

SHERIFF JOE TALBOTT AND DEPUTY JOHN McDONALD MURDERED BY BANDITS

CONSTABLE JAS STAPLETON SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. WERE RETURNING FROM MARSHALL WITH THREE PRISONERS.

Tragedy Occured Sunday Night. Alarm Given Monday Night. Bodies Found Tuesday Morning in Wheat Field Near Prairie Church.

Seldora has a community been more excited or speculation more rife than when it became known Monday evening that Sheriff Joe C. Talbott, Deputy Sheriff John McDonald, and Deputy Constable James Stapleton had not returned from Marshall, where they had gone Sunday afternoon for three prisoners, who had passed through here Saturday night and stolen Dr. Cope's car. These men had come to Lexington during the night in a Hudson roadster, and on Franklin Avenue, in front of the Misses Graddy the car

name, and Sheriff Talbott was called to learn if Dr. Cope had lost a car. The officer at Marshall said that the car was there and that he had three men in custody.

Sunday afternoon about 1 o'clock accompanied by his deputy, John McDonald, and Deputy Constable James Stapleton, Sheriff Talbott left for Marshall. There the prisoners were loaded into his car. Sheriff Talbott was driving; Mr. Stapleton occupied the other front seat and Mr. McDonald was in the rear with the three prisoners,



Sheriff Joseph C. Talbott



Deputy John J. McDonald

went dead. The men then walked north on 17th street to the residence of Dr. Cope and stole his Ford runabout. When about two miles from Marshall this car also balked and the parties telephoned into Marshall for someone to come out for them. When the parties from Marshall saw the men they became suspicious and immediately notified the marshal who traced them to the railroad station and placed them under arrest. The men were very reticent and would answer no questions. In the car some papers were found with Dr. Cope's

The sheriff of Saline county reports that the prisoners were not manacled and had perfect freedom of action.

When their absence became public Monday evening, it was generally agreed that foul play was not improbable, and organized effort began to trace them. It was learned that Oscar Hoefler of Higginsville, had seen the car near the Confederate Home about 8 o'clock Sunday evening headed towards Lexington, and that he had recognized Sheriff Talbott. This was a clue and was communicated to the public.

Victory Liberty Loan Subscriptions will close Saturday, May 10th. Get your subscriptions in by that time. Lexington and most of the county far behind.

and the search began. Hundreds of people jumped into waiting cars to hurry to the country where they felt that the extent of the tragedy would be revealed. The search continued thru the night, but not until Tuesday morning about 8:30 o'clock were the bodies of the murdered men and the almost lifeless body of Mr. Stapleton found.

In the mean time a message came from Independence stating that an abandoned car had been found near Blue Springs, and that the rear seat was covered with blood, and that there was a pair of handcuffs.

Tuesday morning about 8:30 o'clock, a searching party from Mayview was passing a wheat field near the Prairie Church when their attention was attracted by a peculiar movement in the wheat; and it was there they found Mr. Stapleton floundering in delirium, and the dead bodies of Sheriff Talbott and deputy, John McDonald. Mr. Stapleton was hurried to the city and taken to the hospital. It was found that besides a terrible beating he had been shot two or three times, once thru the head, and again in the shoulders. He is unable to talk and the seriousness of his wounds have not been determined. He had, of course, survived thirty-six hours of exposure—from early Sunday night until Tuesday morning—which gives hope that his wounds are not necessarily fatal. Besides these gun shot wounds, he had been brutally beaten about the head and his body is covered with heel marks, indicating that he had been jumped upon. The bandits, no doubt, left him for dead.

Mr. McDonald, who occupied the rear seat with the bandits, was shot in the back of the head. His appearance indicates that he was overcome only after a short but terrific struggle. Sheriff Talbott, who was diving the car, had been shot three times through the back and very likely killed instantly. He must have been taken at a terrible disadvantage. The bodies of the deceased were taken to Winkler's Undertaking Parlors where they were view by a coroner's jury and prepared for burial.

Many theories have been advanced as to the place and manner of attack. It seems certain though that the crime was committed between Mrs. Cantrill's farm and the Jackson Bradley lane. Mrs. Cantrill's farm hand reports that he heard five shot in rapid succession about the time they would have passed that point. It is further believed that Mr. Stapleton was shot first and only momentarily dazed, and afterwards fought until he was beaten into unconsciousness.

The details of the crime are (Continued on Page 2)

TANK ATTRACTS LARGE CROWD

Several Thousand People Saw It Perform. Driven by an Expert.

Several thousand people last Friday were ready to review the much talked of "tank" when it arrived at Lexington. The crowd at the station occupied every available space, and when the train pulled in promptly on time, it was quickly surrounded by an eager and curious throng. They did not have long to wait as Mr. Tank rolled himself off the car, and under the guiding hand of an expert, Private Clyde P. Jones, Tank Corps, U. S. Army, it began to climb embankments and do all sorts of unusual stunts.

At the station to escort the tank up town were the ex-service men from all branches of the service, the Wentworth cadets with band, the High School company, and citizens without number. The parade started in good form after a short sharp rain, with the tank leading. It proceeded to the court house through lanes of people, where the parade broke up; the tank was fenced in and the real object of the demonstration was begun, that of selling Liberty Notes. Addresses were made by H. F. Blackwell of Lexington; and by Lieut. Robert Lee Hedges of St. Louis, and Ira Fisher, bond salesman, with the government train. Their efforts up to the supper hour resulted in the sale of about \$50,000 of Liberty Notes.

At 7 o'clock the tank gave an exhibition in Goose Pond Park which was watched by thousands. The rim of the "Park" was banked deep with people. The tank rolled down into the hole, up banks, over obstructions, to the wonderment of all who saw it. After this demonstration the sale of Liberty Notes was to have been resumed, but the rain put a stop to the out-side meeting, and was adjourned to the circuit court room of the court house. There R. E. Ashurst, recently from France, where he served with the Canadian infantry, made a very interesting talk. Other speakers made short addresses after which the meeting adjourned.

The committee was very favorably impressed with the character of the members of the government party. A previous experience with a govern-

ment exhibition train crew had left a bad taste; but this was soon dispelled after meeting the members of this party, which was composed of the following: Rev. Dr. M. L. Pontius of Jacksonville, Ill., who has taken active part in three of the loan drives; Lieut. Robert Lee Hedges of St. Louis, formerly an officer in the 2nd Division, 23rd Infantry, of which Maj. Frederick Palmer has said: "It was the best division that ever wore shoe leather;" Ira Fisher and Paul E. Peltason of St. Louis, bond salesmen, and Sergt. O. O. Williams and Private Clyde P. Jones, tank men. The train was in charge of E. L. Spear of the passenger department of the Burlington Route. All were high class men whom it was a pleasure to greet and entertain.

The tank men, of course, were the cynosure of all eyes, especially Private Jones, who drove the tank. The government men, or that part of them who did not find sweethearts in the crowd, were entertained by the local committee to supper at Hinesley's.

The Ladies of the Red Cross served supper to the service men in the Myer's building, and many accepted of their hospitality.

Criminal Court.

The trial of Forest Nave, charged with grand larceny, continued to the August term.

The trial of Louis Minor and Della Grindstaff, charged with lewd and lascivious conduct, continued to the August term.

The court adjourned to the August term.

Ford Car Stolen.

A Ford touring car belonging to Paul Thost, who lives 2 1/2 miles east of Lexington, was stolen Saturday night from near the baseball park where the carnival was holding forth.

Reward Is Growing.

The reward which will be given for the arrest of the murderers of Sheriff Talbott and his deputy, John McDonald, is growing in leaps and bounds. The county court offers \$500, each of the four banks in Lexington, \$100, the city of Lexington \$100, and citizens all over the county are subscribing liberally. It is believed that the amount will exceed \$5,000.

Anyone desiring to help swell the total, may subscribe at any bank in Lexington.



The Man Who Wants

—we all want:
—Some one thing, some another.
—we want your trade, you want some good Lumber so why can't we get together—do business—and both be satisfied?
—we are ready, if you are.
—one thing about our Lumber—you can always depend upon its being of absolutely high quality and uniform grade.
—and when it comes to the question of price, you will find our prices just as low as ordinary Lumber costs you elsewhere.
—no need to take chances if you buy at—

"THE YARD THAT SAVES AND SATISFIES"

LAMBERT LUMBER COMPANY
JOHN J. PRICE, Manager.

"Every Banking Service"

V

Lafayette County Trust Co.

LEXINGTON, - MISSOURI

CAPITAL \$75,000

SURPLUS \$15,000

V

FOR THE

PRICE OF PEACE

The Nation's Honor, Your Honor, Has Been Pledged
Buy Victory Loan Bonds and Redeem That Pledge

