. The importance of the men on the outside is shown by the breakers waiting on their signal for the blowing of the safe. When the holes have been drilled and prepared for blowing it is the men on the outside who give the signal for the act, on the principle that if any suspicious movement of an officer or neighbor has been noted, the noise of the explosion may be deferred until things again become quiet. The report of glycerine is a sharp and quick noise which especially commends its use, for hardly does it take place than it is all over and if it should be heard by any body in the neighborhood, they soon turn over in their beds and go back to sleep, believing that they dreamt of the report.

"A safe is a 'pete' in the parlance of yeggmen. The two men on the inside get down on their knees before it and begin work. They thoroughly soap the crevices of the outside door, and then begin to drill the hole for the cotton saturated with the glycerine. The hole is drilled between the combination and the handle, close to the combination, first with a quarter-inch drill, then with a five-eighths and next with a half inch drill. Into this hole, is placed the saturated cotton, connected with a cap and fuse, which are held in place with soap which also deadens the sound. Then, every thing is ready

for the signal from the outside. It is given and the explosion takes place in the lock box on the inside, breaking the lock and sometimes forcing off the hinges. The operation of blowing the safe requires just a certain amount, for too heavier a charge of glycerine might knock off the handle and jam the door and give trouble. Once the outside door is off then the yeggmen turn their attention to the inside sheet door, which is called the 'keister' in the language of the safe blowers. This is the hardest door to open, and the blowers are sometimes at their wits ends to get on the inside. A hole is drilled and the explosive is inserted. Another explosion takes place, and probably only one sheet of metal comes off. A bolt is loosened or knocked out of place, and into this opening another charge of glycerine is inserted, and the operation is continued, until the door is finally down and the cash drawer is rifled.

"The work of blowing a safe requires about an hour and a half, and immediately at its conclusion the gang makes off as soon as possible. We strike across country unless, a convenient freight train passes, never, however, dividing the booty until day light on the next morning. Some times we have to bury the treasure, or a part of it, and the tools have to be hidden some times, too. When we take the train we never ride more than about twenty-five miles, when we then strike across country, putting further distance between us and our pursuers. In burying the tool bag or treasure, we always carefully select the place, making it easy of finding upon our return.

"Dodging bloodhounds is done by attaching a small piece of cloth, saturated with the oil of mustard to the heels of our shoes. We used to use vasoline with iodoform but the trouble about this drug is that we could not get the smell off our clothes when we wanted to do so. The oil of mustard is now used to advantage. In dodging officers we have a merry time of it some times being often forced to face the music. It all depends upon the character of the man or men at the head of the posse."

McCarthy could not help but smile as he thought of some town marshals who have stood in doorways when fired upon, and upon the yeggmen getting out of the way of harm, then firing their guns in the air, making great profession of earnestness and vigilance to hold their jobs. McCarthy can tell some interesting things of what town officers have failed to do, but this is not his business, or inclination at this time.

There are many other interesting things that McCarthy can tell and did tell to a reporter of The Evening Post, which would make good newspaper stories, but he is

### Chronic Bronchitis Cured.

"For ten years I had chronic bronchitis so bad that at times I could not speak above a whisper," writes Mr. Joseph Coffman, of Montmorenci, Ind. I tried all remedies available, but with no success. Fortunately my employer suggested that I try Foley's Honey and Tar. Its effect was almost miraculous, and I am now cured of the disease. On my recommendation many people have used Foley's Honey and Tar and always with satisfaction." Sold by Funderburk Pharmacy.

now trying to live down his past and the story of his adventures in many States, with their thrilling episodes and such sidelights as he can cast upon them, are left unreported at this time. McCarthy has reformed. He has hopes of making a useful citizen out of himself one of these days. He has been assigned to the shoe manufactory department of his prison, a trade which he may follow when he bids farewell to the prison walls.

McCarthy will spend a part of his time in prison writing a story of his adventures, which will be printed in book form, and from the public interest which attaches to the business of blowing and robbing safes, the book ought to take well in South Carolina. The term of seven years is a good long while to spend behind walls of granite, but McCarthy seems perfectly resigned to his fate.

### PLANS TO GET RICH

are often frustrated by sudden breakdown, due to dyspepsia or constipation. Brace up and take Dr. King's New Life Pills. They take out the materials which are clogging your energies, and give you a new start. Cures headaches and dizziness too. At Crawford Bros., J. F. Mackey & Co.'s and Funderburk Pharmacy. 25c. guaranteed.

### Served on The Jury and Now Under Arrest.

Birmingham, Ala., April 15.—John A. Turner, mayor, and Joseph M. Crowley, marshal of Adamsville, a mining town 13 miles west of Birmingham, and Julian Linton, a negro, were arrested tonight on coroner's warrants charging them with complicity in the murder of Isaac Weaver, a negro, two weeks ago. All three of the men were placed in the county jail without bond. At the time Weaver was assassinated Mayor Turner served on the coroner's jury which held an inquest over the remains and Marshal Crowley served all the warrants on witnesses who testified before the jury.

### Pneumonia is Robbed of its Terrors

by Foley's Honey and Tar. It stops the racking cough and heals and strengthens the lungs. If taken in time it will prevent an attack of pneumonia. Refuse substitutes. Sold by Funderburk Pharmacy.

### To Tunnel Lookout Mountain

Knoxville, Tenn., April 11.—W. J. Oliver & Co., railroad contractors of this city received advices today from President Samuel Spencer, of the Southern Railway awarding to that firm the contract to build the tunnel under Lookout Mountain, near Chattanooga, Tenn., on the Southern's extension from Chattanooga to Stevenson, Ala. The price involved in the contract is not mentioned, but it is supposed to be between two million and three million dollars. Work is to be begun at once.

Foley's Honey and Tar is best for croup and whooping cough, contains no opiates, and cures quickly. Careful mothers keep it the house. Sold by Funderburk Pharmacy.

—The Ledger, The Atlanta Journal, Semi weekly, and The Southern Cultivator, all three one year for \$2., but must be paid for in advance.