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THREE MEN SENTENCED TO DIE FOR MURDER

Special to The News and Courier, Lexington, Sept. 13.—In solemn tones amid a deep hush, Judge Thomas S. Sease this afternoon at 5:25 o'clock pronounced the supreme mandate of the law on S. J. Kirby, C. O. Fox and Jesse Gappins, the three Columbia men convicted during the day of the murder of William Brazell, youthful taxi driver of Columbia, when he sentenced them to die by electrocution at the State Penitentiary, Friday, October 21.

Kirby's case went to the jury this morning at 10:24 o'clock and a verdict of guilty was returned in thirty-five minutes, and that of Fox and Gappins, who were tried jointly, was given to the jury at 4:34 o'clock this afternoon and a decision was reached in forty minutes. There was much sentiment in the demeanor of the three condemned men when their fate was pronounced. There was merely a perceptive quiver around the mouth of Kirby, and Fox appeared to be unperurbed. Gappins, the youngest of the trio, turned livid, but he did not quiver.

It was quite reverse among the relatives of the three men. Mrs. Kirby, wife of the condemned man, and his young child who were in the audience sobbed aloud, while J. S. Fox, aged father of C. O. Fox, laid his head upon the back of a chair and quietly cried. The mother and sister of Gappins, who left the court house before sentence was pronounced, were in the yard of the building and were extremely affected. Gappins' wife who was in attendance at the trial in the morning, was not present when her husband learned his fate.

A pathetic scene was enacted this morning during a short recess of the court. Gappins' mother and sister broke into the bar of the court, rushed up to the young man and gently stroked his hair, audibly sobbing all the while. The guards had to gently lead them back from the youth.

The evidence today was a repetition of that of yesterday in the Kirby case, except that of Fox, who, in a voice without a quiver and absolutely emotionless, told a harrowing tale of the remorseless and merciless killing of William Brazell. His recital was such that it brought gasps from the audience.

Fox, substantiating a written confession of his which was introduced earlier in the day by Sheriff J. T. Plunkett, of Augusta, claimed that the plot to steal an automobile was hatched to him by Kirby and Gappins and they inveigled him into joining them. His narrative as to the hunt for the car by Kirby and the murder near Leesville, this county, was substantially the same as that told by Kirby and Gappins.

As the car neared Leesville, "swore Fox, "I was stopped several times, and Kirby got out and called for Gappins. When Gappins returned he told me that Kirby wanted him to knock him out of Brazell with the blackjack, and he refused," he said. Fox said that when the car left Leesville headed for Columbia, Kirby, who at that time was on the back seat with him, persuaded him to hit Brazell on the head with the blackjack. He recalled that he thought the weapon would only strike the chauffeur and they would get down the side road to be found while they were with the car.

"I looked him across the head," he testified. "He looked around at me and asked what are you doing? I then hit him several times more. He tried to get out of the side door of the car and Kirby grabbed him by the throat. I continued to hit him until the blackjack broke and the shot was fired. At this time Brazell was on the side of the board of the car with Kirby grasping him by the throat with his knee pressed into his stomach. He was jammed against the side of the car."

Kirby testified at me that we would have done something now and cried "the shot him." I had out my knife and I struck at into Brazell twice, once while Kirby was holding him against the car, and the other time he was dropped to the ground."

The witness and without a quiver, told how young Brazell begged for mercy, but they continued to hit him on the head and jab the knife into his back. He said that when Brazell was being pulled from the car by Kirby, "I am dying," and Kirby said "you are not dying, but you will be dead before I am through with you." He claimed that while he was cutting Brazell, the youth pleaded for

them not to kill him, but he worked the knife around in the chauffeur's chest while Kirby beat his head into the dirt. During the slaughter, he said, Gappins was holding one of the arms of the taxi-driver.

Fox declared that when the three put Brazell into the back of the car, which Gappins drove while Fox was on the rear seat, the chauffeur moaned. He swore that Gappins asked if the youth was dead and Kirby replied, "He will be when I am through with him, damn him."

The man on cross examination stated that he did not believe the injuries he inflicted on Brazell caused his death, intimating that while the youth lay prone in the rear of the car with Kirby, the latter stabbed him. He said when they got into Georgia Kirby asked him if he had thrown his knife away, and he replied that he had not. Kirby said that he had thrown his away.

Court opened this morning at 9:52 o'clock with Kirby on the stand, under examination from Solicitor Callison. He did not deviate from his story of yesterday except he placed himself at the mercy of the court. He declared that Gappins held one of the arms of Brazell while Fox was doing the cutting. This Gappins continually denied to the last. His case went to the jury at 10:24 o'clock this morning, but Judge Sease did not sentence him until the other members of the trio had been convicted.

Following the verdict of guilty in the Kirby case, Fox and Gappins immediately were placed on trial. Clyde Sister, of Columbia, owner of the murder car, and W. D. Roberts, mechanic of Richmond County, Georgia, who arrested Kirby told the same story as that narrated by them yesterday in the Kirby trial.

W. J. Leonard, deputy sheriff of Charleston County, testified that Fox and Gappins confessed to him. His narrative was substantially the same as those which preceded him.

Gappins on the stand in his own defense, told almost verbatim the same story he swore to yesterday when he was a witness for the State against Kirby. He emphatically denied that he held the arms of Brazell while Fox was cutting him and disputed the array of witnesses who testified he confessed to them that he did help in the immediate murder.

T. A. Berley, State constable, was placed on the stand and swore that Gappins told him, in the presence of J. D. Dunaway, chief of Richland County rural police, that Kirby and he secured the chauffeur's arms while Fox drove the knife "home."

The case closed at 4:05 o'clock this afternoon. In both the Kirby and the Fox-Gappins cases the arguments or court-appointed attorneys and those of the solicitor were extremely brief. Counsel for the defense merely requested the jury to recommend mercy if possible, and Solicitor Callison pleaded for the extreme penalty.

In sentencing the prisoners, Judge Sease said that the verdicts were just and righteous ones, and the only thing he could advise the prisoners to do was to prepare to meet their God. He said that the law had been vindicated and justice wrought.

Before he sentenced the trio, which was done separately, Judge Sease asked if they had anything to say. The only one to reply was Gappins, who exclaimed: "I do not think I got justice." The prisoners were brought here this morning under heavy guard, arriving at 9:23 o'clock from the penitentiary. The court room, nothing like as crowded as it was yesterday, was amply guarded and every protection was thrown around the convicted murderers.

Almost immediately after sentence was pronounced they were loaded into an automobile and taken back to the State prison. They arrived there at 6:25 o'clock this afternoon and will be placed in the death house shortly. A gruesome bit of evidence was produced in court today when Solicitor Callison, exhibited to the jury the suit of clothing worn by Brazell when he was killed.

Won Winthrop Scholarships. Miss Stella Adeline Hall, of Camden, has been awarded the vacant scholarship to Winthrop College from Kershaw County. Miss Hall is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Hall, of near Camden, and is a recent graduate of the Camden High School. Miss Phoebe Richards, of Liberty Hill, who won the scholarship last year, has been granted an extension scholarship for another year.

FRIENDS PRAISE KENNEDY

Twenty-Three Acquaintances Speak Well of Man Slain at Los Angeles.

The following statement appearing in Los Angeles Evening Herald under date of September 3, is so out of the ordinary that we are reproducing the statement in The Chronicle. Young Kennedy's father was born and reared in Camden and moved west many years ago. The young man has many relatives residing in Camden and elsewhere in this state, and the statement below will be read with interest and pleasure here.

"Characterizing the crime as one that makes every red-blooded man shudder with horror and bitterly eulogizing the slain man, friends of J. Belton Kennedy, slain several weeks ago at his Beverly Glen cabin, today came forward with a public plea for justice and humanity in the case."

"The plea was in the form of a type-written statement signed by 23 of Kennedy's friends. It contained no mention of Mrs. Madeline O'Brien, Arthur C. Burch, charged with the murder, and specified it was not written in a vindictive spirit."

"The statement was issued at a time when it was being hinted that the defense in the case plans to attack Kennedy's character. In the statement Kennedy was pictured as a 'delicate, sensitive boy,' kind, considerate, brave and true."

"The statement, in full, follows: 'In all the stress of this grim and awful tragedy, when pictures, panegyrics and poems fill the daily press, dedicated to the accused, we seek in vain for a word recording the anguish and agony of a desolated home.'

"This is no plea for sympathy for a heartbroken mother, sitting in sackcloth and ashes, waiting and watching 'like Niobe, all tears,' for one who will never return, but is a plea for justice and humanity to a murdered boy."

"Belton Kennedy was foully slain in so dastardly a manner that it must make every red-blooded man shudder with horror—and there are red-blooded men in this fair land of ours."

"To kill a man without giving him a chance to defend himself, to ambush him and shoot him down, is a crime beyond the ken of brave and civilized mankind."

"As to Belton, a delicate, sensitive boy, he had the best care that loving parents could bestow, and he responded with all the love and affection of his gentle nature. Kind and considerate, brave and true, he was the comfort of his family, and beloved of his friends."

"He hated all forms of immorality as God hates sin. No one ever heard him utter a profane word or repeat a questionable story."

"His courtesy and charm were for all. The whiteness and purity of his life was an open book; all who knew him will testify to this."

"The awful ending of this dear boy, assassinated on the steps of his little 'Glen house' as he called it, but accentuates the horror of the deed. He thought more of this little place than any possession he could have on earth, and took such pride in showing it to friends and visitors; harmless, innocent pride."

"We who indite these few lines deem it a duty and a privilege to render this simple tribute."

"This is not written in a vindictive spirit, not an accusation of anyone, but simply an expression for one we knew and loved, who is not here to speak for himself."

Death of Faithful Family Servant.

Amelia McLaughlin, a much respected colored woman, died suddenly on Wednesday evening, September 7th, aged seventy-five years. She was of that admirable type that is so rapidly passing, faithful, honest, loyal and self-respecting, a colored gentlewoman. She had worked for fifty years, continuously for one family—first for the late lamented, Mrs. Mary A. Shannon, then for her son, Mr. C. J. Shannon, Jr. Though she owned a house and had two sons, both of whom desired to give her a home, she preferred living in the home she had known for so many years. For some time her duties have been nominal and she was treated more like a member of the family than a servant. She leaves two sons, a daughter, and an example worthy of emulation by her race. The respect and affection in which she was held, was testified by the numbers who attended her funeral services on Sunday last at Trinity Methodist Church.

Postmaster Gets Fifteen Months.

Rock Hill, September 13.—In United States Court today Jos. W. Stalnaker, former postmaster at Ninety-Six pleaded guilty to embezzlement of funds while postmaster and was given fifteen months in the federal prison in Atlanta and a fine of \$2,000. It is understood that he made way with government funds to the amount of about \$4,000. Flossie Thompson, of Lancaster, pleaded guilty and got six months for sending an obscene letter through the mails. Several pleaded guilty to violation of prohibition laws.

Miss Hope Savage has returned from a visit of several weeks in Boston.

ARBuckle HELD FOR MURDER

Famous Comedian Charged With The Death of an Actress.

San Francisco, Sept. 11.—Roscoe Arbuckle, motion picture actor, was booked on a charge of murder late last night in connection with the death Friday of Miss Virginia Rappe, film actress, following a party in Arbuckle's suite at a hotel here last Monday. Arbuckle was locked up in the city prison for the night.

Arbuckle was charged, according to Assistant District Attorney Milton U'Ren, under the section of the California code providing that life taken in rape or attempted rape is considered murder.

Under the California penal code no bail is allowed to a person charged with murder. Miss Rappe, who died Friday, was removed from Arbuckle's rooms in a hotel last Monday in a critical condition, after the party at which five men and four women were present. Autopsy surgeons said death was due to peritonitis, superinduced by an internal injury.

Accompanied by his attorney, Arbuckle came here by automobile last night from Los Angeles and went at once to police headquarters. He was questioned by detectives for several hours, but on advice of his attorney, refused to answer. At midnight Captain Matheson ordered his name booked for murder. Arbuckle lost his usual jaunty manner and as he posed for newspaper photographers, who asked him to smile, he said:

"Not on an occasion of this sort."

All of today Arbuckle persisted in refusing to answer questions of the police and his attorneys, under whose instructions he was acting, declined to discuss the case.

Miss Rappe was 25 years old and was born in Chicago. She attracted attention in that city in 1913, it is said, by advise to young women to create original methods of making a living. She was then making \$4,000 a year as a traveling art model, she said. Miss Rappe came to San Francisco in 1915 and for a time designed gowns and wore them as a model. She began acting in motion pictures at Los Angeles in 1917, and took leading parts in several.

Preacher and Woman Shot. New Orleans, Sept. 11.—Janie Miller, a New Orleans woman, and Rev. C. J. W. Boyd, of Nashville, Tenn., were shot and fatally wounded at tonight's closing session of the National Baptist convention of negroes, and a number of persons barely missed serious injury in the panic that ensued among the two thousand persons who crowded into the auditorium.

David Miller, the woman's husband, is held for the shooting, the motive of which, the police say, was jealousy. According to their reports, all the five bullets fired by Miller were intended for his wife, and Rev. Boyd was the victim of a stray shot. Rev. Boyd tonight was said to have no chance for recovery. The police have been unable to verify a report that another man was shot and carried away by friends in an automobile.

Revival at Malvern Hill.

A revival meeting will begin at Malvern Hill Chapel on the third Sunday afternoon, September 18th, at three o'clock and will continue through the week at night only. Song and prayer service every night at 7:15 and preaching promptly at 7:30.

Rev. W. C. Stewart.

To Be Held At Bethany Church.

The annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union of Kershaw Association will be held at Bethany Church, Westville, Saturday, September 24th, beginning promptly at 10:30 o'clock. Send as many delegates as will attend and help make this meeting a success.

Missionary Society to Meet.

The Camden Baptist Church will hold their regular monthly meeting at the Church Tuesday afternoon, August 29, at 4 o'clock. A full attendance is urged as business of importance is to be transacted. Visitors welcome. Mrs. John Wilson, Secretary.

Out on Bond.

Robert Sharp, the white man who has been in jail since the killing of his father, J. E. Sharp, last week, was released from jail Saturday upon bond granted in the sum of \$2,000.

George Nelson, a negro, also charged with a killing in West Waterlee and who has been in jail several months was released on bond last week. His was also a \$2,000 bond.

AGED COUPLE ASSAULTED.

Negroes Beat and Rob Old Man and Woman in Newberry.

Greenwood, September 13th.—With the arrest of a small negro about two miles from Greenwood today shortly before noon, giving the name of John Calvin Golden, of Laurens, officers are looking for another negro whom he implicated in an alleged confession as his confederate in the assault and robbery of Henry Johns and his wife late yesterday afternoon, near Vaughnville, between Cross Hills and Chappell's, near the Laurens-Newberry line.

The negroes beat the aged couple almost into insensibility with clubs made from railroad spikes, tied together with strings, and then robbed a strong box of between \$3,000 and \$4,000. It is claimed.

Mr. Johns, a native of Germany, was about 70 years of age and had operated a small store near Vaughnville for a number of years. According to telephone messages from Chappell's today the two negroes, who are alleged to have committed the assault and robbery, came to Chappell's early yesterday and applied for a job on a road construction gang. They later are said to have asked a passing negro where H. Johns' store was and then to have remained concealed in the woods until dusk. Going into the store, one of the negroes asked for some canned goods, and as the old man turned to get the articles the negro struck him over the head with the spikes, it is said. Hearing his body fall to the floor, his wife rushed to him from an adjoining room and was also struck over the head with the clubs. The negroes then beat the two old people into insensibility and robbed the strong box where they kept their savings. Reports today state that between \$3,000 and \$4,000 were in the box.

The negroes are believed to have made their way to Clinton last night and to have come to Greenwood on an early morning Seaboard train. Officers met the train and saw two suspicious looking negroes get off, but no arrests were made. Sheriff E. M. White, of Greenwood, and Sheriff Cannon Blease, of Newberry, with deputies and a large posse of citizens went to McCormack County this morning following reports that the two suspected men had been seen there. As soon as Golden was captured near Greenwood both officers returned. Golden was first seen at New Market, two miles below Greenwood. He had one sleeve torn and bloody, but claimed it was caused by an injury to his arm. Officers could find no scratch on his arm. Later he is alleged to have made a full confession implicating another negro, whose name could not be learned. Reports from Chappell's today stated that H. Johns was not expected to live and that his wife was seriously injured.

Death at Pisgah.

Mr. Thomas Simmons, an aged man of the Pisgah section died Wednesday night of last week from heart failure. He was a native of Kershaw county and was seventy years of age. He had the esteem and respect of all who knew him. The funeral and burial was at Swift Creek church on Thursday, conducted by Rev. J. W. Kenney.

Grace Church Services.

There will be the usual services in Grace Church on Sunday, September 18th, conducted by the Rector. The service will be The Holy Communion at 8 a. m., morning prayer and sermon at 11 a. m., Sunday School at 5 p. m. All are cordially invited.

F. H. Harding, Rector.

Mr. George King and family, of Columbia spent the week end with his brother Mr. William King on Fair street.

MADE GETAWAY IN CAR.

Constable Had Warrant and Man Makes Sensational Escape.

H. L. Wilson, a young white man, about 30 years of age, an employe of a local garage, was approached by Constable Stokes yesterday afternoon about 1:45 o'clock with a warrant charging him along with several others with having committed rape upon a white girl, and upon the pretense of changing his clothing made a sensational getaway in an automobile.

The automobile, a seven passenger Reo car, was the property of Mr. A. J. Dentie, of this city and was standing in front of the garage, when Wilson jumped into it and dashed away in the direction of Bishopville at a terrific speed. He was followed by policemen but up to the time of our going to press nothing further had been heard of him. When last seen he was dressed in his work clothes and wore a dark hat.

G. B. Blackwell, another young white man, was also arrested yesterday, in connection with the same case and gave bond in the sum of \$1,000.

A Great Big Fish.

On last Saturday A. S. and E. C. Mungo and W. D. and L. P. Fails were down on the Waterlee river fishing near the dam of the Waterlee Power Co., when Mr. A. S. Mungo going below the dam discovered a huge fish floundering in the receding water, which had fallen considerably after the power had been shut down. He called the others to his assistance and with a big stick and knife they soon killed the fish, which proved to be a sturgeon about eight feet long and weighing 236 pounds. They brought the fish to Kershaw, where it created a great deal of interest, and it was cleaned and carried to the Campbell Grocery Company, where it was cut up and sold, going like hot cakes.—Kershaw Era.

Waterlee Mill News.

The First Annual Waterlee Mills Fair will be held at the play grounds Saturday, September 24, 1921. A great deal of interest has been aroused among the mill people and the various committees have been busy during the past two weeks getting everything in shape. The Fair is being prompted by the Board of Aldermen and Hollis Cobb and Miss Thompson are in charge of the program.

The program will include the following exhibits for which suitable prizes will be given to the winners of each exhibit.

Cooking exhibit, canned exhibit, antiques, home made, cows, hogs.

There will be a booth showing cotton in all its processes through the mill from the bale to the finished material. And also a display of all the by-products of cotton.

There will also be a Health Booth where relative food values and the



Shoe Race at Waterlee

care of children will be displayed. At this booth literature and a tooth-brush will be given away free to each person.

There will also be "Hit the Coon" and "Hit the Dolls" stands, a "Fat Man," "Tall Man," clowns, etc., to lend the program a real country fair atmosphere. Before the fair begins there will be an auto parade which will include the cars of Waterlee Mills employes.

The Fair grounds will be enclosed with a high burlap fence an admission of 25c will be charged. The receipts will be donated to the Camden Hospital to which we feel a deep and grateful obligation.

A fish stew was given to the employes of Waterlee Mills by the Sunday School last week. Preacher Furcron and Jim Taylor made the stew which 400 people said was the "best ever." Sixty-five gallons of stew and 50 loaves of bread were consumed and not a drop was left. This is a concrete case of "the proof of the pudding is in the eating."

The partitions in the Club House have been taken out making one large room where formerly we had three. This will help materially in our socials as heretofore we have been very crowded at the Club House. W. T. Player, yard overseer, is taking his vacation this week.



MARY PICKFORD IN 'THROUGH THE BACK DOOR' At Majestic Theatre Today.