

A HORRIBLE TRAGEDY

Miss Estelle Potter Murdered While on Her Way to School

DRAGGED FROM HER PONY

Her Throat Cut and Body Thrown Into a Ravine in Sight of Home.

Tuesday afternoon the people of Lexington were shocked and horrified when it was learned that Miss Estelle Potter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Newton Potter, while on her way to school had been murdered and her body thrown into a ravine almost in sight of home. The horrible details of this tragedy with the circumstances surrounding it will possibly never be known. The pure young soul took in its flight to the Savior, a story that in its crushing and heart breaking effects is without parallel in the history of this community. God grant that there may never be another. The healing balm of time will never be able to wholly extricate from the minds of our people, the manner of the taking of this young life.

The events of this morning of tragedy are simple. Miss Estelle was attending the summer school in town, and made the trip every morning from her parents' residence about a mile north of the city limits. On this morning the colored man working about the place brought Mr. Potter to town. On his return, about nine o'clock, he saddled the pony for Miss Estelle which she had been in the habit of riding to school, and she started on her way. Further particulars of the events leading to the murder can only be deduced from the place and in the manner the body was found. The pony returned a short time after this hour, but nothing was thought of this as the pony could easily make its way home from the high school building. At the noon hour, when the girl did not return, the family first became alarmed, and inquiries were made by phone at the high school and of relatives where she frequently called. She had never been seen at any of these places. Mr. Potter then called upon the sheriff, who with his son started a search for her. They drove north and were met where the road turns east just north of the Geo. M. Catron place by some parties who had already located the body in a ravine. There the little girl was found dead with her throat cut from ear to ear. This was about 2:30 in the afternoon, and she had left home about nine o'clock.

News of the tragedy spread like wildfire. The people of Lexington were aroused and soon parties were going in every direction to look for the murderer. From the scene of the murder, a trail was followed north to the river. On this track a belt was found and further it was discovered that a row boat and a pair of oars had been stolen.

All the circumstances prior to the finding of the body and subsequent details, point to Goldie Wingfield as the murderer. The belt that was found has been identified as his. He had been working for Mr. Potter, and only the evening before he had shown by his manner that he was hostile

toward the little girl. He had refused her commands in some little detail, and since the hour of her departure for school, he has not been seen. Blood hounds were secured from Lawson and they followed the trail without any hesitancy to the river where the boat was stolen. No further trace of him can be found.

Estelle Potter was born January 23, 1899, and was in her fourteenth year. Besides her parents, she is survived by one brother and two sisters.

The sympathy of every heart in the community goes out to the grief stricken parents. The father and mother whose tender love and care had brought this dependant soul to the verge of young womanhood, watched the sweet and helpless babe as she grew into their hearts as only parents can know and understand; theirs must be the suffering and anguish that only God can assuage.

The funeral services, conducted by Rev. Warren P. Clark, were held from the home yesterday morning at 10 o'clock.

Thursday, August 14.

The only developments since Wednesday morning in the search for Goldie Wingfield, the supposed murderer of Estelle Potter, is that, the boat which was stolen and the one in which he is supposed to have crossed the river in, was found Wednesday evening near the mouth of Crooked river. Late Wednesday night the Sheriff and the Prosecuting Attorney with a posse crossed the river and with the blood hounds from Lawson went to the spot where the boat was found. The dogs were unable to pick up the trail, and nothing was accomplished.

Rewards aggregating \$1000.00 have been offered. A printed description of Wingfield has been sent everywhere, and it is thought to be impossible for him to get out of the country. His photograph has been secured and copies of this will be sent to every officer and county seat newspapers in Missouri. A description of the negro is printed in another column.

3:30 p. m. Thursday. In response to a telephone message, D. O. Heathman, John Ashurst and Tom Harney went to the mouth of Crooked river to identify, if possible, the body of a colored man found floating in the river near where the boat was first discovered. They reported later that they were satisfied that the body was that of Goldie Wingfield, the supposed murderer of Estelle Potter.

IS IT WINGFIELD?

Friday, August 15. The body of the negro that was found yesterday at the mouth of Crooked river was brought to Lexington and taken to Winkler's undertaking rooms. A great many people have viewed the body. Some are of the opinion that it is the body of Wingfield, and equally as many are of a different opinion. The body is in such a state of decay that it is impossible for those who knew him best to tell for a certainty whether or not it is Wingfield. But, aside from this there are other things that point almost conclusively to his identification, viz: the hair cut; the pennies around the neck of the corpse, which it said Wingfield always wore; the size and brand of the shoe worn by the corpse tally

exactly with the pair Wingfield was supposed to have worn; the overalls, torn at the knee and mended by himself, are like those worn by the corpse.

The inquest is now being held and the verdict will be awaited with interest.

Resolution of Colored Mass Meeting.

Whereas a most horrible crime has been committed in our community by one who is a member of our race, we the colored people of Lexington, Missouri, in mass meeting assembled, consider it our duty to state to the public our position on such crimes and offenses.

Therefore be it Resolved: That we condemn any and every crime of the like nature committed by any one, and especially regret and condemn it when committed by one of our own race.

Resolved, that we tender to the Sheriff of Lafayette County, Missouri, and the lawfully constituted authorities our individual and collective aid and assistance in bringing the guilty person to justice.

Resolved that we join with deep feeling in the general regret of the city that such a crime could be enacted in our fair city and peaceful community.

Resolved that we, as citizens of Missouri, express anew our desire and wish to secure and help in the protection of home and family; and hold that the family is the sacred base of our civilization and for that reason pledge our every effort to protect and keep our homes and the homes of our neighbors sacred and inviolate.

J. A. Allen, Chairman.

G. H. Green, Secretary.

Ray County Indicts Alleged Tax Dodgers.

The Ray County Grand Jury Monday returned eleven indictments against some of the most prominent men of the county, charging them with perjury in making false statements as to their wealth for tax assessments. The indictments returned resulted from an examination of bank accounts. The eleven indicted reported they had no money on deposit in banks.

Perjury is punishable with not less than a penitentiary sentence.

Of course there is nothing like that going on in Lafayette county.

Ed Barron Enters Show Business.

A deal has been concluded whereby Ed Barron becomes the partner of Clyde Wright in conducting Wright's Grand Opera House. The new firm will be styled Barron & Wright, and Mr. Barron will be assistant manager. Mr. Barron needs no introduction to the people of Lexington, where he is known and liked by everyone. Besides his many qualifications as a business man, he is a hustler, and no doubt will bring increased patronage to Wright's Grand.

Cattle Barn Burned.

Thursday night about nine o'clock the large cattle barn on the Lee Slusher farm caught fire and was completely destroyed together with a large quantity of hay, oats, rye, machinery, and a large silo. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Miss Ola Foster returned this morning from a visit in Excelsior Springs.

Miss Nell Shotliff and Miss Roxie Crum left Wednesday evening for Chicago, where they will buy their fall millinery.

Ladson's Store Robbed.

Thursday night robbers entered Ladson's store by digging a hole through the back wall and carried away four suit cases, several suits of clothes, several pairs of shoes, shirts, and other wearing apparel. The robbery was not discovered until Friday morning, when the store was opened for business. One of the robbers, and it is thought that more than one was engaged in the enterprise, left a soft felt hat with a part of a Cincinnati paper under the sweat band. The hat is badly soiled.

Misses Ethel and Katherine Bernard of Richmond arrived Thursday to spend the day with Misses Ada and Ruth Bullard.

Cinnie Wilcoxon Locates on Franklin.

Cinnie Wilcoxon, who for several years past "hustled" for Crawford's laundry, has started in business for himself. He has located at 1009 Franklin street a dry cleaning and pressing plant and is prepared to give first class service. His plant is equipped with the latest machinery and that with competent help, he no doubt will give perfect satisfaction. His telephone is 676. Give him a call.

Chas. Wiley, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Wiley, who has been ill for several days, was taken to a hospital in Kansas City Tuesday morning for treatment. He was accompanied by his father and Dr. M. G. Roberts.

Body of Ed Page Recovered.

The body of Ed Page, who was drowned in the Missouri river Monday near the McGrew mines, was found Tuesday in the river near Myrick. Mr. Page was unable to swim. He had gone into the water with several other boys and waded out into deep water and sank. The other boys were unable to give him any assistance.

Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Ashurst and two children arrived Wednesday evening from Malta Bend to attend the funeral of Miss Estelle Potter.

Mrs. Mary Beachner and Miss Minnie Dicken returned Wednesday evening to their home in Kansas City after a visit here with the family of Wm. Gruber.

PROGRAM OF THE Lafayette County Fair

Higginsville, Missouri, August 19, 20, 21 and 22

Every Day a Big Day Come to Them All

TUESDAY--A Big Day

2:11 Pace, \$400.00; 2:22 Trot, \$400.00; 3 yr. old Pace, \$300.00.
Sweepstake Harness Horse, Mare or Gelding, \$300.00
Best Saddle Horse, Mare or Gelding, under 4 yrs. \$150.
Best Saddle Horse, Mare or Gelding, owned in Lafayette County, \$30.00.
Best Saddle Stallion, owned in Lafayette County, \$10.00.
Jacks and Mules, \$80.00 in purses.
Best Lady Driver, to hitch and unhitch horse in show ring, 7 to enter and 5 to show, \$25.00.
5 Mile Motorcycle Race; Ball Game 1/2 Mile Running Race.
2 FREE ATTRACTIONS

WEDNESDAY--As Big as Tuesday

2:13 Pace, \$400.00. 2:27 Trot, \$400.00. 3 y. old Trot, \$300.00.
Best Saddle Stallion, 4 yrs. and over, \$1150.00.
Best Harness Mare or Gelding, 4 yrs. and over, \$150.00.
Best All Purpose Stallion, 2 yrs. and under 3, \$10.50
Best All Purpose Stallion, 3 yrs. and over, \$22.50.
Best Lady Rider, \$7.50
Best Horse Colt, any breed or sex, \$30.00.
Best Mare any age or breed, owned in Lafayette County, \$15.00
4 Mile Motorcycle Race. 3/4 Mile Running Race. Ball Game.
2 FREE ATTRACTIONS

BIG THURSDAY

2:25 Pace, \$400.00. 2:16 Trot, \$500.00. 2 yr old Trot, \$200.00.
Best Saddle Mare or Gelding, 4 yrs. and over, \$150.00.
Best Harness Horse, Mare or Gelding, under 4 years \$150.00.
Best All Purpose Mare or Gelding, 3 yrs. and over, \$150.00.
Best All Purpose Mare or Gelding, 3 years and over, \$10.00.
Best All Purpose Stallion and 3 or more of his colts, \$22.50.
Best All Purpose Horse, Mare or Gelding, any age, owned in Lafayette County, \$30.00.
Best All Purpose Brood Mare and 2 or more of her colts, \$15.00.
Best Harness Colt, under 1 yr., any sex, \$10.00.
Best Harness Stallion, 2 yrs and under 3, \$12.00
Best Harness Brood Mare, and 2 or more of her colts, \$12.00.
Best Harness Stallion, any age, owned in Lafayette County, \$10.00.
3/4 Mile Running Race. 3 Mile Motorcycle Race. Ball Game.
2 FREE ATTRACTIONS

FRIDAY--As big as Thursday

2:09 Pace, \$400.00. 2:12 Trot, \$400.00; 2:17 Pace, \$500.00. 2 yr. old Pace \$200.00.
Sweepstake Saddle Horse, Mare or Gelding, any age, \$300.00.
Best Harness Stallion, 4 yrs. and over, \$150.00.
Draft Horses, \$40.00. Best Mule Colt, \$30.00.
Best Harness Horse, Mare or Gelding, any age owned in Lafayette County \$10.00.
Best Draft Stallion, any age, owned in Lafayette County, \$10.00.
Best Draft Mare and Colt, both considered, \$15.00.
1 Mile Novelty Running Race, \$100.00, \$25.00 at each quarter. Ball Game.
2 FREE ATTRACTIONS

BIG AGRICULTURAL and LIVE STOCK EXHIBITS. ALL FREE

McMahon's Amusement Co. on grounds Day and Night. Fine Electric Ferris Wheel and Carry-Us-All. 5 Big Shows with Continuous Performances.
See the Perilous High Dive every afternoon in front of the Grandstand. Also the Daring and Intricate Bicycle Riding and Balancing.

2 CONCERTS DAILY BY FAMOUS MISSOURI LADIES' MILITARY BAND

Special Railroad Accommodations during the Fair. Come and meet your friends. At the Biggest County Fair in the state. They will all be there.

JESSE E. KOPPENBRINK, Secretary.