

FRIEND OF WILD FOWL

Tag Found on Duck Killed in North Carolina Reveals Haven

A tag bearing a number of verses from the Scriptures and the name of James Miner, Kingsville, Ontario, found tied to the leg of a wild duck killed recently by Clyde Keener of Trenton, Jones county, near Newbern, N. C., revealed existence of a haven for wild fowl on the North shore of Lake Erie to which the feathered tribes flock in huge numbers. Keener wrote Miner, advising him of the finding of the tag.

The latter, in an answering letter, stated that wild ducks and geese stop at his farm during the course of their migratory journeys and that he and the birds are best of friends. He said he had built a pond for the feathered tourists and that he feeds them 500 bushels of corn each year during their two months stay at his place.

Mr. Miner's letter, in part, follows: "Thank you for having reported finding the tag. I now have tags returned to me off wild geese and ducks from North Carolina to Hudson Bay. In several instances the tags have been found by Indians in the Far North after shooting the birds, and they have taken them to Hudson Bay agents, who forwarded them to me.

"I have had tags returned from 23 different States and Provinces, the farthest south being Guydan, La., and the farthest west being Englefield, Saskatchewan.

"I try to tag all the birds that spend some time at my place. Forty per cent, of those that I tag in the fall return to me the following spring. Others stay here all the time, in spite of the fact that the weather grows very cold. As I am writing you there are about 75 geese and 40 wild ducks feeding within fifty feet of me. They are keeping a small hole open in the pond and they are depending on me for food.

"It took me several years to get the birds coming. At last however, a small bunch came and they apparently told others, until there little flock grew into a small cloud. In fact, I have seen the wild geese rise up so thick that you could scarcely see through them, and their honking could be heard over a mile away.

"During the last six or seven years I have fed them in the months of March and April 500 bushels of corn. When the birds stop off here they seem to leave all fear behind them. Even strange birds, visiting my place for the first time, let me come within a few feet of them. They evidently have been told by the old timers that there is no danger.

"It is a great sight to see all these birds together. People for miles around have heard of what I am doing and thousands have come to see the sight. Even these strangers can come within 40 or 50 feet of the wild birds without causing them any fright. Not a single bird ever has been shot on my premises and the feathered tourists seem to know that when they stop off here they are on neutral ground.

"Of course this is not so with regard to the surrounding territory, over which I have no jurisdiction. I have seen men shoot and wound a duck or goose and I have seen the bird make a desperate effort to reach my place. Sometimes they succeed and permit me to doctor them. At other times they fall to the ground before they can reach the safety zone.

"I am opposed to deliberate slaughter of ducks and geese just for the sake of shooting them. We've got to be careful and call a halt to this destruction, for unless we are careful it will not be many years before geese and ducks are hard to find. I am trying my best to give the birds what protection I can. My system of tagging them is part of this plan. I have received letters from many hunters who have written me that they uphold me in my work.

"There is always fascination in overcoming prejudice and dislike. Wild birds, of course, consider all men to be their natural enemies. It has been mighty hard for me to convince them that I am their friend. However, that conviction now seems to be spreading among them rapidly. Hundreds of new birds come here every year. I can always tell when a strange bird arrives. It seems very shy. Not so with the old timer, however. He comes sailing in as fast as he can, honking a welcome, and proceeds to stuff himself with corn.

"I have one mallard duck, which was hatched and raised by a domestic fowl in 1912. She has now migrated and returned to me each spring and has

COUNTY CONVENTION MONDAY

Nearly a Full Attendance and Delegates Named to State Convention.

The county Democratic clubs met in convention at the Court House Monday with fairly good attendance, only a few of the clubs failed to have delegates present.

Former Judge M. I. Smith was named temporary president and later Mr. M. M. Johnson was re-elected county chairman.

Resolutions were called for and Mr. John J. Richards, of Liberty Hill introduced the following resolution:

"Resolved, That we, the representatives of the Democratic party of Kershaw County in convention assembled, urge and demand that the most rigid economy be adopted in the administration of our government, both county and state, and that our delegates to the State convention be and are hereby directed to vote for such resolutions as have for their purpose the ultimate reduction of the tax burden that are resting so heavily upon our people."

The following was then presented by Mr. T. J. Arrants, of Camden.

"Resolved, That we, the delegates of the several Democratic clubs of Kershaw County, in convention met, welcome to our ranks the women of our county and country, as voters and co-laborers to effect better government of our county and state, and do hereby urge that they exercise their rights of citizenship and register and vote with us."

The following resolution presented by Mr. J. B. Munn and signed by W. T. Hasty, W. A. Anderson, J. J. Bowers and T. F. Horton was introduced and after considerable discussion was passed:

"To the Democratic voters in convention assembled: Whereas, our form of county government has been changed in the last few years, and whereas, there are a number of office holders in the county now holding office appointed by the legislature, which we think contrary to Democratic principle, therefore, be it

"Resolved, that this convention go on record as being in favor of every man holding office in Kershaw county go in the primary as ordered by the county executive committee, and let the people have an expression.

"Provided, that if a primary for nomination of commissioners for Kershaw county be ordered that same be distributed among the different townships of the county."

Nominations for delegates to the state convention were then called for and resulted in the naming of Mendel I. Smith by acclamation, and G. C. Welsh, W. J. Dunn, J. T. Mills, M. M. Johnson and R. B. Williams.

Major John G. Richards was elected state executive committeeman by the convention.

Knights Templars To Meet.

Attention, Sir Knights: You are courteously requested to attend a stated convocation of our Commandery on Tuesday evening, May 9th, at 8 p. m., to transact regular business and confer the illustrious order of the Red Cross and Malta upon a companion in waiting. W. Robin Zemp, Commander.

Clean Up Day At Cemetery

Monday and Tuesday, May 8th and 9th, will be observed as "Clean Up Days", in our beautiful, "City of the Dead". All owners of lots are requested to have their enclosures put in order, and trash piled conveniently for town wagons to haul it away before Tuesday afternoon. Wednesday the 10th being Memorial Day, no trash will be taken out.

By order Cemetery Association.

Recorders Court For April

Following is a record of cases handled by the city recorder for the month of April. It shows cases tried as follows:

Selling whiskey 1, transporting whiskey 1, gambling 7, disorderly conduct 2, drunk and disorderly 2, drunk 7, fighting 2, violating auto ordinance 1, 7, fighting 2, violating auto ordinance 1, license ordinance 2. Total number of cases 26, total fines \$250.00

raised four families in five summers—two eights and two nines.

"My friend, to see my pets return to me year after year for food and protection, after they have evidently shied around and outwitted thousands of hunters who hid in ambush for them, and to see wild geese come home bleeding and with legs broken, makes me feel that my work is really worth while."

GAPPINS APPEAL DISMISSED

Justice Warns Attorneys Who Seek to Defeat Justice.

Columbia, May 2.—In a percuriam order handed down late this afternoon, the State Supreme Court dismissed the appeal of Jesse Gappins, one of the trio of murderers of Williams C. Brazell, a young taxicab driver of this city, now under sentence of death in the State Penitentiary and remanded Gappins to the Court of General Sessions of Lexington County for resentencing some time this month.

The two other convicted murderers, S. J. Kirby and C. O. Fox have appealed before the Supreme Court, and Solicitor Callison, of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, announced that he shortly would request the court to dismiss them also.

The appeal of Gappins was on the grounds that the grand jury which brought the true bill against him was not sworn and therefore his trial was illegal.

During the course of the argument on the case before the court this morning Chief Justice Eugene B. Gary took occasion to warn attorneys at the bar against bringing appeals on technicalities in an effort to defeat justice. He said that with the crime wave sweeping the State, attorneys who take advantage of minute technicalities were arranging themselves with the "forces of lawlessness."

He said that when criminals from other States are coming into South Carolina stealing automobiles and committing burglaries he proposed to use the utmost diligence in granting bail and giving them no opportunities to defeat the law. "It is the duty and the province of the courts," he declared "to do everything in their power to see that the fortress of the law and the civilization of the State are not breathed by criminal advances."

The chief justice issued a solemn warning from the bench that if it is necessary to stop appeals on frivolous technicalities, offending attorneys would be haled before the Supreme Court to answer cause as to why they should not be disbarred as unfit practitioners of their profession.

The killing of William C. Brazell occurred on the highway between Columbia and Lexington last summer. It was proved at the trial by the testimony of the accused that Brazell was hired to drive Kirby, Fox and Gappins, and that they murdered him to gain possession of his automobile. The brutality of the crime and the ghastly circumstances surrounding it caused an upheaval of indignation and several mobs attempted to lynch the accused men. They were sentenced to death by Judge Thomas S. Sease at Lexington, but their executions have been stayed by appeals.

Odd And Interesting Items

Washington, May 4.—Twenty-five thousand families of Chicago will move from houses and apartment to tents for the summer in a fight against prohibitive rents, according to an announcement of the Tenants' Protective League of that city. Ninety dollars is set as the price of the camping equipment. Dogs are not allowed, but children are welcomed.

Murder by telephone was the charge preferred against a citizen of Berlin, Germany. Bernard Kobler was accused of telephoning every day, anonymously, to a man suffering from tuberculosis and speaking discouragingly to him of his symptoms and offering advice to commit suicide. The man suffered a collapse and died and Kobler was tried for murder. He escaped penalty through a legal technicality.

Magistrate Black of New York set free Samuel E. Malcolm, 55 years old, married for 28 years, when he celebrated the birth of his first son by getting drunk. The magistrate held that, Volstead law or no Volstead law, there are occasions when a man simply must celebrate and that the end of 28 fatherless years was such an occasion!

Catholic Church Services.

Services at the Catholic Church on Sunday, May 7th, will be as follows: Sunday School at 9:15 a. m., Mass and Sermon at 10 a. m. Sermon, "The Gospel of the Day." Rev. M. J. Reddin will officiate. All are cordially invited to attend.

More than 65 persons are dead and missing as the result of floods which swept Fort Worth, Texas, during Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The property loss is estimated at more than \$1,000,000.

THE PASSION PLAY

Anton Lang Offered \$1,000,000 to go Into the Movies as Christus.

It will cost the American visitor to the Passion Play this summer writes Akset Faber from Oberammergau, something less than \$1.25. This includes the price of the ticket, lodging for two nights, and five mountain meals. The price has been fixed at 400 marks, everything included, and 400 marks are right now worth less than \$1.25. There is no knowing how little they may be worth by the time the first performance is given on May 14.

The town of Oberammergau is in danger of ruining itself in its insistence of asking as little as possible of the thousands of visitors who will come to their quaint mountain village this summer. They want above all things to avoid the slightest suspicion of trying to make money out of the pageant in honor of Christ which they have performed as nearly as possible every ten years since they vowed to do so following the great plague of 1633. This was always easy to do in the years before the war, when money had a fixed value, but with the value of the German mark changing from day to day and the price of living constantly increasing, it is going to be an expensive business to feed the quarter of a million visitors they are sure to have this summer. Then there is the question of renewing the scenery and the costuming, in which the village has already invested a million marks.

Hence the money question is really beginning to worry these simple, idealistic people, as I have learned chiefly from private conversation during the few delightful days I have been here in their pure, religious atmosphere. Curiously enough, I have heard a great deal about money matters—not that the Oberammergau people want to know about or think about worldly questions, but because they are constantly having the disagreeable matter shoved in front of them. Perhaps it is the oft-repeated scene of Christ driving the money-changers from the Temple that has given them a disgust for money or perhaps it is the crude way their idealism has been shaken by theatrical and movie managers eager to put them on the boards and make a fortune out of them. Incidentally most of these offers have come from America.

For instance, Anton Lang the village potter, who has entered the soul and broadened the religious consciousness of hundreds of thousands of spectators of the Passion Play by his presentation of Christ, told me he had been offered \$1,000,000 by American film producers to stage the Passion Play for them. The sum struck me as so large that I could not have believed such an offer had been made if I had not had it from Lang himself. He also told me there was a second offer of 70,000,000 German marks, which was something near \$1,000,000 at the time the offer was made. A German film company made the more modest offer of 3,000,000 German marks to film the performance.

Lang's attitude toward all these money offers is one of annoyance. When I talked to him the other morning at breakfast over the coffee and jam he shared with me, he happened to have his mind turned that way.

"I have just received a letter from an American bishop," he said, "which I appreciate very much. The bishop begs me by no means and under no consideration to be tempted by the fortune held out for movie picture rights. Don't let anyone induce you to make money from the Passion Play," he writes. "It stands out as a great religious festival, something so far above and remote from mere money that there is no price."

"Even before the war I was made offers to produce the Passion Play elsewhere. One offer years ago, I remember, was \$25,000. It astonished me at the time, but it is only since we decided to renew our vow this year that the offers have been persistent."

"You can imagine how distressing such offers are to me. But I have been compensated by other offers of money of a very different kind. I have here a letter from an American who writes offering to build a crucifix in the village in compensation for the great spiritual joy he experienced while watching the Passion Play here in 1910. He wrote that he had been so moved by the spectacle that it has made a lasting impression on his life and he only hopes he will have enough strength this year to come to see it

WOMAN KILLS HERSELF

Suffering From Ill Health She Shoots Top of Her Head Off.

Mrs. Minnie Copeland, of Elliott's Cross Roads, in Lee county, who had been visiting at the home of her father, G. J. Baker, a few miles east of Camden, killed herself Monday afternoon by shooting the top of her head off with a shot gun. It is said that she had been in ill health for sometime and had on more than one occasion made the threat to take her life. She used a shot gun with a string tied to the trigger and her death was instantaneous.

Mrs. Copeland is survived by her husband and several small children. The body was prepared for burial and taken to her former home at Elliott's Cross Roads Tuesday where the interment occurred. It was deemed unnecessary to hold an inquest as everything pointed to a plain case of suicide.

Unusual Sea Disturbance

Washington, April 27.—An unusual phenomenon in the form of a general ground swell, subterranean disturbance, earthquake or subterranean shifting, which occurred off the North Carolina coast was reported to the hydrographic office by the naval collier Prometheus. Sounds showed no bottom at one hundred and thirty fathoms. Thousands of proposals leaped into the air during a disturbance lasting two hours.

Invitation to Join Summer Branch

An effort is being made to keep open the Camden Country Club for the benefit of the Camden people during the summer and fall. A committee met and decided upon plans which are to secure thirty members at \$20.00 each, which entitles the male member to his membership and also one lady friend or member of his house. Anyone wishing to join can leave his money with either Messrs. C. P. DuBose, J. B. Wallace, J. M. Villepigue or A. K. Blakensey. It is hoped that the required number will join immediately as it is necessary to have a definite answer ready to give the club owners by May 10th.

To Open Club Rooms.

The Leroy Belk Post of the American Legion will open their newly fitted club rooms over the store of L. J. Whitaker Friday evening with a luncheon and all members of the Post are urged to be present.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Whitaker the rooms have been tendered to the Post free of rent and this week the members of the Post have been busy putting them in shape.

once more before he dies. Such an offer brings us great satisfaction. It makes us realize we are doing our part in glorifying God and in fulfilling our vow. To this offer I was glad to reply in the spirit in which it was written, and I informed the writer that we already had so many crucifixes I believed he could do us a great service by letting us use the money he offered to I had to seek him in the forest where he was sawing wood. It was about the dinner-hour, and he struck work and walked home with me, and there he sat down to his sausage, potatoes and beer, while he told me that it had always been his ambition to play this part, and he had succeeded in his great wish at the early age of twenty-three. He is a very serious young chap, quite in the spirit of the community. He is the nephew of the Herod.

It is always difficult to get any one to take the part of Judas, because somehow the stigma clings to the actor in private life. He must be no less honorable than another to have so important a role, but he is forever afterwards under a slight cloud. It is played this year by Karl Mayer.

Perhaps the whole Oberammergau community feels just a little under a cloud as their Judases always do. They have been cut off from the world, a part of a nation which has been at war with most of the world. Now they are preparing to receive the whole world again, and they are not used to the idea yet. They still have that Judas-like war cloud over them. But as they say in their announcements: "Sixty-seven sons of the village lost their lives in the war. Let us think of them with honor, and with them of the heroes of all places and nations, be they friends or former enemies."

They do not yet realize that no one who comes to Oberammergau will come with the thought of the war still in mind.

CITY COUNCIL HELD MEETING

Attorney L. T. Mills Named as Recorder and G. F. Cooley as Policeman.

City Council held their regular monthly meeting Monday night at which meeting the annual election of subordinate officers was held and aside from the election of Attorney L. T. Mills as city recorder and Mr. G. F. Cooley as policeman in place of Officer Barnes no change was made in the other officers. It was deemed advisable from legal standpoint to separate the office of City Recorder and City Clerk, some holding that the same man could not hold both offices although the salary was separate. It is stated that the separation of the office was from no inefficiency on the part of former recorder H. C. Singleton—the council showing their appreciation of his splendid services as city clerk by unanimously re-electing him by a standing vote. Mr. G. F. Cooley, the newly elected policeman is not a stranger in Camden, where he has made his home for a good many years, and his election as an officer seems to give satisfaction in all quarters.

A committee of ladies consisting of Mrs. H. G. Carrison, Jr., Mrs. E. C. Ritchie and Miss Minnie Clyburn, appeared before the council in the interest of a children's playground. It is their idea to use a portion of the grammar school property and equip it with amusement devices and they asked council for an appropriation. This was granted in the sum of \$300 and \$20 per month will be appropriated to pay a superintendent of the property. The county and city teams will very likely be used in properly grading the property.

The election of Mr. W. F. Nettles as chief of the fire department by the members was confirmed by the council, as was also the selection of James Zemp as foreman. Council also passed a resolution authorizing the payment of \$3 to each member of the fire department who attended an actual fire and stayed with the department (ill the return of the truck to headquarters.

Attorney L. A. Wittkowsky was unanimously re-elected city attorney. Mr. W. D. Whitaker was unanimously re-elected chief of police. J. W. Cole was re-elected truck driver, G. L. Blackwell re-elected clock keeper, and C. C. Brown, Hollis Hilton and U. N. Myers re-elected policemen.

City council authorized the city clerk to write letters to eighteen or twenty business men of Camden requesting that they meet with the council on Thursday, May 11th, when engineers will be present to discuss the matter of paving certain streets in Camden.

Those named on the committee were George A. Rhame, R. L. Moseley, R. M. Kennedy, Jr., H. L. Schlossburg, R. T. Goodale, J. P. Lewis, M. Baruch, C. W. Billings, C. H. Fouts, J. Fletcher Smith, T. Lee Little, Ralph N. Shannon, W. R. Zemp, John M. Villepigue, H. D. Niles, L. L. Block, S. W. van Landingham, John S. Lindsay, J. B. Wallace, Dr. R. E. Stevenson and L. J. Whitaker.

New Pastor at Baptist Church Sunday.

The pastorate of the Camden Baptist Church which has been vacant since Rev. M. M. Benson went to Florida, will be filled by Rev. J. Jeter Johnson, of Virginia. The church in conference last Sunday extended a call to Rev. Mr. Johnson and according to news received this week he has accepted this call and will preach at the church next Sunday morning and evening. Also, he is arranging to move his family to Camden immediately.

Rev. Mr. Johnson, we understand, is a most able preacher and an excellent pastor, having filled much larger pastorates than the Camden church. The members of the congregation feel that they are indeed fortunate in securing the services of Rev. Mr. Johnson.

Will Build Large Residence.

Mr. Warren H. Harris, of Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, who with his family have been winter visitors in Camden, occupying the Villepigue home for the winter, has let the contract for a commodious house to be erected on a portion of the W. L. DePass property on North Fair street.

The house will replace the tourist stable site, and the lot will have a frontage of 150 feet and run back to a depth of 500 feet. It will contain ten rooms and will be located in one of the prettiest sections of Camden. Mr. George A. Creed has the contract for the building.