

CHEATED THE CHAIR

Faries, York County Murderer, Hangs Self in Death House.

(Saturday's Columbia Record) William C. Faries, 60-year-old York county man under sentence of death for the murder of Newton Taylor, 13-year-old boy of Clover, and confessed slayer of three other members of the Taylor household, sentenced to die in the electric chair on August 24th, robbed the chair of its victim early Saturday morning by committing suicide in his cell in the penitentiary death house. He hung himself with cords made of sheets and tied to the upper bars of the cell.

Faries left a note, in which he indicated his purpose of leaving this world. He was found early this morning, his body white and cold, hanging against the barred wall of his cell, his prison mattress between him and the bars.

"Dear friends," read the note Faries left, pencilled in a scratchy hand, "I leave you all in peace and hope, to meet you all in peace. I want to go down in peace and no one to make light of me, and my hope is to meet you all in glory and peace."

At the bottom of the page on which the note was written were also scrawled the words, "5 o'clock." His body was found when a guard went to take him breakfast at 7 o'clock, so that the time of the suicide is fixed at somewhere between 5 and 7 o'clock.

Coroner J. B. Scott viewed the body at 9 o'clock Saturday morning and decided that an inquest was not necessary.

An unusual feature of Faries' suicide was the fact that he tied his own hands before he let his body fall into the noose around his neck. His evident purpose was to make it impossible even for himself to prevent the accomplishment of his purpose, should the suffering brought on by strangulation of hanging cause his hands to pluck at the noose and prevent his dying. It was evident that he had climbed to the iron bars of the cell, adjusted the noose around his neck, and then with his teeth and fingers tied the rag around his wrists. He then jumped from his perch and the cord around his neck caught him in a death grip.

Guard Harden went to the death house to take Faries his breakfast Saturday morning. He saw through the bars that a mattress was hanging against the bars, cutting out any view of the interior of the cell. He did not enter but went back to the penitentiary office to report what he had seen to Captain Evans, of the prison guard. Captain Evans then went to the death cell and investigated.

Faries had tied the mattress against the bars presumably to prevent the possible gaze of any inlooker, should any come into the building before he finished his final preparations. The unbleached sheet from his prison bed he had torn into strips. These he had twisted into ropes. One was tied about his neck, the end fastened to the cell bars at the top of the prison wall. Another was tied about his wrists. He wore his B. V. D.'s, roughly torn off at the knees and a shirt. His feet were bare. His gray head bent forward, with a palor of death, and his hands and feet were of the same paleness. His body was cold.

The last conversation Faries had with anyone from the big outside world was on Friday, when Rev. Hasford B. Jones, pastor of the Southside Baptist church and H. M. Starnes, a deacon in the same church, called to talk with the condemned man of his spiritual welfare. The three men read the Scriptures together and then they prayed. Faries prayed for his wife and sixteen children and then he prayed for the Taylor family whose circle he had broken with the steel from his gun. He prayed that God might forgive him for the crime he had committed.

Faries was seen in his cell at the penitentiary by the prison police and the attendants from the kitchen, when his supper was delivered Friday night. He was not seen after that until his body was found this morning. There were no wounds on his body. The guard at the outer door of the death house heard no sounds during the night, and all was quietness when the preparations for death were made by the lone prisoner in the death cell at the early morning hours.

Faries was convicted in York for the murder last September 8, of the young thirteen year old Taylor boy. On the stand he confessed the killing and also admitted having killed Leila Taylor, 15, Fred Taylor, 24, and

THE MEETING AT BETHUNE.

Well Attended and Another Scheduled For Today at Hermitage Pond.

The big get-together between city, town and country meeting and agricultural rally at the hospitable little city of Bethune in Kershaw county last Friday night, August 3rd, was a most successful and enjoyable event. The meeting was under the auspices of the Camden and Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce and nearly four hundred men and women attended from Camden, Bethune and other sections of this county, Camden, the county seat being represented by more than one hundred.

The ladies of Bethune Home Demonstration Club and School Improvement Association provided a delightful supper.

Secretary E. I. Reardon of the Camden and Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce presided, explained objects of meeting and introduced the speakers. Mr. Leon L. Rice of Anderson, S. C., and Dr. N. E. Winters the former speaking interestingly and convincingly of the advantages and operations of the South Carolina Cotton Growers Cooperative Marketing Association, and the latter delivering a very entertaining and instructive talk about practical farming methods under boll weevil conditions.

Miss Jennie V. Boyd, home demonstration agent, J. W. Sanders, county agent, and E. I. Reardon were the central committee in charge from Camden, while Mr. J. D. Laffitte, of Bethune, and other public spirited men of Bethune and vicinity cooperated splendidly in making this meeting a success. Camden's business and professional men and women who attended are gratified with the results obtained in bringing about closer reciprocal relations between people of the county seat and different sections of Kershaw County.

The next big get-together gathering will be the basket picnic and all around good time, county-wide meeting at 12:30 o'clock, P. M., Friday, August 10th, at Hermitage Mill Pond, near Camden, during the short course of the Boys' pig and corn clubs, and girls' home demonstration, poultry and sewing clubs of this county, to which the general public is invited by Miss Boyd, Mr. Sanders and the Camden and Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce. E. I. R.

Athlete Dies From Injuries.

Columbia, August 6.—Harold Sampson, 21, who was injured while making a fire dive at a local bathing resort last Tuesday, died at a hospital here this afternoon from the effects of the injury. Young Sampson fractured one of his vertebra when he dived into the pool, on the surface of which a thin coating of gasoline was blazing. He was believed to be improving until yesterday, when he had a relapse.

Claud Johnson, 20, a cousin of the Taylor children. Gertrude Taylor and her sister, Dolly, 10 and 22, were also shot by Faries, he admitted, but they recovered. The Taylor family lived across the little mill town street at Clover, from the Faries family.

Faries pleaded at his trial that he had been greatly aggravated by the family across the street. He said that on the day of the killing his little son had been struck in the head with a rock by one of the Taylor children. He said the thought that his little boy had been hurt had driven him crazy.

Faries was sentenced at the York court last November and sentenced to die in December. His appeal stayed the execution. On July 20, last, the court dismissed his appeal and under the new law, the remitter being handed down within ten days the date of the execution was again automatically set as August 24.

Faries original appeal was based on numerous exceptions, the main one being that one of the jurors, H. W. Witherspoon had before the trial expressed the opinion that Faries should die.

"Fighting Bill" Faries, as he was known in his own community, was a son of "Ku Klux-John" Faries, whose sobriquet was gained by a brush he had with Klansmen in Reconstruction days. As the story is told in York county, John Faries and his wife stood off a party of Klansmen who had come to punish him as an alleged informer. Mrs. Faries arming herself and standing resolutely by her husband. They wounded four of the visitors, it is said, and because there were 2,000 Union soldiers in York county at the time, the wounded were taken to North Carolina for medical attention.

BETHUNE NEWS NOTES

Happenings of Interest As Told By Our Correspondent.

Bethune, S. C., Aug. 8.—The proceeds of the luncheon served last Friday evening at the school house given under the auspices of the School Improvement and Home Demonstration Clubs netted about \$50.00.

The Epworth Leagues of Sumter district are on an encampment at Big Springs. About two hundred are camping. Mr. Loose who is representing that organization gave a talk at the Methodist church Tuesday evening.

Miss Katherine Ward is visiting relatives at Wards.

Mrs. Sallie Tiller left Saturday for a sanatorium in Columbia.

Mr. Tom Bethune, of Pavo, Ga., is visiting relatives here.

Misses Mamie Lou McDonald and Kathleen Clyburn of Kershaw are visiting Mr. and Mrs. A. B. McLaurin.

Miss Mary McKinnon spent last week in Timmonsville with Miss Floy White.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Stevens left Monday for High Point, where they will spend several days.

Mr. and Mrs. Craig Best, of Hartsville, spent the week end with their daughter, Mrs. G. E. Parrott.

Mrs. A. W. Humphries is spending several days at the home of her parents in Mt. Carmel.

Prof. O. R. Bell, of Lancaster, came down last Friday evening for the get-together meeting.

Miss Alene McDowell is spending this week at the home of her uncle, Mr. Tom Horton.

Mr. and Mrs. L. K. Yarbrough, of Sumter, spent the week end in town.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. King were visitors in Columbia Sunday.

Messrs. G. B. King, W. E. Davis and B. W. Best left Sunday for the mountains of North Carolina.

Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Robertson spent Friday and Saturday in Winnsboro.

Miss Gessie Hough of Kershaw is visiting her sister, Mrs. K. T. Estridge.

Master Billy Morgan, of Monroe, is visiting Vance Morgan.

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Bethune spent Saturday and Sunday with the former's mother, Mrs. Mary Bethune, enroute to their home in Cheraw, after spending the past week in the mountains.

Little Miss Margaret Hearon is attending a house party given by her cousin, Mary Beattie in McBee.

Mrs. B. L. Norwood and children of McBee spent Monday at the home of Mr. N. A. Bethune.

A truck load of boys and girls, chaperoned by Mrs. A. J. Smith, president of the demonstration club left Wednesday morning for the three days camp at Hermitage Mill pond.

Messrs. Charles and Frank Humphries of Camden spent Sunday with their brother, Dr. A. W. Humphries.

Mesdames Maggie Clyburn and Eva Morgan left Wednesday morning for a visit to friends and relatives in Marshville and Monroe.

Willene, Eloise and B. F. Estridge returned Saturday from a week's stay with their sister, Mrs. Yarbrough, in Sumter.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Pate are receiving congratulations on the arrival of a son August 7th.

TO THE MERCHANTS AND BUSINESS MEN OF CAMDEN:

As a tribute of respect to the memory of our late and lamented President, Warren G. Harding, and in accordance with a State-wide proclamation issued by our Governor, I would respectfully suggest that all places of business in the City of Camden be closed during the hours of the President's funeral this Friday afternoon, between the hours of three and five o'clock.

H. G. Carrison, Jr., Mayor.

SULLIVAN SWIMS CHANNEL.

Massachusetts Man Crosses in 26 Hours and Fifty Minutes.

Dover, August 6.—Henry Sullivan, of Lowell, Mass., who finished his swim across the English Channel tonight, handed at front of the Calais Casino. His time was twenty-six hours, fifty minutes.

Henry Sullivan is the third man to accomplish the hazardous feat of swimming the English Channel. The first to make passage across the narrow but always extremely choppy course, with its rushing tides and swirling eddies, was Capt. Matthew Webb, and the second T. W. Burgess. Both were Englishmen.

Webb made the swim on August 24-25, 1875, covering the twenty-two and one-half miles between Dover and Calais in twenty-one hours and forty-five minutes. Webb was drowned July 24, 1883, while attempting to swim the rapids at Niagara Falls.

T. W. Burgess accomplished the feat Sept. 6th, 1911, swimming from South Foreland, England to La Chatelet, France. His time was twenty-two hours, thirty-five minutes.

The present was Sullivan's seventh attempt to make the swim. In all his efforts he had made notable marks in 1921 getting within five miles of the French shore after having been in the water nineteen hours and five minutes. When Sullivan took the water off Dover on Sunday he got away in fine style under what were declared to be favorable conditions. The sea was calm and temperature of the water was 62 degrees Fahrenheit. When Burgess made the swim he also had a smooth sea, but the temperature of the water was two degrees higher.

Among the numerous persons who have tried to swim the channel have been several women. They have, however, never been able to set any notable mark.

There has been standing for a long time an offer of a London publication of a prize of \$5,000 for the successful crossing of the channel by a man or woman swimmer.

Death Near Stateburg.

Hagood, Aug. 6.—Wallace Sanders, an old and highly respected citizen of Sumter county, died at his residence near Stateburg, last Saturday morning at 9:30 o'clock, after a long and painful illness. Mr. Sanders was a farmer by occupation and his entire life was spent in Sumter county. He was 73 years old at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife and three children as follows: Mrs. R. M. Moore, of Horatio, Mrs. J. B. Jackson of Columbia and E. P. Sanders, of Durham, N. C., and also by two brothers, William M. Sanders and Lewis D. Sanders of Stateburg. He was buried at the old historic High Hills Baptist church yesterday morning at 10 o'clock in the presence of a large concourse of relatives and friends, the Rev. W. S. Stoney, officiating.

Killed Near Bennettsville.

Bennettsville, Aug. 5.—McRae Weatherly, aged 34, brother of Sheriff J. A. Weatherly of Marlboro county, was instantly killed and J. P. Gibson, Jr., who was driving Mr. Weatherly's car, was painfully bruised at 10:30 o'clock tonight two miles north of Bennettsville, on the Cheraw-Bennettsville highway when their car was demolished in a collision with another car containing J. W. McLaurin, Neil McDaniel and Frank Thompson, all of Clio, who were injured to an unknown extent. Both cars were completely wrecked. Mr. Weatherly's throat was cut, presumably by his raised windshield. Mr. Gibson, who at this hour is resting favorably and will recover, is connected with the McCall Mercantile Company of this place. Mr. Weatherly leaves a wife and two children.

Watermelon Slicing.

The Men's Bible Class of the Camden Baptist Sunday School were hosts to the Ladies' Bible Class and Senior B. Y. P. U. at an old time watermelon slicing at "White's Beach" last Thursday evening. Notwithstanding the rain which came up later, there was a large crowd present. Everyone enjoyed to the fullest this, one of the choicest fruits of Dixie.

Entertain For Guests.

In honor of her cousins, Misses Mary Annis and Kathleen Younts, of High Point, N. C., Miss Beatrice Goodale entertained a number of her friends on Wednesday evening, at her home on Rutledge street. A delicious tea course was served.

PLUNGES DOWN MOUNTAIN.

Car Takes Toll of Two Lives Near Hendersonville Sunday.

Spartanburg, August 5th.—Smith H. White and his wife, Mrs. Mary Picken White of Jonesville, were killed and five of their seven children were more or less seriously injured about 5 o'clock this afternoon, when the automobile in which they were returning from a day in the mountains, went over the outer edge of the Appalachian highway in Henderson county, North Carolina, four miles north of Saluda, and plunged some 75 to 100 feet down to the bank of Green River. The accident, stated by Coroner G. E. Dixon of Hendersonville, to have been unavoidable, happened as the White car was passing another automobile going in the opposite direction and driven, according to Coroner Dixon, by a man named K. S. Lancaster of Campobello. John White, eldest son of the deceased couple, was driving the car, and the indications were, the coroner said tonight, that he drove so close to the edge in passing the other car, that the dirt softened by recent rains, gave way under the outside wheels before he was aware of the danger.

Mr. White was hrown from the car and killed on impact with stones used to retain the embankment, which is nearly perpendicular. He was believed to have been instantly killed. Mrs. White lived about 30 minutes and had been brought to the road level before she expired. The children were taken to the Saluda hospital, where they received medical attention. John H. White, the driver, aged 17, and W. C. White, aged eight, were not hurt. Lucy, aged 14, suffered scalp wounds. Juanita, aged 12, suffered body bruises and probably a broken arm and body bruises; Pearl, a broken arm and body bruises; Pearl, aged three, has a broken nose and painful cuts; S. H. White, Jr., aged eight months, painfully bruised about the face.

The next work to be taken up after the voting of the additional bond issue will very likely be LaFayette, Mill and Chestnut streets. Another short stretch of paving recently completed and opened to traffic is that of Rutledge street leading to Lyttleton.

Ben Benson Dead.

Benjamin Benson, an old colored man for many years a resident of Camden, died at his home on Market street Tuesday. Benson was the father of the two Benson boys—one employed on the street forces, and another by the Parlor Meat Market, both good citizens. For a number of years the father had been residing with other children in Massachusetts. His funeral occurred on Wednesday afternoon from Trinity Methodist church.

Not a New Car Every Year.

Scip Tate, colored, who resides on Mr. Allen J. Boykin's place, south-east of Camden, does not have to have a new car every year like most folks, but is content to make out with the one he possesses and we do not doubt but what he is better off financially. He has a 1912 model Chalmers car which he purchased second hand five years ago for one hundred dollars. He says it has not been in a garage for repairs since he has owned it and he would not trade it for a brand new car.

New Cotton Firm.

Messrs. Frank D. Campbell and Oscar J. Smyrl announce that on August 15th, they will open a cotton office in the rear of the building now occupied by the Army and Navy store, and will deal in cotton and fertilizers. Both of these young men have for several years been with Mr. F. M. Wooten in the cotton business and have numerous friends throughout Kershaw and adjoining counties. Mr. Smyrl will remain with Mr. Wooten until the first of September, Mr. Campbell conducting the business until Mr. Smyrl leaves the Wooten firm.

Awarded Scholarship.

Glenn C. Pool, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. R. S. Pool, of West Wateree, has been notified that he has been awarded the four-year scholarship in the University of South Carolina to fill the vacancy in Kershaw county.

Young Pool is a grandson of the late Mr. H. F. Boykin, and is a graduate of the Greenville high school. He and his parents have been making their home in West Wateree for the past year.

First Open Bolls.

Mr. L. J. Whitaker, who has considerable farming interests in and near Camden, brought the first open bolls of cotton to our office Wednesday. They were plucked Wednesday morning and were grown from what is known as Price's seed, sent out by the Government.

MUCH PAVING COMPLETE.

Appropriations For Street Maintenance Will Be \$4,000 Less.

In making up the budget for the next fiscal year the finance committee of City Council has cut the appropriation for street maintenance approximately \$4,000. Last year the appropriation for the street working forces was \$10,000. For the coming year it will be only \$6,000. It is said the levy will not exceed 25 mills for all purposes, and this also allows for the proposed additional bonds for paving and sewerage which it is practically certain will be voted on the 14th of this month.

Quite a few of the other departments of the city have been cut, without impairing efficiency, which will mean a still further reduction in expenses of city government.

Four of the fine mules used by the street repair forces have been placed in pasture and will be kept there until fall and then will be offered for sale.

Six and one-half miles of the principal streets of Camden have been paved, or are being paved at the present time and another year will see a still further reduction in expenses for road maintenance. The longest continuous stretch of paving so far completed is that of Broad street from Mt. Moriah Baptist church on the south to the city limits north of the Kirkwood. Another important stretch and perhaps the most traveled is DeKalb street from the Seaboard freight depot on the west to the Southern passenger station on the east. Most of the travel from north to south passes on this street. Lyttleton street from Rutledge to Chestnut is now being completed and will very likely be opened for traffic by the last of the week.

A force of laborers are now busy on Fair street from DeKalb to Green street and on Laurens from the Confederate monument to the Court Inn, grading these streets getting ready for the cement and asphalt.

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Boy Hurt By Car.

Jim Lloyd, a colored lad of about seven years, was knocked down on Main street and bruised Saturday during a rainstorm by a car owned and driven by Mr. W. F. Nettles. The boy was hurrying to cross the street and get to shelter when he ran in front of the car. Although Mr. Nettles was not at fault, he picked the lad up and carried him quickly to the hospital, where an examination showed no bones broken. Later in the afternoon, Mr. Nettles carried the boy and his father to their home in the Egypt section of Sumter county where the former is well on the road to recovery.

Will Go To Rock Hill.

Mr. A. K. Blakeney, of this city, left this week for Rock Hill, where he goes with the Anderson Motor Company of that city, manufacturers of the well known southern cars by that name. He will be in the sales service of the Anderson corporation. Mr. Blakeney will retain his connection with the A. K. Blakeney Ice Co., of Camden, and Mr. Benton Sheurt will be associated with him in the conduct of the same.

Now Open Every Day.

The Majestic Theatre reopened yesterday running full time—six days each week. The management also announces that they have bought the new season 1923-1924 feature pictures, and that in every instance the people of Camden are promised as good a program from now on, as was shown in Camden in this popular playhouse last winter.

Mrs. Spears Dead.

Mrs. Nellie Spears, wife of Mr. J. M. Spears, died suddenly at her home about six miles north of Camden, Thursday, of last week. She was 70 years of age, and it is said was found dead in bed early Thursday morning. She leaves several sons and daughters. The funeral and burial occurred at DeKalb on Friday, services being conducted by Rev. S. E. Hatfield.

Today As Day of Mourning.

Washington, August 4.—President Coolidge today issued a proclamation calling upon the people to observe next Friday as a day of national mourning and prayer.