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WHAT HAS BECOME OF BIGHAM

Notorious Case Has Been in Courts of State For Five Years

The Pageland Journal inquires: "What has become of the Bigham case? Can some one tell us? We really and truly want to know. No foolishness."

The Greenville Piedmont follows up the query by asking, "Can some authority on ancient history supply the desired information? And continues:

"All that we recall is that Edmund Bigham's mother, brother, sister and her two adopted children were murdered January 15, 1921. Soon thereafter Edmund Bigham was arrested and charged with this horrible crime. On March 22, 1921, his trial for murder began and on March 28 he was convicted and sentenced to the electric chair. He has been tried at least twice since then and each time has been convicted. His case has been carried to the Supreme Court of South Carolina at least twice.

"It lacks little of five years since the commission of the crime, yet the man twice adjudged guilty still lives.

"On the morning of September 16, 1925, a woman was found dead in Kenwood, England.

"At 4:22 that afternoon Arthur Kopsch was arrested and charged with the murder of the woman, his aunt.

"The next day he was arraigned and confessed.

"On September 19 a jury at the coroner's inquest returned a verdict of wilful murder against him.

"On October 15, after three hours' deliberation, Kopsch was found guilty and sentenced to death.

"An hour later he was placed in the death cell.

"On November 19, his sentence was commuted to indefinite imprisonment.

"Observe that his case was finally disposed of ten weeks and four days after he committed murder.

"Why is justice so much swifter in England than in South Carolina?"

"Why has the Bigham case been in our courts nearly five years?"

"If Bigham is innocent, then he ought not to have been deprived of his liberty for almost five years; if he is guilty, then he ought not to have evaded punishment for nearly five years.

"Who is responsible for this situation?"

"Everybody in general.

"You.

"The bar.

"The people of South Carolina.

"The fault lies with our system of administering justice which is so poorly constructed that punishment may be delayed indefinitely and often evaded altogether. It is full of loopholes of escapes, it is highly technical. It does not move swiftly when it ought to do so. It is an ox-wagon in an age of automobiles.

"The only hope for a better, swifter, juster system of justice lies in the people.

"The lawyers will never change the existing system, because the average lawyer is ultra-conservative. The legislature will never change it with-

out powerful pressure from the people because there are so many lawyer-legislators. So nothing but the persistent pressure of an indignant disgusted people can make it certain that the like of the Bigham case shall not happen again in a state once famed for both its law and justice.

"Suppose Bigham had been a poor man, unable to hire smart, skilled lawyers for his defense. Where would he be now?"

Fire at Bishopville

Fire of an unknown origin early Sunday morning visited the business section of Bishopville, destroying two brick buildings on Council street. One occupied by H. T. Strange and the other by G. W. Johnson. Both were dealers in fancy groceries, and Mr. Strange also handles fresh meats.

The fire was discovered shortly after four o'clock in the building occupied by Mr. Johnson. The fire department responded promptly, but the flames had gained such headway that nothing could be saved. The two stores were really only one building with only a board wall separating them, and all that could have been hoped for was the preventing of the fire to spread.

The building belonged to J. S. Corbett, and was erected by Mr. Corbett several years ago, and occupied by him for some time. The building was insured, though not for an amount that fully covers the loss which is estimated at about \$4,000. Both Mr. Strange and Mr. Johnson carried some insurance on their stocks, neither of which were fully protected.

This is the first fire to visit the business section of Bishopville in several months. Mr. Corbett expects to rebuild as soon as possible.—Bishopville Messenger.

Wants Distinctive Title

The tier of counties lying between the Santee and Wateree on the west and Lynches river on the east needs a distinctive title so that when mentioned by that title one would know exactly what section of South Carolina was referred to. When the Pee Dee section is mentioned it is identified at once as the country between Lynches river and the North Carolina line, with the Great Pee Dee bisecting it, but the section embracing Williamsburg, Clarendon, Sumter and Lee—and perhaps Kershaw should be included—has never had an identifying and distinctive title. It is not too late to name it. Has anyone a suggestion to make?—Sumter Item.

Killed by High Voltage.

Chester, S. C., Jan. 22.—Heath J. Gayden, one of the Southern Public Utilities company's valuable and popular operators at the Chester substation, was killed early today in some unaccountable manner by coming in contact with high voltage wires. He was discovered by his wife lying on the cement floor doubled up, clinging to an electrically charged wire.

In Constantinople there are few, if any, traffic laws. The native motorist goes through town at forty miles an hour, passing street cars on either side, careening around corners and violating every safety rule.

WORK GOING ON NICELY

Home Demonstration Clubs Growing In Rural Districts

Home demonstration work in Kershaw county has been organized in such a way as to reach a large number of rural communities. There are thirteen girls' clubs located at the following places: Piedmont, DeKalb, Lugoff, Pine Grove, Shamrock, Timrod, the Mill school, and two clubs each at Midway, Antioch, and Charlotte Thompson. These clubs all hold monthly meetings, and are doing good work along food and clothing lines. The membership includes about two hundred girls. Much interest has been added to the work by the prizes won at the county fair and many girls are already working for next year's fair.

The women's home demonstration clubs have all elected their officers for 1926 and are looking forward to a good year's work. Besides the clubs at Cantey, Lugoff, Mt. Zion, Charlotte Thompson, Midway and Timrod, which were organized several years ago plans are being made for the organization of clubs at DeKalb, Westville and Antioch. The clubs did splendid work at the county fair, not only in the exhibits, but also at the refreshment booth. About \$100 was cleared, which will go toward purchasing equipment for the annual encampment held each summer.

The community market has survived one of the most discouraging seasons in its history. The unusual drought this summer seriously handicapped the production of vegetables and fruits, but the market was open every Saturday and some of the faithful producers and customers were always there. The market sales are now increasing every week, and it is hoped that the year 1926 will be a bright one. Mr. Redfern, the new manager of the Kershaw Motor company, has generously consented to the continued use of his show room for this purpose.

Strange Formations Revealed

Chimney Rock N. C., Jan. 24.—Collier Cobb, geologist of the University of North Carolina, left here for his home at Chapel Hill after completing examination of strange rock formations existing in this portion of western North Carolina, to which his attention had been called. Saturday he ascended Chimney Rock mountain, scaled the dizzy heights, accompanied by two guides familiar with that region, gathering scientific data. Upon the return journey the party explored an underground passage or subway, through which it was possible to reach the opposite side of the mountain overlooking Lake Lure. Enroute Professor Cobb scanned at a distance what appeared to be the perfect outline rock formation of an ancient village of cliff dwellers. The eminent geologist expects at an early date to return with scientific instruments and cameras outfitted for a week's journey, examining the sheer granite walls, which excited the party as they had made a discovery that must turn back the pages of established history of this region prior to the days of the Indians in western North Carolina. This is the same region scanned last year by members of the Chicago Geographic society, brought here for exploration by the Southern railway.

Harbor Empties and Fills Again

Bernard, Maine, Jan. 3.—Fishermen in this vicinity were in a panic tonight as the result of a tidal wave which caused the water to flow out of the harbor here, buffeting fishing boats about like straws.

The tidal wave was preceded by two earth rumbles off shore. No quake was felt on land, however.

The wave, which came late this afternoon, was about eight feet high. Water began to recede along the shore, exposing the bottom of the harbor. In some places the shore was sucked dry where five or six feet of water had been a minute before. A few minutes later a fairly large wave washed upon the shore. Two smaller waves followed in succession.

Fishermen, frightened by the phenomenon dashed for points of safety. The disturbance was believed to be confined to this harbor.

Former Supervisor Dead

Sumter, Jan. 24.—Charles T. Evans, a former supervisor of Lee County, and one of the leading farmers of that county, died at his home at Manville about 2:30 Friday afternoon, after an illness of several months.

Mr. Evans served for twelve years as supervisor and was one of the best known men in Lee County. He is survived by his widow and three daughters, Mrs. Rosalie Barnett, Mrs. Abbie Siskron and Mrs. Elma Brown. Funeral services were held at Pisgah church at 11 o'clock this morning.

In Hawaii, Japan, and China, seaweeds of many kinds are eaten with relish.



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Pays \$5,000 For Killing.

A case that was settled late Friday afternoon, Jan. 8, of more than local interest was that against Walker Edwards, the young man from Syracuse, N. Y., who was driving the Pierce Arrow car that struck and killed Mr. Elwood Cox on December 29, as the old gentleman attempted to cross the road at Marston. The Edwards and Cox parties came to an agreement for a civil settlement of \$5,000 on Friday, and the judge and

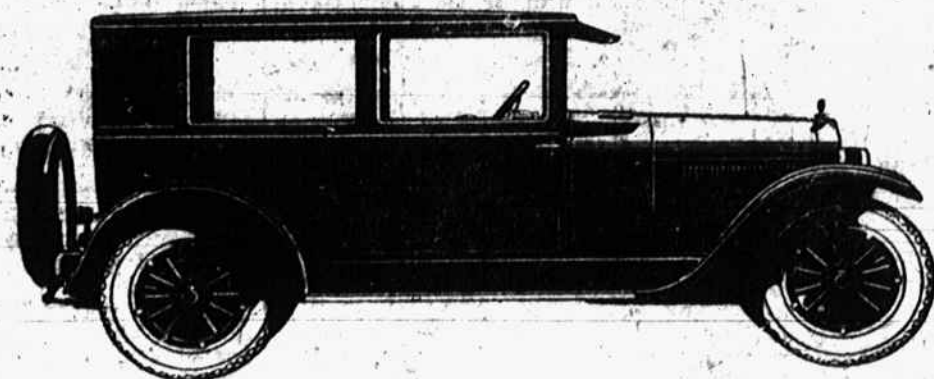
solicitor agreed for young Edwards to plead guilty in open court to assault with a deadly weapon, namely an automobile, and he was fined \$1.00 and costs. The accident appears to have been purely an unavoidable one.—Rockingham Post-Dispatch.

The anthracite strike in Shamokin, Pa., meant nothing to a manufacturer of that city who immediately sank a shaft in his back yard, striking a hard coal vein which he worked.

Three Pay Penalty

Bellefonte, Pa., Jan. 25.—Three negroes, convicted of slaying Jonathan Klopp, a rural shopkeeper near Robeson, Pa., September 26, 1924, were electrocuted at the Rockview penitentiary today. Klopp was shot during the robbery of the store.

Valleys of salt twelve miles in length and of a proved depth of not less than thirty feet, are to be found in Inyo County, California.



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