

"Old Dan" will Accept Pardon

"Old Dan" Murphy, aged life timer at the penitentiary, who last December was unwilling to be pardoned, has changed his mind and is now anxious to leave the grim prison walls. The recent mutiny at the prison, the hardened criminals "who daily sulk around the penitentiary" and the ever increasing number of murderers coming to the prison have given Dan a shudder and he wants to leave it all behind.

Dan said recently that he had been the happiest man in the world until the prisoners mutinied and until so many hardened criminals began to come into the prison life. Now things have changed and the "old man of the cage," as he is often called, wants to forget the troublesome days of the penitentiary and get out into life where he can breathe the free air once again.

Has Been Threatened.

Dan has become more and more convinced that he should get away from the bars and walls. Another reason is that the prisoners have threatened him. He discovered a plot to rob and burn his little store, the only thing left in a life that was once as free as the babbling brook. Dan believes the men wanted to "get him." He is not afraid so long as Captain Roberts is near, but he thinks the men will take advantage of any opportunity when the captain is away. Dan is very fond of Captain Roberts. "The captain is one of my most beloved friends," Dan said.

Dan does not like the new prisoners that have been causing trouble. "This Davis and this Gates are hard birds," the old man declared. And Dan knows. He always works to the best of his ability with the officers.

Dan says he is innocent of any crime. He was convicted in Orangeburg county in the early '90s for the killing of Treasurer Cope. He was sentenced to be hanged, but the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. He has been in the penitentiary since his conviction, except for a short time when he escaped years ago. "I am serving time for another man, I can't help it," Dan declared. "I never killed the treasurer."

Petition Filed.

A petition for clemency has been filed with the governor and the pardon board has recommended a full pardon, but Governor Harvey will not act until he has made a thorough investigation of the case. A large number of persons have become interested in Dan and have signed the petition asking that the old man be given another chance. Dan is now past 65. He has a wife and son in Jenkins county, Georgia.

Dan has accumulated some money and believes if he receives a pardon he can make \$50,000 within four years. He has a good sized deposit at Augusta and also some money in Columbia. "If they give me a chance I will make a lot of money before I die," Dan said yesterday.

Mrs. Hartwell M. Ayer.

Florence, June 3.—After a lingering illness of several months, Mrs. Hartwell M. Ayer passed away this morning about 2 o'clock. The news was a shock to her friends, for although she has been at death's door several times she has rallied so wonderfully each time that all believed she would eventually regain something of her health. For the past week, however, her condition has been very discouraging, ending in her death in the early hours of the morning.

Mrs. Ayer, was before marriage, Cornelia Walter Smith, the only child of Thomas Ogle Smith and Cornelia Walter Fitch, both of Charleston, where Mrs. Ayer was born fifty-one years ago. She was married in June, 1890, to Hartwell Moore Ayer, of Barnwell county, who preceded her to the grave in 1917. Except for a few years in Charleston and Barnwell county, Mr. and Mrs. Ayer spent their married life in Florence, giving to the town and its people the best that was in them.

Surviving Mrs. Ayer are her mother, Mrs. E. T. Heriot, and five children: Hugh Banks Ayer, of Durham, N. C.; Lewis Malone Ayer, now in the United States navy, off the coast of Mexico and California; Elizabeth Wilnot Ayer, medical student of the Charleston Medical college; Cornelia Walter Ayer, Jr., and Verna Blythe Ayer.

Women are excluded from the throne of Egypt.

DEATH FOR MRS. VINSON.

Atlanta Woman May Be Hanged For Killing Husband.

Atlanta, Ga., June 3.—Mrs. Cora Lou Vinson was convicted by a jury in superior court here tonight of the murder of her husband, Dr. W. D. Vinson and sentenced to be hanged July 28.

The verdict without a recommendation to mercy was more than even Solicitor General Boykin had asked, as he had urged the jury to convict the woman and fix her sentence at life imprisonment, saying he had never asked that a woman be hanged. Under Georgia law a murder verdict without a recommendation carries the death penalty which the presiding judge formally imposes.

Mrs. Vinson shot her husband in a drug store here in March while divorce proceedings were pending. He had filed a petition for divorce, claiming she had threatened to kill him, but she thought he was about to shoot her when she fired. She was recently declared sane.

Only one white woman has ever been legally hanged in Georgia, according to H. G. McClelland, secretary of state. He added that he thought Mrs. Vinson was the only other white woman to be sentenced to hang in this state.

Mr. McClelland said the white woman hanged was executed in Oglethorpe county when the late James M. Smith was governor but that he could not recall her name.

The jury trying Mrs. Vinson took two hours to reach a verdict after having heard Solicitor Boykin picture her as having "carefully planned in advance" to kill her husband. Samuel Hewlett, counsel for the defense, declared the evidence showed she fired in self-defense and he asserted she had been "hounded" by her husband for years and deprived of the necessities of life. Send her back to her children, was his final plea.

Mrs. Vinson heard the verdict calmly and listened in silence to the pronouncement of the death sentence. Her counsel filed notice of an appeal for a new trial. Solicitor Boykin declined to say whether he would oppose it.

COOPER STANDS PAT.

Former Governor Refuses to Discuss His Pardon Record.

Greenwood Index-Journal, Tuesday: "I don't intend to explain my pardon record or the recent pardons which have been criticised," former Governor Robert A. Cooper told a representative of the Index-Journal yesterday afternoon. "The records are in the governor's office and anyone who wishes may examine them there."

Former Governor Cooper declared that he thought it would be undignified for a governor to enter into a newspaper controversy over an official act. The pardons granted by the former governor just before resigning to become a member of the national farm loan board aroused considerable newspaper criticism.

"The pardons were granted in the regular way and the records are all in the governor's office," Mr. Cooper explained. "Many of the pardons were recommended by prosecuting attorneys and court officials."

The former governor said he had not been a member of the farm loan board long enough to know how he would like the work. At present he is making an inspection of farm loan banks in the south and southwest.

COTTON BURNED.

Lightning Strikes Monetta Cotton Warehouse—400 Bales Lost.

Ridge Springs, S. C., June 4.—The Monetta cotton warehouse three miles north of Ridge Springs, containing about 400 bales of cotton, was completely destroyed by fire at 12 o'clock yesterday.

Lightning struck the building and caused the fire. The loss which is between \$40,000 and \$50,000 is fully covered by insurance through the state warehouse system.

JURY CLEARS COLLUM.

Only Eighteen Minutes Time to Reach Verdict.

Blackville, June 4.—The trial in the court of common pleas began Tuesday, May 30, at Barnwell, of A. V. Collum, charged with the murder of W. F. Walker, both of Blackville, was closed Thursday morning. The jury remained out only 18 minutes. The verdict acquitted Mr. Collum, who had shown a clear case of self-defense.

Senator Pollock Died Thursday

Cheraw, June 2.—W. P. Pollock, former United States senator, died suddenly at about 7 o'clock this morning. He had been in ill health for some months but there was hope of his ultimate recovery. He was out riding yesterday but this morning when he was getting up he fell over on the bed and died.

Mr. Pollock was born at Cheraw, the son of Capt. Alex Pollock, of the Cheraw bar, and Rebecca Pegues, and was fifty-two years of age last December. He married Miss Bessie Sallee, of Orangeburg, and is survived by her and the following sisters: Mrs. Henry Rogers, of near Rockingham, N. C.; Mrs. Lottie Harrall and Mrs. T. E. Wannamaker, Sr., of Cheraw; Mrs. T. L. Brooks, of Greensboro, N. C.; Mrs. Waddill Pegues, of Birmingham, Ala., and Mrs. Rathbun, of Providence, R. I.

Mr. Pollock had long been one of the most successful attorneys at the Cheraw, Chesterfield county bar. In early life he taught school and graduated from the University of South Carolina.

He was a member of the state legislature. He, with L. D. Jennings, campaigned the state against Cole L. Bleasie. He was a member of the United States senate, filling out Senator Tillman's unexpired term, and was a member of the county board of education for many years. He was a Mason.

The funeral services will be held on Sunday afternoon.

FOUR LIVES LOST IN WRECK.

Two Others Thought to Be Fatally Hurt in Union.

Union, June 3.—Four people were killed and two others possibly fatally injured this afternoon when the southbound Carolina Special struck an automobile half a mile above the city limits. Two others are possibly fatally injured. Of the dead two are young men and two young women, the ages ranging from 19 to 25 years.

The dead are: James Vaughan, B. J. Vaughan, Miss Laura Austin and Miss Minnie Austin.

John McKeown and Ben Alton Whitlock are in the Union hospital and are thought to be fatally injured.

James Vaughan was killed outright. Laura Austin died on the way to the hospital. B. J. Vaughan died immediately after being taken into the hospital, and Minnie Austin lived four hours after being taken to the hospital.

The tragedy was where a community road crossed the railroad. At this point the track extends from 200 to 300 yards in a straight line.

The engine struck the automobile squarely and piled it in a tangled mass by the side of the road. Two of the occupants were pinned to the locomotive by parts of the automobile and were fastened to the pilot when the train was brought to a stop.

One of the patients at the hospital has a fracture of the skull, and the other is suffering from internal injuries. Physicians entertain little hope for the recovery of either one.

Surgeons were rushed to the scene of the tragedy and rendered all possible aid to the injured. A great crowd of people visited the scene immediately after the wreck.

HUSBAND KILLED, WIFE HELD.

Revolts at Orders of Mate, According to Testimony.

Columbia, June 2.—Mrs. Clarence C. King, residing on a farm near Pontiac, this county, was held by the coroner's jury today for the killing of her husband, C. C. King, while he reclined on his bed early this morning. King's brains were blown out by a shotgun, fired at close proximity to his head, while he was lying on his side.

According to the testimony adduced at the inquest, King early this morning told his wife to go out and water and feed the stock, and for her and the children to prepare to pick boll weevils from the cotton. The woman became angry at her husband's language, it was brought out and, it is alleged, fired the fatal shot.

Another element entering into the tragedy was a negro woman whom King had hired for his farm. She had been the cause of dissension between the couple before, it was averred, and today when King told his wife the negro was to be installed in charge of the household Mrs. King, it is alleged, revolted.

District W.M.S. Met at Ehrhardt

The Charleston district conference of the Woman's Missionary society held its annual session Thursday at Ehrhardt. A splendid delegation was in attendance, numbering forty-five who registered, besides visitors. The address of welcome to the conference was made by Miss Emma Jane Varn and responded to by Mrs. A. D. Betts, of Beaufort. Mrs. W. I. Herbert, state president, brought a message from the recent council meeting which convened at St. Antonio, Texas, which she had attended.

Mrs. S. W. Henry, superintendent of social service work, gave a talk on social service, giving particular emphasis to the inter-racial work. Mrs. L. D. B. Williams, of Hendersonville, talked on how to make the work of the society more efficient in the district. Mrs. W. D. Gray, district secretary, presided over the meeting and gave a report of the district, together with helpful suggestions from time to time throughout the session.

The reports from the different auxiliaries were very good and of an encouraging nature.

At the evening of the hour the conference was entertained with special exercises by the Ehrhardt Junior society. Dr. C. F. Wimberly, of Charleston, made an address. A number of the pastors in the district were present during the session.

SESSION AT FAIRFAX.

Trustees Have \$40,000 More to Spend On School.

Fairfax, June 3.—The 1921-1922 session of Fairfax Centralized High school has closed. The commencement sermon was preached in the Baptist church Tuesday night by Dr. T. C. Skinner, pastor of the First Baptist church of Columbia.

The address to the graduating class was delivered Wednesday night in the school auditorium by Dr. W. J. McGlothlin, president of Furman University, after which diplomas to the eight graduates were delivered by Prof. F. C. Chitty, the superintendent of the school. Delightful music was furnished by Raskin's orchestra, of Fairfax. A feature of the exercises was the comedy play, "Sunshine," in three acts, by the graduating class.

The graduates were the Misses Fannie Wilson, Thelma Stallings, Maude Morris, and Daisy Myrick, and W. P. Hutto, Willie Drawdy, Russell Gray and A. R. Best.

Class motto: "We Will," class flower, pink carnation; class colors, pink and green. The faculty of session just closed was: Prof. F. C. Chitty, superintendent, and the Misses Alma Zelle Loadholt, Annie Loadholt, Lottie Fitts, Ella Head and Mrs. Louise Hammond.

Teachers for 1922-1923 have been elected.

The school just closed made a splendid record, and Prof. Chitty and his efficient assistants have received the commendation of the trustees and patrons.

The enrollment of the session just closed was 228, but the number will probably be considerably larger next session.

The trustees have about \$40,000 available for use in the building and equipping of more adequate accommodations for the next session of the school.

SNAIL IS SLOW.

It Took One Sixteen Days to Travel One Mile From Observation.

What do you suppose is the actual speed made by a snail in traveling? One foot in four minutes, or at the rate of one mile in sixteen days, if traveling continuously.

These are figures given by George Zahnizer, a civil engineer, of New Castle, O., taken from actual observation.

A short time since Zahnizer was standing along the Western New York and Pennsylvania railroad waiting for a train. He had nothing in particular to do and "killed a little time" by timing a snail which was creeping along the ground.

That snail traveled just exactly one foot in four minutes, Mr. Zahnizer says, and compiling distances at the rate of travel shown, Mr. Zahnizer has figured out that it would require sixteen days for the snail to move a mile.

COUNSEL ASKS NEW TRIAL.

Man Under Death Sentence Claims Brother Premeditated Killings.

Florence, June 5.—In the court of general sessions here today A. L. King, attorney for Edmund D. Bigham, gave notice of appeal for a new trial on the ground of alleged after discovered evidence. Judge S. G. W. Shipp set Friday to hear the motion. The after discovered evidence is in the shape of letters alleged to have been written by L. S. Bigham to his brother, Edmund, while the latter was in Georgia, and it is contended by the defense they will tend to show that Smiley Bigham killed his mother and sister and the latter's two children and then himself, the killing of Smiley Bigham being the crime for which Edmund has been convicted and sentenced to death.

Formal notice was given by the defense this morning to L. M. Gasque, solicitor of the court of the approaching contest. At the same time, the defense files with him a copy of the letters, affidavits and other data, which will be offered to the court as after discovered evidence. Mendel L. Smith, of Camden, is expected to assist the defense in arguing the motion for a new trial.

Chief among the letters, all of which are contended by the defense to have been written by Smiley at Pamplico to Edmund in South Georgia, is the following:

"Mother and Maggie had the two signed deeds that had disappeared in their possession. Causing trouble seems to be their pleasure. They took the money that the post office department has me charged with and were the cause of Cleveland running off, and I had to pay the bond. For years I have had to leave home and pay board to be in peace, to make my calculations and plans.

"They poisoned father and tried to poison Leatha's child after her death when I found them with the deeds. I decided to kill the last one of them, and leave no one to tell the tale.

"I am writing this to explain, why I did this act. You will never see me again alive." Signed "L. S. Bigham."

This letter is one of a series which it is alleged were written during the summer and the early fall of 1920 leading up to the return of Edmund to Pamplico in the fall of that year. This particular letter does not bear any date though all the others bear dates through June, July and August, possibly some of them being in September. Also, all of them are typewritten and signed in ink.

At the same time, the defense is offering a number of affidavits, which would tend to substantiate the letters and the statements contained in them.

Some of these affidavits relate to the genuineness of the signature.

MEMORIAL TO GENERAL LEE.

To Be Erected in the City of Washington.

Richmond, Va., June 3.—Erection of a suitable memorial to Gen. Robert E. Lee in Washington, D. C., has been provided for, financially, in the will of Emerson McMillan, millionaire banker and Union veteran of the War Between the States, who died at his country estate near New York city Wednesday.

Mr. McMillan, besides his own army service, had five brothers in the Union army, three of whom were killed. He devoted the latter years of his life, however, after amassing a huge fortune and one of the most notable art galleries in America, to the work of preparing for a monument to the Southern chieftain in the national capitol.

Many obstacles had to be overcome, the first of which was the objection of the Lee family, who did not desire any controversy with those who might object to the location of such a memorial in Washington. The consent of congress is necessary to the erection of a monument in any public parks of Washington, and Mr. McMillan had devoted considerable time to a study of the question and to consultation with friends, both of the north and of the south.

The gift for the Lee monument will provide for an adequate monument by one of the nation's foremost artists.

The Hidden Power.

Jones was busily wielding a paint brush. A would-be caller stopped.

"Is your wife at home, Mr. Jones?" she said. Jones was equal to the occasion.

"My dear madam," he replied, "do you imagine for one moment that I would be doing this if she wasn't?"

Future Weather Tells the Tale

Clemson College, June 5.—After a conference here between Director W. W. Long, of the extension service, Prof. A. F. Conradi, entomologist, and V. V. Williams, until recently associated with B. R. Coad at the Delta Laboratory, and now with the extension service to conduct poisoning demonstrations in this state, Director Long issued a statement on the boll weevil situation to the effect that many of the insects now present on cotton in various parts of the state are not boll weevils but cowpea pod weevils, and that farmers need not become panicky over the presence now of abundant boll weevils, since the real loss to be expected depends on weather conditions in June and July. Director Long's statement, which should tend to temper the alarm now felt by many, is given below:

"A great majority of the weevils in most of the cotton fields at this time are cowpea pod weevils and not boll weevils. These insects in most cases look so very much alike that it is difficult for the average man to distinguish them. The cowpea pod weevil is not primarily a cotton pest but occurs on cotton only temporarily in the absence of cowpeas. This pest is most injurious along the line from Barnwell to Marlboro county. In this belt it is expected every season at this time, and the most successful practice is to delay chopping of young cotton until the attacks are over. Wherever these insects attack cotton that has been chopped to a stand the value of rapid thorough cultivation can not be over estimated.

"The fact that the boll weevil passed the winter in great numbers and may be expected in cotton fields at this time in unusual abundance, does not necessarily mean great damage to the cotton crop. Situations like this have occurred before in the history of the weevil in this country, where they came out of winter quarters early and in great numbers, causing a panicky condition among the farmers. The loss that we may expect depends on the weather conditions of June and July.

"With the approach of hot weather the present generation of weevils may yet be practically destroyed, so that the abandoning of a cotton crop at this time could hardly be justified by the records. The cotton should be given frequent and shallow cultivation to keep down the weeds and to air the soil. As the bulk of the cotton crop in South Carolina is made by share-croppers, the women and children should be used to pick weevils, and this should be so supervised that it is done with great thoroughness, otherwise it has no value whatever.

"The damage done by weevils injuring the bud at this time is frequently over-estimated, the only effect being slightly delaying the growth of the plant.

"Farmers prepared for dusting are advised that the first dusting may be given in heavily infested fields about the time fruiting begins, and this to be followed by the second application when ten to fifteen per cent. of the squares have been punctured, at which time three dustings should be given in succession four days apart. Infestation counts are easily made by any one and directions are furnished by the extension service."

FORTUNE FOUND?

Believed Money Buried Made Away With.

Aiken, May 31.—James C. Garvin, an octogenarian farmer of the Wagener section, died suddenly on April 28, at his farm home. "Uncle Jimmie," as he was called by the people of Wagener, was supposed to be very wealthy, but upon his death it was found that his fortune amounted to about \$40,000. Last Saturday, Andrew Ward, of Wagener, discovered a newly dug hole near the home of "Uncle Jimmie," and an old iron pot around which was scattered several old coins, and the belief prevails in the neighborhood that parties in search of the old man's buried treasure, found a pot of money and got away with it before relatives discovered the fact. It was the boast of Mr. Garvin that he had one thousand dollars for every year of his life, and he died, aged eighty three years old. Pope L. Courtney, of Aiken, a brother-in-law of the deceased, gives it as his opinion that the fortune buried by the old man was dug up and carried off.