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BADGER CASE SENTENCE

TWO SOUTH CAROLINIANS FIGURE IN TRIAL AT WASHINGTON

4 YEARS EACH IN LEAVENWORTH

Federal Prison for James B. Knotts and Alton A. Armstrong, Who Plead Guilty. Two Years for Woman.

Washington, May 4.—Special: James Bailey Knotts, of North, in Orangeburg county, South Carolina, and Alton A. Armstrong, of Watertown, S. D., each aged 20 years, were today sentenced to four years each in the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., by Judge Wright, in Criminal Court No. 1, of the District of Columbia, after they had pleaded guilty to working the "badger" game on Charles Rosenthal, a well-known merchant of this city.

The woman in the case, Flossie Bennett, the supposed wife of James Bailey Knotts, received a sentence of two years in the penitentiary at Lansing, Kan. She gave her age as 19.

Benjamin H. Knotts, who at first pleaded guilty of complicity in the "badger" scheme by which Rosenthal was lured to the woman's apartments, attempted afterwards to palliate his offense by claiming that he had merely furnished the money by which the apartment was rented and fitted with electric lights and photographing apparatus. The jury found Benjamin Knotts guilty, but recommended him to the court's mercy.

New Trial Asked. Counsel for the defense gave notice of a motion for a new trial, whereupon the bail of Benjamin Knotts was increased to \$4,000 and he was remanded until it should be furnished.

Cross examination and testimony in rebuttal was very damaging to Benjamin Knotts, who claims that he had no knowledge of the alleged blackmailing scheme, and replying to his plea that he thought his brother and Armstrong were engaged only in experiments in electricity, another woman, a friend of Flossie Bennett, testified that Benjamin Knotts had approached her and offered her \$2,000 to assist in the "badger" business, declaring that the game could be worked with ease on numerous men of prominence, who would pay big money to escape, and this woman's testimony was corroborated by that of women friends, who claimed to have overheard the conversation.

Girl Tells of Plans. Flossie Bennett was attired in a "baby blue" coat suit and wore a jaunty straw hat trimmed in ribbons of the same blue, of which color also was the crown of the hat. She answered questions put to her in a straightforward manner.

When counsel had made their pleas and read numerous letters and telegrams to the court, showing the previous good records of the three men and urging leniency in the matter of punishment, Justice Wright called on Flossie Bennett to explain the inception of the plan.

The young woman, who, while only nineteen years old, has been married and left her husband in Michigan, told of making the acquaintance of Bailey Knotts and Armstrong.

She said the two boys talked over the scheme to work the "badger" game by taking photographs of a victim whom she was to lure to her apartments. She consented to the proposition, she said, and went to Rockville and was married to Bailey, as she called him. She declared Benjamin Knotts had never discussed the proposition with her or in her presence, and said that she was unaware that he was in the scheme until he accompanied Armstrong when the latter rushed into her bedroom after Bailey had threatened Rosenthal and tied the latter to a chair.

The court then called on Benjamin Knotts to explain a letter written to his brother, in which Bailey told him his scheme was all ready, and that he needed the money only to put it into operation. This brought out the details of the guilt of Benjamin Knotts, and the jury was called into the box, and the trial of Benjamin Knotts proceeded.

The father, who is seventy-four years old and who has not visited Washington since he came to attend the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln, told the court that his son, Benjamin is his only support and farms for him the plantation where they live in South Carolina.

He said neither of his boys had ever been in trouble before, and that the cause of Bailey's downfall was the coming of a green country boy to a large city and falling in with evil companions. Young Bailey, he said, had been a leader in church work and a member of the Y. M. C. A., but had been ruined by the glare of the city.

Good Character at Home. Attorney Wolfe for the Knotts told of his acquaintance with them and of the high character which they bore in South Carolina. He stated that word had reached the old parents that their "baby boy," for whom they had made many sacrifices to send him here to complete his education, had fallen among bad companions. They dispatched the elder brother to bring the boy home. When Benjamin reached here, counsel said, he got on a spree and had guilty knowledge of the scheme in which he found the boys engaged.

MAN FIGHTS TILL DEATH

SINGLE-HANDED, BANDIT DEFIES POSSE UNTIL KILLED

USE OFFICER'S BODY AS BLIND

Tragedy Follows Pursuit of Men Who Robbed Postoffice — Captured Robber Refuses to Reveal Identity.

Jefferson, Iowa, May 7.—Marshal Busby, of Paton, Iowa, and a bank robber were killed and a highwayman seriously injured in a clash between a sheriff posse and the bandits early this morning, at a school house two miles from Paton.

This morning at 4 o'clock the highwaymen blew a safe in the post-office at Paton, taking several hundred dollars in stamps and money. Busby, with a posse, started in pursuit of a school house near Paton. The marshal went to the door; upon opening it was shot dead. One of the robbers dragged the body into the school house. Then a fusillade of shots was begun between the robbers and the posse.

Shielded by Marshal's Body. The body of Busby was propped up in the window as a blind, from behind which the robbers fired on the posse.

By this time another posse arrived. The combined posses then poured a fusillade into the windows and doors of the school house. Finally, one of the robbers staggered through the door way badly wounded, saying: "Boys, I surrender, but my pal is going to fight till you get him."

Shot Through the Heart. The lone bandit was given a chance to surrender, but he refused. The fight was renewed. All the time the dead marshal's body was hung up against the window and the robber was firing from behind it. The fusillade lasted for thirty minutes.

Finally the posse saw the robber stagger and Busby's body fell from the window. A rush was made for the door. The robber was found dead, with a bullet through his heart.

The wounded robber refuses to give his name. His leg is shattered and will have to be amputated.

NARROW ESCAPE FROM BIGAMY

Savannah Man Charges He Was Duped by "Divorce" Lawyer.

Savannah, Ga., May 6.—Primus J. Williams had a narrow escape from committing bigamy. He alleges that he paid a lawyer \$28.80 to represent him in divorce proceedings and that the attorney gave him a legal looking document purporting to be a genuine divorce. The lawyer, J. J. Perdue, it is charged, gave Williams a bogus document in return for the fee paid him, and he now faces charges of conducting a divorce bureau out of court, accepting money for services he did not render, and signing the name of another to a counterfeit divorce verdict. He was arrested yesterday, after being in jail several days on other charges.

Williams read in the newspapers about the first arrest of Perdue, and he then made a careful examination of the paper the lawyer had given him. He was making preparations to be married at an early date.

He read many letters from prominent people of South Carolina testifying to the previous good character of their kinsmen.

Judge John G. Capers, of South Carolina, former commissioner of internal revenue, made an appeal for clemency, on the behalf of the parents of the Knotts boys. Attorney Campbell Corrington, made a strong plea for mercy, especially extolling the work of Justice Wright in applying to proper cases the provisions of the probation law. He asked that the defendants be given another chance.

Justice Wright's Remarks. Rosenthal was trapped and photographed in the apartment with the Bennett woman. He was tied in a chair and forced at the point of a pistol by the younger Knotts and Armstrong to sign a check for \$5,000. Justice Wright declared that the violations of public decency in the District must be severely punished, and that he had no sympathy with the men who had willfully plotted the trapping of Rosenthal for money, whatever their standing or their influence might be. He said that the only one of the defendants he was inclined to sympathize with was the Bennett woman, whose plight he believed to be due to the men who had used her in their scheme, and whose lot was bad enough anyhow.

Congressman A. F. Lever, of South Carolina, who had been acquainted with the Knotts family, testified to the good reputation of Benjamin Knotts in his native State. A pathetic incident of the trial was the testimony of the aged father of the Knott brothers in their behalf. He declared that their character had been good.

The Bennett woman was the only one of the defendants who seemed to be affected by the proceedings. The case is one of the most sensational in the recent annals of crime in the Capital City.

There were three tardies in the eighth and tenth grades, one each in the third and seventh grades, making a total of eight for the school which is less than one tenth the number the first month.

EXTENDING R. R. LINES

THE RICH PEE DEE COUNTRY BECOMING NET WORK OF RAILROADS

REACHING FOR TIDE-WATER

Seaboard Air Line Figures Prominently in Railroad Development in this Section. Comprehensive Review of the Situation.

The Bennettsville and Cheraw Railroad is to be extended from Brownsville to Sellers at once, and is to be completed by September. All the preliminaries have been completed, and grading and construction is to be begun this week or next. There are now many car loads of cross-ties stacked up at the end of the present line at Brownsville, awaiting the construction force.

The Route. After making several surveys the route has been finally located. It deflects a little eastward from a straight line, and runs for several miles near the Bennettsville and Marion public road. In this way it runs on the high sandy plains and misses most of the broken slopes and branch heads that divide the high lands from the low lands.

Beginning at Brownsville, the line bends considerably to the eastward, crossing the lands of H. M. Hodges, estate of Henry Rogers, Carabo, Bailey, Ammons, G. W. Harper, C. P. Hodges' Argyle place, Chum Jackson, Steve Smith, Jack Crowley, Sheriff S. V. Lane, and passes about 300 yards west of Kirby's cross roads. Thence it crosses the lands of Messrs. Lundy, Giles Love, Fore and J. Rich Hayes, passing about 200 yards west of Mr. Mr. Hayes residence. Continuing, it crosses the large plantation of E. Lide Berry, going about 200 yards east of Mr. Berry's home; then the lands of Lorenzo D. Manship and the Tighman Lumber Company, entering into the west side of the town of Sellers is nearly 11 miles.

The rights-of-way have practically all been obtained. The two first places crossed were settled by arbitration, one man being the arbitrator in each case. For the Henry Rogers estate, Senator J. B. Green was agreed upon as arbitrator, and he assessed the railroad \$300. H. M. Hodges and the railroad company selected C. E. Exum as arbitrator and he fixed the sum to be paid at \$500.

Heavy Rails to Kollock. The road from Bennettsville to Kollock is now being laid with 50 pound rails. The old rails will be used on the Sellers extension. The work of replacing the rails has delayed the beginning of construction on the extension.

Another Road Coming. There is another railroad being close to and almost parallel with the line of the B. and C. extension.

Several years ago, the Marion County Lumber Company, owned by the Camps, started to build a road northward from Marion, and got a charter to come to Bennettsville under the name of the Marion and Southern railroad. They had large timber holdings up the Pee Dee river into Marlboro county. They started to build the road and got it ten or twelve miles from Marion. They crossed the main line of the Coast Line about two miles southwest of Sellers, and built their road up two or three miles this side of Sellers. Then the panic came on, the company got into financial straits, and work was suspended for three or four years.

Recently this piece of road has been bought by men who are closely identified with the Seaboard Air Line, which has a branch running from Lumberton to Marion. It is said that the buyers have contracted to extend the roads as far northward as the Marion County Lumber Company has timber, which is up near Drake and Blenheim.

The surveys of the B. and C. and the M. and S. are nearly two miles apart at Sellers, but gradually converge till they cross each other just below Brownsville, from where the M. and S. survey comes up on the east side of the B. and C. toward Blenheim.

Work has been commenced again on the M. and S. and it is being pushed northward. It is now about half way from Sellers to Brownsville.

Will They Connect? The general impression among outsiders has been that the roads would form some kind of coalition or arrangement by which the two roads would connect. The officials of the road say, however, that they have no intention of connecting, and that each road is going to build its own line, and the surveys and construction are now leading the public to this conclusion.

There are many unconfirmed rumors, however, as to what may ultimately happen. One of these is, that the M. and S., or Seaboard, is laying its plans to buy the B. and C., so as to connect the Lumberton and Marion branch with the main line which is to be built from Marion to Charleston.

Another rumor, which is also without confirmation, is that the M. and S., if it fails to get the B. and C., will build straight northward via Blenheim and Bennettsville to Hamlet.

Four Roads Close Together. The building of the two new roads will put four roads running north and south not far apart in lower Marlboro and Dillon counties. The B. and C., and the M. and S.,

PRES. DIAZ WILL RESIGN

WILL QUIT OFFICE WHEN PEACE PREVAILS IN MEXICO

DECISION AT CABINET MEETING

Manifesto Addressed to People of Mexico, Not to Insurrect, but Complies With Demands of Madero.

Mexico City, May 7.—Gen. Porfirio Diaz tonight issued a manifesto to the people of Mexico declaring his intention to resign the Presidency as soon as peace is restored. In this manner the President has virtually acceded to the demands of Francisco I. Madero, Jr., that he makes announcement of such intention.

As to when peace is actually restored, Gen. Diaz reserves the right to judge. In the words of the manifesto, he will be when his conscience tells him that he will not leave his country in anarchy.

For His Country's Sake. The President declared that his determination not to relinquish the Presidency at this time was not due to vanity or love of power, because, as he points out power at this time had no attraction, accompanied, as it is, by tremendous responsibility and worries. He says he was prompted by a desire to conserve the best interests of his country.

President Diaz made it clear that he does not propose to abandon the Presidency while his country is at war, and that he would not do so at any time under compulsion. President Diaz's manifesto will be made public to-morrow morning when it will be sent to Judge Carabajal, at Juarez.

Promise Made to People. The promise of the President is made to the people of Mexico and its receipt by the rebels will be incidental. That it will be sent to them immediately, however, by private individuals and that it will be regarded as entirely satisfactory by them is taken for granted.

It was at a Cabinet meeting this afternoon that Gen. Diaz made his decision. For two hours and a half they discussed the terms of the manifesto and at the conclusion of the meeting there remained nothing to do but to secure its official promulgation.

Only in a general way does the manifesto refer to the revolution. The government's position, indicated by the revolutionists failed to observe the amenities of the peace negotiations by making them public. Officially, it was stated tonight that Madero and his advisors were guilty of betraying an agreement in the question of the President's resignation. It was declared that it had been agreed to in conference that this point should not be permitted to become an issue.

HONOR ROLL.

Dillon High School For Month Ending May 30th.

First Grade.—Cecil Bracey, Mattie Bass.

Second Grade. Dolph Braddy, Marion Kinard, Johnnie McLean, Louise Bass.

Third Grade. Julia Bethea, Charles Regan, Mack Britt.

Fourth Grade. Dexter Evans, Flora Bethea, Emma Kate McInnis.

Fifth Grade. Hettie Bethea, Braxton Tart.

Sixth Grade. Alice David.

Seventh Grade. Lila McDonald, Raymond Evans.

Eighth Grade. Estelena McDonald.

Ninth Grade. Lillian Fore.

Tenth Grade. Frances Allen.

Eleventh Grade. Ruth Stackhouse.

The fifth and eleventh grades tied for the flag which indicates the leading grade in punctuality, regularity and deportment.

There were no tardies in the first, second, fourth, fifth sixth, ninth and eleventh grades.

KILLS MAN AND WOMAN

MRS. ROSE BESSINGER AND WALTER SANDIFER KILLED IN RESTAURANT

2 LIVES FOR LOAF OF BREAD

E. E. Grimsley Enters Restaurant, Kills Woman Proprietor and Her Clerk, Grimsley Said to Have Been Drunk.

Columbia State. Ernest F. Grimsley, a young white man, is in the Richland county jail charged with killing Mrs. Rosa Bessinger and Walter Sandifer.

The whole tragedy was enacted yesterday afternoon in the Acme restaurant and grocery store, 1219 Taylor street, just off Main street and was caused, it is said by witnesses, by the fact that Mrs. Bessinger, who conducted the place, refused him an extra roll of bread with a bowl of soup ordered by Grimsley. There are many conflicting statements and many rumors, and whether or not Grimsley was drunk has not been determined by the authorities.

The shooting took place shortly after three o'clock. Walter Sandifer was shot and almost instantly killed, two shots taking effect in his lungs. Grimsley, according to Frank M. High, fired on Mrs. Bessinger, who had just entered the store from the kitchen. She was hit in the abdomen. She was hurried to the Columbia hospital, where she died shortly after 6 o'clock. The inquest will be held at the police station at 3 o'clock by Coroner Walker.

Witnessed Shooting. Frank M. High, a veteran of the Confederate Home, was the only known witness to the shooting.

"I had just stepped into the restaurant," said Mr. High, "and was standing at the counter talking to the man behind the counter (Sandifer). He was cutting up some onions. It was not later than 3:20 o'clock. I don't remember the exact time I was talking to Sandifer, and the lady (Mrs. Bessinger) came in and spoke to me. I had taken meals in the place several times with them, and they both knew me. She went back into the kitchen, where there were some negroes. The kitchen is the adjoining room. This man (Sandifer) was standing there talking to me across the counter."

Grimsley Entered. "This man (meaning Grimsley) came in the front door of the restaurant, and without speaking a word, threw a pistol by my shoulder and fired at Sandifer. Sandifer fell behind the counter. The man (Grimsley) then walked around behind the counter and shot Sandifer lying on the floor dying, a second time. The man (Grimsley) turned his pistol on the woman and fired twice. Sandifer never raised a hand against the man. He did not have time to, for the man shot too quick. It was all unexpected. The man Grimsley, without saying a word, left the store. Mrs. Bessinger fell to the floor and screamed, and I got out of the place."

Cause of Tragedy. According to the various witnesses, and it is said, according to the dying statement of Mrs. Bessinger, Grimsley went to the Acme restaurant yesterday morning shortly before 12 o'clock. He ordered a bowl of soup. Mrs. Bessinger gave him one roll with the soup. It is said by witnesses that Grimsley said that two rolls should be given with one bowl of soup. There was a dispute over the question. It is said that Grimsley left the place about 12:30 o'clock; and that Mrs. Bessinger and Walter Sandifer thought no more of the matter.

Bought Cartridges. According to the testimony in the hands of Coroner Walker, Grimsley went to the store of Jas. T. Sloan on Main street, between 3 o'clock and 3:30 o'clock and purchased 20 cartridges of .38 calibre. It is said that he showed a pistol here and that he placed a new ball in the pistol and left the store hurriedly. A few moments later he committed the deed.

Man Was Arrested. After shooting Sandifer and Mrs. Bessinger, Grimsley left the restaurant and walked across the street, where he tried to get into a hack. He was stopped by J. C. Jackson, a policeman. Grimsley held his pistol in his hand, and, according to Policeman Jackson, he had thrown out three empty cartridges and reloaded the pistol. Mr. Jackson said that Grimsley said: "I have killed two people inhere."

It is said that he asked for his pistol to scatter the large crowd that had gathered. The motor patrol wagon was called and Grimsley was hurried to the police station. Policeman Jackson said that Grimsley did not appear to be drunk, and that he looked to be a sober man.

After being placed in the cell at the police station Grimsley commenced to sing, and no statement could be obtained from him. It was stated at the police station that he was too drunk to talk coherently. Later he was turned over to Sheriff Coleman.

Statement from Negro Woman. Three was a negro woman in the kitchen of the restaurant named Many Johnson. She said that she was sitting at a table helping Mrs. Bessinger. Sandifer was in the front of the restaurant behind the counter. She said she heard some one enter the front door, and then two shots were fired. Mrs. Bessinger,

COMMISSIONERS HAVE BEEN IN SESSION

FOR TWO DAYS

DEED FOR LOT IS EXECUTED

Commissioners Are Considering Number of Bids for Erecting Public Buildings. Two Score Contractors Here.

Tuesday being the day for considering the bids on the court house and jail, the court house commissioners have been in session for two days considering the many bids submitted. Tuesday there were about 20 contractors and sub-contractors in Dillon, and about ten bids were before the commissioners, but up to the hour of going to press the contract had not been awarded Wednesday the deed to the church property was signed, the purchase money was paid over and the matter of location is settled for good. The commissioners will remain in session until the contract for the public buildings is awarded.

It is learned just before going to press that the contract has been awarded to J. A. Jones, for the sum of \$75,000. Mr. Jones is one of the best known contractors in North Carolina.

WAS MARSHAL NEY EXECUTED?

Historians Weston and Watson Differ as to Identity of Peter Stuart Ney.

Pee Dee Advocate.

The following communication, and Mr. Watson's reply, are copied from the May number of Tom Watson's Magazine:

As to Marshal Ney's Death.

"Dear Sir: I notice in your book, 'Waterloo,' that you do not believe Ney escaped death. Probably you have never seen 'Historic Doubts as to the Execution of Marshal Ney,' by Weston, and published by Thos. Whitaker, New York, about 1894. This book is now out of print and copies cannot be gotten at anything like the price it first sold for. It is a rare book. Peter Stuart Ney came to this country in 1815, landing at Charleston, S. C., and lived upwards of thirty years in South and North Carolina. The first four years were passed in obscurity and then he made his way into Marlboro county and taught school near Brownsville for three or more years, and then went to North Carolina and finally died in Rowan county, this State. The people with whom I came in contact knew him none other than the famous Marshal Ney, of France. He said so only to his most intimate friends. I knew several men, fifteen years or more ago, who went to school to him. Peter Stuart Ney, while in the school room in this country in 1821, was handed a paper with the news of Napoleon's death and he was so overcome with grief that he dismissed the school for that day. He had an idea when Napoleon II came to the throne he could then go back to France, and when Napoleon II died Ney said he was poisoned and he gave up all hopes of ever seeing France again. There are many incidents to show that he was the famous Marshal and on his death bed, in Rowan county, North Carolina, he told his friends (when they told him the doctor said he could live but a few hours) that he was Marshal Ney, of France. His recognition by a Frenchman when attending a tournament in Columbia, S. C., and his acknowledged 'extraordinary' with the saber in a sham fight with a French instructor in saber tactics, and the Frenchman telling him there were only two persons in all France that this Frenchman was not able to put out of battle with the sword, and they were Prince and Marshal Ney, the Frenchman telling Peter Ney that he was either one of these two men. The body of Ney was taken up in Paris and also that of Peter Ney in North Carolina, and the one in France did not compare to Ney at all, while the one in North Carolina did. There was something about the skull that showed the North Carolina body like Ney of France.

Of course, some would read Weston's book and say there is nothing in it, but people can testify here in Marlboro county to many incidents connected with the life of this strange man, a man who would draw the eye of any man anywhere, and one of the most superb riders ever seen. His horsemanship was perfect. It is thought that Ney of France was uneducated, but Mr.

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ger, she said, got up from the table and started through the door to see what had happened. She said that two more shots were fired and Mrs. Bessinger fell across a chair near the kitchen door. She said that she did not see Grimsley shoot.

Ernest E. Grimsley is about 22 years of age. He was until recently employed as a change guard by Richland county, but resigned. Walter Sandifer was about 30 years years of age and married. He has been a resident of Columbia for several weeks, coming here from Camden, being originally from Bamberg county, it is said. He was employed as a clerk in the Acme restaurant.

Mrs. Bessinger is the wife of Jerry W. Bessinger, the proprietor of the Acme restaurant. She had been a resident of Columbia for a number of years. She resided at 1326 Taylor street.