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TWO SHOT NEAR KERSHAW.

Gardner and Cunningham Wounded While Passing House of Hegler.

On Tuesday night about 9 o'clock as Conly Cunningham, James W. Gardner and Virgil Ellis were passing the home of Ernest Hegler in the White Bluff section, on their way from Lancaster to the home of Cunningham, riding in a Ford runabout, they were fired upon and Gardner, who was driving, received a bullet through the index finger of his left hand, and a glancing scalp wound on the left side of his head, while Cunningham was hit in the left shoulder and in the left arm. They were brought to Kershaw soon after being shot and had their wounds dressed by Drs. L. T. Gregory and S. J. Blackmon, after which Cunningham was taken to the Fennell Infirmary in Rock Hill by Dr. Blackmon for more careful examination of the wound in his shoulder.

In a statement obtained from Mr. Gardner in the office of Dr. Gregory, where his wounds were being dressed Wednesday morning, he said that Mr. Cunningham, who was drinking, had a difficulty with members of the Hegler family Tuesday at Lancaster, where Mr. Gardner resides and that he was arrested and placed in jail. Later, Mr. Gardner stated, he succeeded in having Cunningham released for the purpose of taking him home, and that Virgil Ellis was with them in the car. That when they passed the home of Mr. Ernest Hegler he noticed several persons in his yard, but did not recognize them as

it was dark, and as they got opposite some of them fired at the car, he did not know how many, but was certain that more than one was shooting with pistols.

The wounds of Mr. Gardner were only flesh wounds, and we learned also that the wounds of Mr. Cunningham were not regarded as serious.—Kershaw Era.

Death of Joseph Caughman.

Joseph Caughman, a life resident of Lee county, died early Wednesday morning at the home of his son, John Caughman, in the Spring Hill section, Mr. Caughman was 82 years of age, and had lived his entire life near the place of his death.

Mr. Caughman was an unusually large and powerful man and had a wide reputation for his physical strength, as a mature man. He had been in declining health for several years, the last few of which he was practically an invalid.

He was the father of a large family, and is survived by a number of children, most of whom are residents of this county.—Bishopville Messenger.

"Mother Walker" Is Dead.

Rock Hill, Sept. 17.—Mrs. Mary Phelps Walker, known to thousands of Winthrop College girls and alumnae as "Mother Walker," died in a Roanoke Va., hospital following a critical illness of several weeks. Mrs. Walker, until last June, was senior matron at Winthrop College, where she had been for 14 years.

COLUMBIA BANKERS INDICTED.

Mauldin, Matthews and Bradley To Face Courts on Charges.

(By Jno. K. Aull.)

Columbia, Sept. 19.—Eleven indictments upon each of which the grand jury of Richland county has written, "true bill," charging the State bank examiner, W. W. Bradley, and the former president and the former chairman of the board of the American Bank and Trust Company, of Columbia, now deceased, with violation of the criminal laws of South Carolina in connection with the failure of this bank, have set the stage for what promises to be one of the most dramatic and colorful trials in the history of the State. Already distinguished counsel have been retained, both by the defense and to assist the solicitor of the circuit. Solicitor A. Fletcher Spigner is an able prosecuting officer, and one whose record for fearlessness and mental power and vigor is second to that of none; but his duties are arduous, and the grand jury felt that, with the mass of details to be correlated in a case of this kind, he should have assistance. Therefore, with the approval of the Court and Solicitor Spigner, they retained Former Judge Mendel L. Smith, of Camden, and Mr. James H. Fowles, of Columbia, as assistant counsel. Among the attorneys for the defendants are United States Senator Cole L. Blease the others being Mr. Clint T. Graydon, an attorney of large and varied practice at the Columbia bar; Mr. G. Duncan Bellinger, who is also judge of probate of the county, and Mr. Claud N. Sapp, widely known throughout the State, and who, while representing Richland county in the legislature, was chairman of the ways and means committee. Mr. Fowles, of counsel for the prosecution, is clerk of the State senate.

The eleven true bills by the grand jury were returned on Saturday, the last day of the fall term of the criminal court for Richland county. There will be no other court here until January, and the cases will be called at that time.

The American Bank and Trust company failed to open its doors for business on the morning of June 26th. An investigation and examination of the tangled wreckage was begun. Development followed development, and at the receivership hearing before Judge W. H. Townsend, which resulted in the appointment of Former Judge J. H. Peurifoy, of Walterboro, as receiver, facts were brought out of such a nature that Judge Townsend ordered a transcript of the testimony to be furnished the solicitor and the grand jury for such action as might be proper in the premises. The grand jury held a special session, and at the beginning of the term of court here two weeks ago they began an official investigation, at the conclusion of which they made a special presentment embodying their findings. Indictments were handed them by the solicitor, and it is upon these indictments that the true bills have been returned.

Bench warrants were issued upon the grand jury's return of the true bills, but Messrs. Mauldin and Bradley furnished the required bond, fixed at \$10,000 for each of the three defendants, before the warrants were served. Mr. Matthews, it was stated, had been in Detroit on business, and was on his way to Columbia today, and would furnish bond. Mr. Mauldin was sitting in court at the time the true bills were returned, and his bond was given immediately, his sureties being his wife, Mrs. Vera Mauldin, and his daughter, Miss Ivy Mauldin. Mr. Bradley went to the office of the clerk of court during the afternoon and furnished bond, his sureties being O. P. Bourke, of Columbia, and C. H. Peak, W. D. Harris and T. L. Estes, of Union.

Mr. Bradley is charged with "official misconduct and malfeasance in office," and in a joint indictment against him and Matthews and Mauldin the charge is conspiracy to cheat and defraud. Matthews and Mauldin jointly are charged that as officers of the bank, deposits were accepted after the bank was known by them to be insolvent. Matthews and Mauldin are charged that they conspired to commit an unlawful and criminal act by lending the Southern Motor Company, of which Mauldin was then and there a director and president, \$101,180.35, without good security and without the approval in writing of two-thirds of the whole board of directors. Matthews and Mauldin are charged with conspiracy to violate Sec. 61 of the criminal code, it being alleged that they conspired to convert funds of the bank in the joint sum of \$62,844 to their own use without the approval in writing of two-thirds of the whole board of directors, and that they conspired to convert certain bonds belonging to the bank, of the value of \$61,000, to their own use, without the written approval of two-thirds of the whole board of directors. And there are individual indictments against

Matthews and Mauldin based upon these allegations. The bond transaction referred to was the alleged use by Matthews and Mauldin of certain bonds owned by the bank, it being charged that the two made use of them in an income tax adjustment, putting other security in place of them. It was announced several days ago that Mr. Matthews had paid the bank for the bonds used by him, and that Mr. Mauldin would do likewise, putting up the cash in place of the securities, which they put up when it is alleged they made use of the bonds.

The indictment against Mauldin, Matthews and Bradley, jointly charging them with conspiracy to cheat and defraud, alleges that they combined in "transferring," etc., "to the Citizens National Bank of Anderson," for the purpose of securing, without any power or authority to do so, an indebtedness to said Anderson bank, a note for \$10,000 executed by J. O. Walker, Inc., of Columbia, and held by the American Bank and Trust Company, the said assignment, etc., "purporting to have been made on the 24th day of June, 1926, the day before the said American Bank and Trust Company . . . closed its doors, . . . whereas, in truth, the said date of assignment had been falsely and fraudulently made, the said assignment having been in fact made on the 28th day of June, 1926, several days after the said bank had closed its doors for business."

Mr. Bradley, who was appointed State bank examiner by Governor Cooper in May, 1922, to fill an unexpired term, and reappointed by Governor Harvey for the full term of four years, was for years secretary to Congressman Wyatt Aiken of Abbeville, and later auditor and assistant State bank examiner. His term expires on October 7 of this year. His family has for long years been among the most prominent in South Carolina.

Mr. Matthews has long been prominently identified with banking circles in South Carolina, as has Mr. Mauldin. They were with the Palmetto National Bank when it was forced to close its doors, and they organized the American Bank and Trust Company about two years ago. The banking hours and methods of the bank, (including its custom of carrying deposits, however small, without the 50 cents per month charged by other Columbia banks when a deposit went below fifty dollars in any one month), appealed to the small depositor; and it was also favored, from the beginning, with the deposit of public funds. At the receivership hearing, Cashier Earle, in response to a question, said that it had probably had as much as four million dollars public funds on deposit at one time, "temporarily." Some public funds, he thought, were placed in the bank the day it opened for business. The State's funds were secured, as required by the Act of the General Assembly. The amounts held by the bank at the time it closed, and the various details connected with the security of these funds, were fully stated in this correspondence at the time.

Judge Peurifoy, as receiver, is going ahead as rapidly as possible with the winding up of the bank's affairs. The grand jury of Richland county, in employing counsel to assist the State in the prosecution, stated that the fee agreed upon with Judge Mendel L. Smith was \$1,250, and with Mr. James H. Fowles, \$500.

United States Senator Cole L. Blease, of counsel for defendants, has been in the city since the sessions court began. Judge E. C. Dennis presided, and the amount of \$10,000 each, fixed by him as amount of bail, provides: "This bond to cover and to be conditioned for the defendant to answer all charges, jointly or separate, against him now pending in this court."

Annual W. M. U. Meeting.

The annual W. M. U. meeting of Kershaw Association will be held at Flint Hill church, October 2nd, at 10:30 o'clock. Every Baptist church in the association is requested to send representatives. Several State workers have been secured and a good program is expected.

Falls Dead at Bethune.

Becky Taylor, wife of Coburn Taylor, who is serving a life sentence in the penitentiary for killing a man named Cason and then burning his body near Bethune three or four years ago, dropped dead at her home in the Sandy Grove section of Kershaw county Tuesday morning about 7 o'clock.

Homicides Increasing.

Columbia, Sept. 13.—Homicides in South Carolina numbered 124 up to August 1 of this year, as compared with 115 over the same period of last year, and 93 for the first seven months of 1924, according to records of the bureau of vital statistics announced today by C. W. Miller, director.

An Important List of Improvements

Following a year of unprecedented engineering progress, Dodge Brothers announce another important list of improvements for their complete line of motor cars.

No one who contemplates the purchase of a car should fail to investigate the impressive nature and scope of these improvements at the earliest opportunity.

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DODGE BROTHERS MOTOR CARS

Glenn To Run For Governor.

Solicitor J. L. Glenn, Jr., stated Saturday afternoon to a representative of The Reporter that he expects to make the race for Governor four years from now, and will make a statement, embodying his views on various subjects of interest, in a few days. Capt. Glenn was appointed Solicitor of the sixth circuit to succeed Hon. J. K. Henry when the latter was elected circuit judge, and two years

ago defeated Hon. Harry Hines of Lancaster, by a big majority. Solicitor Glenn has made good as Solicitor, and is widely and favorably known over the State, and will command a big vote.—Chester Reporter.

General Erich Ludendorff, German quartermaster during the World war, 61 years old, was on Tuesday married to Frau Dr. Mthilde von Kemnitz. The general was given a divorce from his first wife in July.

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