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AN ATROCIOUS CRIME UNEARTHED

E. K. Judson, Inmate of Asylum at Jackson, Horribly Murdered==Dr. E. C. McKowen Arrested and Charged With the Crime.

Humdrum existence in the Felicianas was broken into by a startling occurrence that came to public knowledge, last Monday morning, and which has been the chief topic of conversation ever since. At an early hour on that day, a negro laborer at Wakefield, going to his work discovered the figure of a man lying against the embankment in front of Wakefield post-office and about 50 yards away from that building. He called to Mr. Louis G. Stirling, son of Hon. W. L. Stirling, who was preparing to leave for his duties in town, and who went up to the figure and soon discovered it to be the body of a dead man, clad in dark blue checked trousers, with his hat pulled down over his face no shirt, coat or shoes, only his socks on, which were perfectly clean. The body was in a half stooping, half-reclining position, the tongue was protruding from the mouth, and the eyes had the distended appearance caused by strangulation or suffocation. In addition, the upper part of the body had been burned by some highly inflammable substance like alcohol or gasoline, part of the undershirt being destroyed.

The man was five feet, 1 inch in height and of delicate build, weighing only 96 lbs. He had remarkably small hands and feet. It was evident that the crime had not been committed in that locality, as there were no signs whatsoever of any struggle. Near the body were tracks of a jumper, which were of peculiar appearance owing to some break in one of the wheels.

Dr. W. H. Taylor, parish coroner, was immediately notified, and went to Wakefield to hold an inquest. He impaneled a jury, composed of the following gentlemen: W. L. Stirling, R. H. Stirling, W. R. B. Turner, Deputy Sheriff Fred Wilcox and Town Marshal G. S. Davidson of St. Francisville. After a session, the inquisition was adjourned without announcing a verdict. Meanwhile Dr. Taylor instructed Messrs. R. H. Stirling and F. C. Wilcox to follow the tracks and bring in the man who had last driven the vehicle. The tracks came from and returned to the Upper Jackson road, which leaves the Woodville road at this point, going east.

Following the tracks was an easy matter, owing to a spoke being loose in the wheel and its hitting the ground at each revolution. Farther on spokes were dropped by the wayside, and the local detectives went on easily with such guidance towards Jackson. Near Thompson's Creek, the wheel gave out entirely and the vehicle dragged into that town on one wheel.

The track of the vehicle led directly to the blacksmith shop of Ike Lewis, colored, in Jackson. The blacksmith claimed to have found the rig at his door when he opened his shop that morning, but identified it as being the property of Dr. E. C. McKowen. The deputies went at once to Dr. McKowen's residence and placed him under arrest. Dr. McKowen showed a willingness to talk but was advised not to do so by the officers, who showed him every consideration possible in the circumstances. They accorded him an interview with his family and friends and then brought him to St. Francisville, arriving about 7 o'clock. He was first taken to the Royal Hotel where he partook of supper and was then lodged in jail. A new iron bed was procured for him and other articles for his comfort. A delegation of Masons from Feliciana Lodge made him a brief visit, as he is a member of that fraternity.

The corpse was brought to town and placed in the courthouse where it remained until after the coroner's inquest and until late Tuesday evening when it was taken to the public graveyard, three miles out of town, and buried. Two officers, accompanied by several gentlemen and the necessary laborers attended the funeral and Rev. R. R. Claiborne of Grace Episcopal Church read the burial services of the church over the poor mutilated body. By this time it was known that the dead man was E. K. Judson, an inmate of the State Insane Asylum at Jackson. Different persons had recognized him and the marks on his clothing had confirmed the fact. Coincidentally, Monday afternoon, a letter to the local officers, was received from Dr. Clarence Pierson, superintendent of the asylum, giving notice of the escape of a patient, the description of whom tallied with that of the dead man.

E. K. Judson was sent to the Asylum from Orleans parish, Nov. 13, 1906 and was a man of considerable brilliancy being a fluent speaker, and was always chosen by the inmates to make addresses on occasions when important delegations of visitors came to the institution. He was a native of New Orleans and was aged 43 years. At one time he was a government contractor, and later a cement walk contractor. His conduct was however always marked by eccentricities, to which no attention was paid, until, says the Times-Democrat, he conceived the idea "that a certain woman of New Orleans was being defrauded of a large sum of money. Absorbed in that idea, he wrote a series of letters to her which at length became so annoying that she preferred charges which were brought to the attention of the Post Office Department.

"Mr. Judson was arraigned before the late United States Commissioner Craig, on a charge of sending improper letters through the mails. The commissioner promptly dismissed the case and turned the accused over to the then coroner, who adjudged him insane, and he was taken to Jackson, where he remained up to the time of his death."

The Asylum authorities regarded him as harmless and allowed him certain liberties and privileges. Sunday he was given permission to visit Jackson, and when last seen was in company with Dr. McKowen, with whom he had been intimate for some time.

Tuesday morning, at ten o'clock the coroner's inquest was again held and its deliberations were behind closed doors, and adjournment was only made for dinner, the afternoon session lasting from 1:30 to about 3:30, when the verdict of the jury was formally announced, as follows:

"State of Louisiana, parish of West Feliciana, Oct. 18, 1909.

"An inquisition taken upon the body of E. K. Judson, there dead.

"The jurors of this inquest, having been sworn to inquire on behalf of the State of Louisiana how and by what means said deceased came to his death, do say that E. K. Judson came to his death from strangulation or suffocation. We have arrived at this finding by the condition we found his body in. We find that his tongue was protruding and clenched between his teeth. Face, head and neck in ecchymosed condition, or extravasated blood, showing that pressure had been made on his neck, while the circulation of blood was going on, and by the sudden stopping of the heart-action it remained there. This condition we found nowhere else on the body at the time. We also found that some inflammable substance had been poured over the front of his clothing, burning it off, and his body, from the chin to the waistband, to a charred condition. We have gotten evidence from sworn witnesses, who say that he was last seen with Dr. E. C. McKowen on Sunday evening, in Jackson, La., and Monday, the 18th, his murdered body was found at Wakefield, in West Feliciana parish, about twelve miles from Jackson, his home. We also find that McKowen admitted to witnesses that he was at Wakefield on Sunday night. We also find that a certain Frazier roadcart was tracked from where the body was found, back to the town of Jackson, La. We also found that the cart was left at Ike Lewis' repairing shop, between Sunday night and Monday morning. We also find that the cart was the property of Dr. McKowen. We also found that the body had been brought there in a vehicle and deposited on the ground where it was found. And, judging from the evidence, we think that E. K. Judson came to his death at the hands of Dr. McKowen on the night of the 17th or the morning of the 18th of October, 1909.

"In testimony whereof, the coroner and jurors of this inquest have subscribed their names, the day and year above stated. And, from evidence, we find that E. K. Judson was killed either in East or West Feliciana parish.

"W. H. TAYLOR, Coroner.
"R. H. STIRLING.
"F. C. WILCOX.
"G. S. DAVIDSON.
"W. R. B. TURNER.
"W. L. STIRLING."

The witnesses examined at this inquisition were Dr. Clarence Pierson, superintendent of the State Insane Asylum at Jackson; Dr. J. F. Griffin, an assistant physician and H. E. McQueen, an employee at the asylum, who positively identified the dead man as E. K. Judson. Other witnesses from Jackson were S. E. Slocum and D. M. Pipes and two colored men, Ike Lewis, a blacksmith at Jackson, and Dr. McKowen's hostler, John Dalton.

D. M. Pipes testified that the accused admitted to him in the course of a conversation shortly after his arrest, that he had been in the neighborhood of Wakefield Sunday night.

Tom Dalton, Dr. McKowen's hostler, stated that Monday he missed the "jumper," from the stables, whence it had not been removed for several months. Dalton says that he went to bed at 10 o'clock Sunday night, and that Dr. McKowen was not in at that time.

Ike Lewis, blacksmith, told of finding the cart with the broken wheel before the door of his shop Monday morning. He was positive the cart was not there Sunday night at 11 o'clock, and he is certain it is Dr. McKowen's cart.

R. H. Stirling and F. C. Wilcox, the deputy sheriffs who worked up the case, described the tracing of the cart tracks from the spot where the body was found to the blacksmith shop.

Judge Geo. Woodside, presiding judge of this district, arrived from Clinton, Tuesday morning. He recused himself in this case, being a connection by marriage of the accused. Mrs. Woodside is the daughter of T. C. McKowen of Lindsey, who is first cousin to Dr. McKowen. Judge Woodside appointed Hon. H. F. Brunot, judge of the 17th Judicial District, Judge ad hoc. Judge S. McC. Lawrason has been retained as counsel for Dr. McKowen.

Hon. Jos. L. Golsan is the District Attorney, and will prosecute the case.

Dr. McKowen's relatives, T. C. McKowen of Lindsay and D. M.

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RAISING RICE IN THE FELICIANAS.

Mr. E. E. McGehee's Experience With Upland Rice—Can Be Grown Profitably Here.

In our last issue, considerable space was devoted to the account of the successful raising of rice on Thompson's Creek, on the West Feliciana side, making a story which must have been both interesting and encouraging to many readers.

From quite a different quarter of the parish, viz, near the Mississippi line, Pinckneyville post-office on his plantation, Shirley, Mr. Edward E. McGehee has raised a crop, of which the correspondence which follows is illuminative.

The first letter is one to Mr. McGehee from the president of the National Rice Milling Co and reads thus:

NEW ORLEANS, LA.,
Sept. 27, 1909.

Mr. E. E. MCGEHEE,
Pinckneyville, Miss.

Dear Sir—We are in receipt of your letter of Sept. 24, and we are also in receipt of your sample, and I must say that it is the best sample of upland rice I have ever seen, they raise upland rice in the Carolinas, but it is not near so good as this sample you have sent us.

Rice like sample that you sent us is worth on to-day's market $4.00 per barrel (162 pounds of rough rice to a barrel), or $1.11 a bushel (45 pounds to the bushel) delivered in this city. It is exceedingly fine seed rice, but the above price is for milling purposes.

Respectfully,
HENRY KAHN,
President.

Mr. J. R. Matthews, cashier of the Bank of West Feliciana, also sent samples of this rice to Bloom's Son Co. and Mr. S. Locke Breaux, rice factor, both of New Orleans, and from them Mr. Matthews has received encouraging letters herewith reproduced. Bloom's Son Co. says:

NEW ORLEANS, LA.,
Oct. 14, 1909.

MR. J. R. MATTHEWS,
Cashier Bk. West Feliciana,
St. Francisville, La.

Dear Sir—Your letter of the 12th, also sample, which represents a very fair sample of rice, and which can be sold on the market at $3.25 to $3.40. Of course this sample sent us is very small, and possibly does not do the rice justice. We would advise you, if you have any quantity of this rice, to send large samples, and would advise that any of your friends desire to consign us their few bags of rice, that we would be very pleased to take care of them, and give them the top market price.

We would like to see some of this rice shipped to this market for trial, as we can determine the quality, etc., of the rice grown in your parish. We think without a doubt that your country is adapted to rice just as much as the Vidalia country, whose people met with great success this

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RAIL-BOAT ROUTE TO CONVENTION.

Louisiana Railway and Navigation Co. Will Have Boat and Barge, with Pullman Sleepers, in River Parade.

The Lakes-to-the-Gulf Deep Waterway Convention will be held in New Orleans, October 30, and November 1 and 2, 1909. President Taft, congressional party, Governors from thirty-two States, as well as three thousand delegates will be present.

The Louisiana Railway and Navigation Company will, on October 29, operate a special train, consisting of Pullman cars only, which will leave Shreveport at 1 a. m., Friday, October 29, Montgomery 5:05, Aloha 5:30, Colfax at 5:50 a. m., Alexandria, at 9 a. m., Friday October 29, and arrive at New Orleans at 8 a. m. Saturday, October 30.

The special train will run all rail from Shreveport to Naples, thence via river from Naples to New Orleans. Pullman cars will be transferred to new steel barge "Naples" at Naples, in tow by magnificent steel transfer steamer, "Sarah Edenborn," recently built for passenger service. The pullman cars will remain on barge until arrival at New Orleans. Passengers will occupy cars while on river.

The trip from Naples will be through the mouth of Red River, through source of Atchafalaya river, through Old River into the Mississippi river. Will arrive at mouth of Old River about 2 p. m. Friday. In the Mississippi river at the mouth of Old River, will join and become part of the Presidential river parade.

The Presidential party will arrive at Baton Rouge at 8 p. m., Friday, October 29, and will leave at 10 p. m. If the movement of fleet will permit, it is the purpose to land and discharge passengers at Baton Rouge to hear President Taft's address.

The fleet will arrive at New Orleans at 8. a. m. Saturday, October 30. Seven warships will be at New Orleans. Five thousand soldiers and sailors will parade the streets of New Orleans, Saturday, October 30.

The pageant will be the most remarkable ever seen on any river in the South. Other cities such as Cincinnatti, Louisville, Cairo, Natchez, Vicksburg, Helena and Arkansas City, have given notice that they will put boats in the parade.

A Popular Fallacy.

New Orleans States:

There is a popular fallacy about a drowning man sinking for the third time. The number of times a man sinks has nothing to do with his drowning. He may sink but once, and he may go beneath the water any number of times. It all depends upon the person who is drowning, his physical condition and how quickly his lungs fill with water. That cycle of three is carried along by those who insist that a person dies in his third congestive chill. But that is not true. The same rule holds good in congestive chills as in the case of the drowning man. A person may die in the first, or he may have half a dozen and still live. The rule or three does not obtain there either.