

AUGUSTA ROAD WAS SCENE OF BRUTAL CRIME

Young Columbia Transfer Driver Cut to Death at Dead of Night--At- tempt to Lynch Suspects.

William Brazell, 19 years old, a taxi driver of Columbia, was foully murdered some time early Monday morning on the Augusta highway and his body thrown in the woods at a point about 200 yards from the home of Mr. C. E. Risinger, not far from Leesville. Fred Kinard and Pinkney Swygert, two Leesville boys, members of a searching party, were the first to discover the body. Brazell was clubbed over the head with a blackjack and stabbed to death with a knife, there being three stab wounds, one in the right lung producing death. The details of the crime reveal it as one of the most brutal which has occurred in South Carolina in a long time.

F. J. Kirby, C. O. Fox and Jesse Gappins, three white men of Columbia, are being held in custody, charged with the crime. They were arrested near Waynesboro, Ga., when the Cadillac car, stolen from young Brazell, balked by reason of tire trouble. All of the men are said to be married, but not living with their families. They are all Columbians.

According to a confession said to have been made to the police in Augusta by Kirby, the three men employed Brazell, ostensibly to bring them into Lexington county to see some "girls." Somewhere near Leesville they struck Brazell on the head with a blackjack and, although the boy begged for his life, offering to allow them to take the car with impunity, his life was taken, the knife which was the instrument of his death, being twisted in his body when the murderer plunged the steel into him. After putting Brazell out of the way, the men took possession of the car and had proceeded beyond Augusta when tire trouble was encountered. The others insisted that Kirby wire to Columbia for money, but instead he called officers of the law and the trio were placed in jail in Augusta and the Richland and Lexington authorities notified. Sheriff Roof of Lexington and Sheriff Heise of Richland repaired to Augusta and brought Kirby back to the scene of the crime in order that he might locate the body, but it was found by the searching party before Kirby had located the place. Kirby was brought to Lexington and placed in jail, but late Tuesday afternoon he was removed by Rural Policemen Ashbill and Lown to the state penitentiary for safe-keeping. The other two men are being still held in Augusta to prevent a possible lynching.

Threat of Lynching.

As the news of the murder spread feeling in Columbia ran very high and numbers of automobiles loaded with men passed through Lexington Tuesday with the intention of intercepting Sheriff Roof, who had gone to Augusta intending to bring the men to the penitentiary. Solicitor Callison warned the sheriff after reaching Augusta of the threat of lynching and the latter decided to allow the men to remain in Augusta. On the way back he was intercepted by a crowd of about 200 men, who when they were satisfied that the prisoners were not present, quietly returned to Columbia. During Tuesday night a party also came to the jail in search of Kirby, but when they learned that he was already in the penitentiary they returned to Columbia. It is generally believed that had the sheriff attempted to bring the prisoners from Augusta Tuesday there would have been a lynching, as practically all avenues of entrance into Columbia were being watched.

The Inquest.

Coroner Weed went to Leesville Tuesday and empaneled the following jury to serve at the inquest: M. B. Derrick, foreman; N. S. Geiger, W. A. Rose, B. C. White, J. B. Watkins, L. S. Bolt, Jr., J. B.

Thompson, M. S. Kyzer, S. D. Shealy, F. C. Craps, J. B. Reynolds, Dr. D. M. Crosson testified before the jury as to the nature of the wounds and the cause of death, and the inquest was adjourned until 10 o'clock Friday morning. The body was then taken to Columbia, where funeral services were held Wednesday.

Aside from the confession said to have been made, the web of circumstantial evidence seems to be woven tightly around the men. They were taken with the blood-stained car which was driven by Brazell and the clothes of one of them are said to be covered with blood stains.

Court Meets Soon.

The next term of the criminal court will convene at Lexington on the second Monday in September, and will be presided over by Judge Thomas S. Sease of Spartanburg. Solicitor Callison will insist upon a speedy trial for the accused men.

Kirby's Confession.

Following is the confession of Kirby, made to the Augusta police soon after the arrest of the three men, and is substantiated in detail by the circumstantial evidence:

Kirby Makes Statement.

"About 10 or 11 o'clock these two fellows were about a half a block away from me. They sent me off to get a negro. They told me to get big Bill, the fat negro, in his car. When Bill came in he and his driver were having some words about some soldiers. I went across and got another car which they told me to get if I did not get big Bill's car. I came back and big Bill said his car was gone but would be back in about 30 minutes, but they had told me if I did not get him to come right straight back. We all three went up Assembly street to even with the postoffice and turned up to the hotel by the postoffice to see if there was a Cadillac there. There was no Cadillac there and Gappins said all the drivers there knew him. They went on the left hand side of Main street coming down and made me come down the right hand side. I met Mr. Allen, one of the two plain clothes men. I stopped to talk with him. He asked me if I was still living at the same place. I told him yes. They were on the other side of the street. We went on down and they motioned for me to come back on Assembly street. They came up to me and asked me what I was talking to Mr. Allen for, and they asked me if I told Allen they were going off with some girls, and that if I did they would cut my infernal head off. They sent me back to the same place and said that if I could not get the negro to go across the street and get a white man's Cadillac. They had already made me go down the street about a half dozen times until my toes were blistered and across the top of my feet.

Met at Depot.

"I come and met them at the Seaboard depot. I got the Cadillac and went to the depot. They had not got there but came in a few minutes. They told me to tell him to drive towards Lexington. They were going about two miles this side of Lexington to get some girls. We come over there and I had to stop and get out of the car myself. Gappins got out of the car. He told me to keep telling the driver that he had not come to it yet (the house) till he said that was far enough.

"We drove for about 12 miles this side of Lexington, Gappins said, till we had done passed the house. The dead man (Brazell) turned around and looked at his gas and said that he did not have enough to go back to Columbia and turned back around and went to Leesville, S. C. I got out to wake up a gentleman. He told me to go wake up another gentleman

across the street. This gentleman got up and let him have ten gallons of gas. Then we started back towards Columbia.

"We went five miles. Gappins had him stop the car. We all got out and stretched ourselves except Fox. Then he took the front seat and made me get on the back seat. We started off and went about a mile. Fox said all the rest of you have got to get out but me. He wanted the driver to stop the car so he could get out. Fox opened the door and put one foot on the running board. He knocked the boy across the head. Gappins grabbed the boy. Fox hit him three or four times, and then Gappins snatched him out of the car. Fox run around the car and Gappins was holding both of his hands. Fox had his knife in his hand and he stabbed him in the breast. He held it in the breast and worked it around. The boy was begging him not to kill him and said he would not tell. Gappins turned loose his hand and grabbed his throat and threw him on the ground. Fox stabbed him three or four times. Fox said he would cut his damned heart out of him and Gappins said that is all right. I have got his money.

Left Body in Woods.

"They told me to get out and help them to put him in the car. I got out and they just picked him up and threw him in the car. They got in the front of the car and made me get in the back, and turned around and come towards Leesville, S. C. They drove down the road some distance. I don't know how far, into the woods. They stopped the car and took him out and carried him into the woods. I told them that I could not, and they got out and one of them hit me in the side and said "get out of the way you are not worth a damn." They took him out and carried him down into the woods themselves. They were not gone but a little bit. They come back and got in the car and told me that if I ever told or mentioned anything they would do me the same way. We come on this way (towards Augusta). I think it must have been about 2 o'clock. I that the boy looked at his clock. The boy had said it was 2 o'clock and time for all of us to go home.

"We got to Augusta about 3 o'clock. We broke down about 8 o'clock and went on down to where the chaingang was working. They told me to ask if we could get a tire at the next station, they said they did not think so but said if I would phone back to Augusta I might have it sent out. Then they said I might get it at Waynesboro.

"We all went to the top of the hill to see if I could get the tire and to see if I could wire for some money. I found I could not get either. They told me to stay there and get the first car that came along and that if I did not get the one to walk to Waynesboro, and to wire for money, and if I got the money to wait there at the depot for them, and they told me that if I told anything that they would give me the same thing they had given the boy.

"I stayed there some minutes and a man and a lady come along, and then I told them to tell a chaingang, guard to come up there; I wanted to see him. I first asked them to take me to Waynesboro. They told me they could not, they thought. We talked a minute or two. I told him about the trouble and he went and called for the sheriff to come, he come back and I went to the work place until the sheriff come, except he and I got the car and brought it to the work place. The number was taken off the car while it was broke down and thrown in the bushes, they stated, and without the number the officers could not trace the car."

BARBECUE AND FAIR AT MIDWAY.

Don't forget the barbecue and fair at Midway, August 18. Prices for dinner will be 25, 50 and 60 cents. The admission into the fair will be 10 and 15 cents. Refreshments will be served and all kinds of amusements will be carried on. Come one and all and enjoy the day.

CHILDREN'S DAY AT CONGAREE.

There will be a children's day at Congaree Saturday, August 13. And on Sunday the protracted meeting begins with Rev. J. A. Brock of Lourens, S. C. Everybody is invited to come and enjoy these services with us.

SCHOOL NEWS

(By Julius E. Sharpe, Supt. of Education.)

It is earnestly requested that all teachers' certificates be placed on record in the Superintendent of Education's office. Teachers should send in their certificates to be recorded before school opens.

Trustees are requested to furnish the superintendent with the names of the teachers of the respective schools at the earliest possible date.

Trustees in need of teachers are urged to communicate with Mr. Jas. H. Shealy, Dept. of Education, Columbia, S. C. The county superintendent also has the names and addresses of a number of teachers and will be glad to aid you in getting teachers.

Teachers and trustees who desire a copy of the rules and regulations governing the examination and certification of teachers will be sent one on request. A new supply of the general school laws is also expected at an early date.

The Steedman school is planning the erection of a new school building, ready for occupancy at the opening of school.

Mr. Clyde Addy, a graduate of the Lexington high school and Clemson College, where he specified in agriculture has been elected professor of agriculture in the Lexington high school for the coming session. This is a new course and the trustees of the Lexington school are to be congratulated upon securing the services of this young man.

The compulsory census reports of the various districts are coming in very slowly. The time for filing these reports with county superintendent is up August 15th. The various boards of trustees are urged to have this report in by that date.

SPECIAL PRIMARY FOR JUDGE OF PROBATE.

The county Democratic executive committee met Monday morning and ordered a primary election to be held Tuesday, September 6, to fill the unexpired term in the office of judge of probate caused by the recent death of George S. Draits. The assessment for candidates was fixed at \$30 and \$30 additional for the winner in the election. Tuesday, August 23, was set as the last day on which assessments could be paid and pledges filed. If a second primary shall be necessary it will be held two weeks after the first.

E. L. Wingard was elected treasurer for the committee in the coming election.

SWANSEA STORE BURGLARIZED SATURDAY.

Swansea, Aug. 8.—Thieves entered the store of Rubin & Peskin at this place Saturday night and took goods consisting of silk shirts, suits, silk stockings and socks, shoes and 2 suit cases. The parties got into the store by breaking out a pane of the sky light. The booty is estimated at two to three hundred dollars. Messrs. Rubin & Peskin offer a liberal reward for the guilty parties.

POTATO GROWERS WILL HOLD IMPORTANT MEET.

A meeting of the Lexington Potato Growers Association has been called for Friday, August 12, at 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon, in the Court house to transact important business. All members are requested to be present at that time. The meeting will be brief if punctual attendance is had.

PINEY WOODS PICNIC SATURDAY WEEK.

The annual picnic of Piney Woods local of the Farmers Union will be held at the Piney Woods parsonage on Saturday, August 29. The programme will be sure to prove of interest, and the Piney Woods folks certainly know how to serve a dinner second to none. A large crowd is expected.

The chaingang moved Tuesday all tools and machines, etc., down to Cayce that all the roads in that vicinity may be worked and put in thorough repair. With the assistance of the government these roads will be equal to any in the county.

CENTER RALLY WAS SUCCESSFUL AFFAIR.

The thirteenth annual rally of Center local of the Farmers Union was held Saturday, August 6 at Center school house, and though the crowd appeared to be slightly smaller than last year the day was particularly pleasant for those who were present. Ideal weather conditions prevailed, adding materially to the pleasure of the occasion.

Addresses were delivered by T. Cushing Daniel of Washington, Hon. George K. Laney, state senator from Chesterfield, Hon. J. Clifton Rivers, state warehouse commissioner, and Hon. B. Harris, commissioner of agriculture. The deflation policy of the federal reserve board came in for a good deal of criticism from the speakers. The speeches were well received and were listened to with a splendid attention. Senator Laney was particularly happy in his talk and made quite a hit with his hearers.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. W. A. Leaphart, who in opening the meeting voiced some beautiful sentiments which struck a responsive chord in the breasts of his hearers.

The dinner was as good if not the best this scribe has ever seen spread upon a table. Certainly there will never be any pellagra in Center as long as the good farmers of that community grow such fine food and the good housewives retain the talent which they displayed for cooking. Adjectives are not adequate to accurately describe the bounteous dinner, consisting of all the good things of field and garden, made at home and cooked by experts.

After dinner the speeches were resumed and late in the afternoon the crowd dispersed for home, feeling well repaid for the time spent.

LARGE CROWD ENJOYED ZION PICNIC THURSDAY.

Under the shade of a spreading oak grove on the grounds adjoining the home of the beloved pastor, Rev. J. A. Cromer, the eleventh annual picnic of the Zion pastorate was held Thursday, August 4. Perhaps the largest crowd that ever attended this celebrated event participated in the pleasures of the occasion. The entire premises were surrounded by automobiles which early in the day began pouring a stream of people into the picnic grounds. Estimates of the number of people present varied, but it would perhaps be safe to say that at least 2,500 persons were present.

The morning exercises were devoted to the singing of familiar hymns and the addresses, chief of which was that of Dr. George B. Cromer of Newberry, which was enjoyed by all who were fortunate enough to be present. The address of welcome was delivered by Mr. Tally Marvin Roof, Rev. J. M. Senter of Chapin also delivered an address which was very much enjoyed.

A bounteous dinner was spread on a table under the trees and although the assembled multitude was larger than ever none went away without partaking to their satisfaction of the many good things with which the table was amply provided. After dinner there was more singing and the announcements were made by Judge C. M. Eflrd. At the conclusion Rev. Cromer thanked the congregation and friends for many manifestations of kindness and dismissed them with God's blessing.

The pastor's porch was piled high with the many gifts which the members of his flock had brought as a token of their esteem.

ARRESTED ON CHARGE OF INSURANCE FRAUD.

Felix B. Harmon, a Columbia insurance man, was arrested Saturday afternoon on a warrant sworn out before Magistrate Steadman of Batesburg, charging him with collecting money for insurance premiums without delivering the policies. Harmon is said to have operated to a considerable extent around Batesburg and Leesville, particularly among the negroes. Harmon had previously been arrested by State Insurance Commissioner McMahan. His license has been revoked. Mr. McMahan desires that all parties who had paid premiums to Harmon without receiving their policies should communicate with him at once. He is of the opinion that it will be possible to have the money refunded.

MISSIONARY UNION MEETING SOON

Following is the program of the annual meeting of the Lexington Woman's Missionary Union, which will be held at Sardis Baptist church, Thursday, August 18:

Morning Session.

10:00 a. m.—Song—"The Son of God Goes Forth to War".
Prayer.
Scripture message—"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil 4:13. Mrs. W. A. Harmon.
Greetings—Mrs. Redmond.
Response—Mrs. J. A. Hite.
Reports of W. M. S's. and conferring A-1 badges.
Superintendent's message.
Song.

Impersonation of W. M. U. Mission Study Course, Recognition of certificate holders.

Items of interest from Chattanooga Convention. Mrs. J. S. Harris, V. P. of Western Division.

Reports of standing committees:

- 1. Training school—Miss Bertha Laird.
- 2. Margaret fund—Miss Blanche Brooker.
- 3. Mission Study and literature—Miss Ethel Brooker.
- 4. Orphanage—Mrs. J. R. McKittick.
- 5. Aged Ministers—Mrs. Hutto.
- 6. Personal service—Mrs. E. E. Martin.
- 7. Hospital—Mrs. Setzler.
- 8. Obituary—Mrs. Zenker.

Offeratory for Miss Neale Young's car.

Address—75-Million Campaign Ideals. Mrs. J. R. Fizer.

Reading of Associational Policy. Appointment of committee on time and place; on resolutions. Election of nomination committee. Miscellaneous. Adjournment.

Afternoon Session.

Young People's Program. Associate Superintendents in charge.

Song—"Make Me a Channel of Blessing".

Devotional—Loyalty—Miss Bertha Fallaw.

Phil. 3: 7-8, The Ideal. Luke 14: 28-30, The Cost. Col. 1: 18, The Center. Isa. 40: 28-31, How to be loyal.

Reports of Y. W. A's. and G. A's. Conferring A-1 badges.

Report of Associate Superintendent of Auxiliaries.

Demonstration by Pelion Juniors. Address: Dedicated Lives.—Mrs. J. S. Harris.

R. A. Hymn. Reports of R. A's. and Sunbeams. Conferring A-1 badges.

Report of R. A. and Sunbeam Superintendent.

Demonstration by Sardis Juniors. Lake Sunbeam Song.

Address: Our Juniors, the "Corner Stone." Mrs. J. R. Fizer.

Offering for Expense Fund. Report of committee on time and place; on resolutions.

Election of officers. Adoption of policy.

Appointment of standing committees.

Reading of minutes. Closing prayer and song.

Please notice change of time of meeting from 16 to 18.

Every church in the association, whether with or without W. M. U. organizations is urged to send representatives. Women of Lexington association. I plead with you to come to this meeting, that we may plan for larger things in the Master's work.

MRS. W. H. WHALEY, Supt. Lexington W. M. U.

COTTON MARKET GOES UP SLIGHTLY ON REPORT

Since the announcement last week by the government that cotton had deteriorated since the last condition report and that the crop was in poorer condition than for a quarter of a century and that this, together with the reduction in acreage and lack of fertilizers, would cause the smallest crop in 25 years to be harvested, the market was responded somewhat, fluctuating to some extent. Twelve cents was the highest price paid for the staple on the local market since the rise.