

# The Laurens Advertiser.

VOLUME XXIV.

LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1909.

NUMBER 28

## YEGG-MURDERER WAS "SHENY MIKE"

### Slain Burglar Identified by Former Safe-Blower.

#### RECOGNIZED PHOTO.

Post Office Inspector Gregory, who interested himself in Matter, Writes About Identification.

Sheney Mike, or "Kentucky Sheney," is the alias of the dead yegman who was killed here Thursday morning of last week, as it appears from a summing up of the evidence gathered by Postoffice Inspector Gregory. While he is known to the police circles by this name, and possibly to many of the public, his real name is yet a mystery.

Inspector Gregory writes: "I hand you herewith for your information and retention for me, two letters, one showing that your man is not the Parker who formerly clerked in a store at Knoxville, Tenn., and the other that he is 'Sheney Mike,' otherwise 'Kentucky Sheney.' Both of these letters, as you will see, are thoroughly reliable, no guess work. C. E. Riggs of Morristown, Tenn., evidently knows what he is talking about and McCarty who is a reported safe-blower, is positive as to the identity of the man."

"You will notice that since 1898, when he was in jail at Norfolk, Va., with Jno. F. McCarty, alias 'West Phila. Johnny,' Charles Howard, alias 'Texas Dutch,' and James Johnson, alias 'Portland Ned,' that 'Sheney Mike' has blossomed out from a professional beggar to a safe-blower, but that is the way most of them develop."

It is seen from this that Mr. Gregory is quite confident that the dead man is "Sheney Mike."

The letter from Jno. F. McCarty, the reformed safe-blower, is quite interesting. It is, in part: "You can not imagine my surprise when I looked at the photograph and recognized the party instantly as 'Sheney Mike.' Why, he was around Virginia when I was and was in the Norfolk jail when we were there in 1898. I never knew him to be crooked; he was always a great fellow for having a boy beg for him. His home is in Kentucky. I think Louisville. He used to be called 'Kentucky Sheney.' Fred and he were great pals and I shouldn't be a bit surprised if Fred was with him at Laurens. Fred is about 5 feet 11 inches, weighs 175, reddish complexion and red mustaches, head slightly bald." This letter is from McCarty in Boston, Mass.

Packer Not His Name.

The letter from C. E. Riggs referred to states that E. E. Parker, who once clerked for Daniel Briscoe & Co., in Knoxville, Tenn., is at present living in Alma, Neb., and that he is only about 26 years old, and about 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing about 200 pounds. And then a letter from the postoffice officials at Knoxville states that the man who worked there was E. E. Parker, and not L. J., as thought here.

So it seems that the man is from Kentucky and has recently been in some robberies in Florida, and that he was known as "Sheney Mike" and that his pal was known as "Fred." Where Fred is, is the question, although he is supposed to be or to have been in the neighborhood of Columbia.

In connection with the above facts as to the identity of the dead man it may here be stated that two of the leading physicians here disagree with Inspector Gregory in his statement that the yegman is of Jewish descent.

The Body Buried.

Monday afternoon, the body of the slain yegman was buried in the Pottery field of the city cemetery, in the presence of the Mayor and city authorities. Despite the fact that there are a number of ministers in the city, no burial services were had.

"Fred" in Columbia?

Following is an item from Tuesday's State:

"Fred," the man referred to in the Laurens dispatch as the probable pal of 'Kentucky Sheney' on the night of the Laurens tragedy, is believed to have been in Columbia yesterday afternoon. A gentleman who resides on Elmwood avenue came to The State office last night and reported the appearance at his home about 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon of a suspicious looking character, who came to the back door and asked for something to eat. The man was given some food and then left, going in the direction of Elmwood cemetery.

## COMMERCIAL MEN HEAR FINE SPEECH.

Mr. Jno. Wood of Greenville Addresses Members of Chamber of Commerce—Banquet is Served.

On Tuesday night of last week was held the regular monthly meeting of the Laurens Chamber of Commerce, in the offices of the Chamber in the Enterprise bank building. The attractions of the meeting were: an address by Mr. John Wood, secretary of the Greenville Board of Trade and a banquet, served by the Pastor's Aid Society of the First Presbyterian church. The attendance was unusually large.

It was upon special invitation that Mr. Wood was present and spoke on the functions and duties of a commercial organization. A good talker is Mr. Wood, and well did he entertain and instruct his hearers, not merely with generalities but with specific ideas on the proper manner of conducting a chamber of commerce. The idea set forth was that wondrous could be wrought by united efforts while practically nothing in the way of public improvement could be accomplished by individual effort. Mr. Wood said that almost every class and profession of men had each their organizations, and why not the business men? He stressed the necessity of having a secretary who could devote part, at least of his time to looking after public affairs; those things that are nobody's business, and of meeting strangers and treating them courteously, answering correspondence and such like matters.

Mr. Wood related many facts that revealed the success of the Greenville Board of Trade.

An invitation was extended, and accepted, to the secretary of the Laurens Chamber of Commerce to send its secretary, Mr. W. R. McCuen, to Greenville this month to attend the meeting of the chamber of commerce secretaries of North and South Carolina. Mr. McCuen was instructed to join the association.

The banquet was by no means the least pleasurable feature of the meeting.

Lauren's Meeting Sunday 21st.

A Layman's meeting will be held at Highland Home church on Sunday in this month, Feb. 21st, at which Messrs. C. H. Rope and W. P. Culbertson will speak. The public are cordially invited.

## NEWS ITEMS FROM EKOM.

New Steel Bridge Is About Completed Other Matters.

Ekum, Feb. 9th.—There was quite a crowd in attendance upon church at Ekum Sunday and listened to a very able sermon delivered by the pastor, W. D. Hammett. He also preached an excellent sermon at Ekum schoolhouse Sunday night.

Master Albert Martin, who had his leg broken some time ago is getting on nicely.

We now have the chain gang in our community; they are doing some much needed work on the roads.

Messrs. Moore & Switzer who are superintending the work of building the new steel bridge at McDaniel's mill will have it completed and ready for the public by Thursday next.

We are sorry to hear of the continued illness of our good friend, Mr. Wash Miller, of Center Point.

Mrs. Lizzie Cooper of Mt. Gallegher is visiting friends in this community. Farmers are getting in some good work this pretty weather.

A Valentine Supper.

Friendship, Feb. 10.—The School Improvement Association will give a Valentine supper on Friday, Feb. 12, at the home of Mr. W. A. Trynaam.

A most delicious supper has been planned, which can be had for a very reasonable price. The Association has greatly improved the school, but further and immediate improvements are needed, therefore it is hoped that many will be present. The Association most cordially invite everyone who can be present.

A Test Explosion.

Postoffice Inspector H.T. Gregory, together with Mayor Babitt and several members of the police force went out to the edge of the city Friday morning to make a test explosion with the utensils found in the possession of the dead yegman. A drill was made in a large rock and the nitroglycerine injected with the syringe owned by the man; in fact nothing was used except those things found on the person of the dead man. That he had a full and complete safe-cracker's outfit is unquestionable; and the efficacy of his materials is demonstrated beyond a doubt by the success of the experiment. Mr. Gregory had several hopes to spare waiting on messengers from Atlanta and he took much pleasure in showing the officers here the workings of the outfit and the way of safe-blowers.

## IMPROVEMENTS ARE PLANNED.

Railroads are Being Petitioned for Better Accommodations.

President W. G. Childs of the Columbia, Newberry & Laurens railroad was in the city Wednesday afternoon in consultation with a committee from the Laurens chamber of commerce relative to the improving of the large tract of land owned by the railroad, lying just west of the present freight and passenger depots, and building thereon warehouses and platforms for the accommodation of the wholesale merchants and cotton dealers of the city. Mr. Childs had been invited to a banquet of the chamber of commerce on Tuesday night, but declined for the reason, as stated by himself, "When I do something for Laurens, then I will come up and break bread with the boys."

The plan, as laid out by Mr. Childs Wednesday afternoon, was to build another long spur sidetrack to the west of the freight depot, grade down the steep and unsightly hills that now exist and grant to the merchants the privilege of building several large warehouses, or, if they preferred, of erecting an adequate consolidated storage room. The plan was laid before the business men who have considered the matter and will make formal petition to Mr. Childs for the work. It is safe to say that considerable work will be done and that not only will the looks of the place be greatly improved, but a valuable increase to the shipping facilities of Laurens will be made.

The matter of a new and larger passenger station was broached, it being patent that Laurens sorely needs better accommodations in this line. Mr. Childs, however, referred the people to Mr. Anderson of the Charleston & Western Carolina on this proposition a committee has been appointed to take the matter up with the authorities of both railroads and to secure for Laurens better facilities both passenger and freight. The Committee has already begun work, and doubtless there will soon be visible results.

A Marriage at Ekum.

Clinton, Feb. 9.—Miss Addie Milam, daughter of Mr. T. F. Milam, and Mr. Jeff Boland were married at the residence of the bride Sunday afternoon, the Rev. C. L. Fowler performing the ceremony.

The bride is a very charming young lady and Mr. Boland is the popular freight agent of the Columbia, Newberry and Laurens railroad.

Both number their friends by the score, all of whom wish them a happy and prosperous life together. They will live in their own home, a pretty cottage on Pitts street.

## Election Next Tuesday.

The City primary election will be held next Tuesday, nominating city officers for the general election to be held March 9th. No requirements are named for Tuesday's election, but for the general election new registration certificates must be had from Mr. R. E. Babb.

Thursday of this week is the last day for the filing of pledges and announcement of candidates.

## Young White Man Rearrested.

Dwell Brady, a young white man of this county who is charged with petty larceny; the theft of a watch in this city some time last summer, and held under bond pending his trial, was arrested in Atlanta one day last week, at the instance of his bondsmen, and brought back several days ago by Chief of Police W. S. Barwell. The accused will remain in jail until the spring term of the Criminal Court which meets on the second Monday in March.

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## THE ORPHANAGE IS FAVORED.

Alumni Cottage to be Erected on the Enoree. Hotel Re-opened.

Clinton, Feb. 10.—Dr. Jacobs is very much gratified by a letter from Atlanta telling him that the alumni of the Thornwell Orphanage resident in Atlanta have organized an Alumni club and want his permission to erect on the Orphanage property on the Enoree a small cottage to cost in the neighborhood of six hundred dollars. This cottage is to be called Alumni cottage and is to be used by visiting alumni in the summer and also, of course, by the inmates of the Thornwell Orphanage. The promoters of the plan do not expect to furnish all the needed money themselves but to secure subscriptions from as many as possible of the alumni. They have already pledged three hundred and forty-one dollars. It will be built by the old boys, so that no money need be expended for labor.

The Orphanage has recently received the legacy of fifteen hundred dollars from the estate of the late Dr. Pelham of Asheville.

Capt. Duckett and his family lost a great deal in their recent fire but newly all the furniture downstairs was saved, and they are going to housekeeping immediately in the house of Mr. W. M. McMillan, his new home being about ready for occupancy now. Mr. and Mrs. Duckett were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Worham at the hotel, and Misses Kirby and Eleanor Duckett visited Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Jacobs. The Duckett family feel thankful that their loss was not heavier.

Mr. Worham has closed the hotel again on terms satisfactory to his sense of justice. The boycott was raised and assurance given him of fair treatment.

## Esther to be Sung in Clinton.

Clinton, Feb. 9.—The Ladies' Aid Society of the Presbyterian church is getting the band of cantatas Esther, ready for presentation some time in February. There are a number of excellent voices in Clinton and an entertainment will be one of the big events of the winter. This will be the third time Esther has been presented by the white people. It is singular the negroes are also preparing to present it for their second time. This entertainment is the first of a series which the Ladies' Aid society will give to raise funds for the new pipe organ.

## The Long Branch Schools.

The Advertiser's informant relative to the new teacher suggested to finish the present term at the Long Branch school was announced to Miss Lida Sloan, daughter of Mr. J. P. Sloan of this county. Her husband the position instead of Mrs. Frank as was started. Miss Sloan took charge of the school last week. Meeting Miss Lane, former principal of the Long Branch school, Miss Sloan moved her school to the old school building located on a new ground east of the new school house, and continued her daily sessions with all of her former pupils in attendance.

The capacity of Gray's Hotel is to be increased this week by the fitting up of the upstairs rooms over the bath for use as bed rooms. There are 34 rooms in this money, and by next week they will be ready for the accommodation of guests.

## A Valentine Tea.

Band No. 2 of the First Presbyterian church will give a Valentine Tea in rooms over the Enterprise bank Friday evening, Feb. 12. The public is cordially invited. A supper of turkey, salad, coffee and cakes will be served beginning at 7 o'clock. A Valentine postoffice will also be conducted.

## Spoken to Children.

Rev. Jno. L. Cecil announced that on next Sunday morning, 12 o'clock he will preach a special sermon to children. All the children of the city are invited, especially those of the Methodist congregation.

## Negro Woman Burned To Death.

As the result of being overpowered by the wife of Candy, Gardingon, colored, died in this city last Wednesday morning.

While standing before the open fire Tuesday morning at her home the woman's clothing became ignited and before the flames could be extinguished she was fatally burned.

## TWO ESCAPE FROM THE COUNTY JAIL.

At Midnight Hour Two Negro Prisoners Break Out Through Roof and Make Good Their Escape.

Friday night about 12 o'clock Green Park and Lewis Byrd negro prisoners, made their escape from the county jail and on yesterday afternoon neither of them had been captured. It is practically the same old story, the same old avenue of escape, the tearing off of a little green head ceiling, thence to that celebrated skylight and wooden ventilator thence to the roof; thus completing the ascension. The mode of deception was the same as employed by divers others on former occasions. The simple device of knotting some blankets and suspending same from the roof to terra firma. Think what Parks and Byrd did, their first feat of the kind perhaps, but no new adventure in Laurens.

Some of the caged prisoners witnessed the escape and on Monday after the "coons" had departed two jailers were accused by those who knew of the escape. Deputy Anderson at once notified Sheriff Owens and an hour later the officers left for York township, as it was believed the escapees would make for their home. By my break the noise of Parks, Byrd's attempt was relieved. Sheriff Owens approached the village and while waiting outside Parks and Byrd's cotton jacket, by the way, the jailer observed the escapees and by this time in moving on, though the sheriff called on him to him and drew several shots in the direction of the fleeing negro.

The day was spent by the sheriff in an effort to capture the escapees, the search being extended into the neighboring counties, but without avail.

Sheriff Owens offers a reward of \$25 for the capture of Parks, who is a colored man with a white beard and a white hat, and of another negro, Byrd, who is a colored man with a white beard and a white hat. The sheriff will be pleased to place the reward on the person of the escapees who are being sought.

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## RELIGIOUS MATTERS AT EKOM.

Unknown Tragedy People Gathering in Stronghold in Nearby Town.

Clinton, Feb. 10.—The people gathered in a public square at Ekum on Sunday for an evangelistic meeting. The meeting was held in the presence of the pastor and a number of other ministers. The people were very much interested in the services.

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## HOSPITAL SCHEME BEING PROMOTED

Plan is to Form Joint Stock Company.

### CAPITAL OF \$20,000.

The Belton Property Located on East Main Street, is Proposed as Site for the Institution.

Plans are now taking definite shape for a city hospital in Laurens. On Monday, Mr. J. Wade Anderson of the firm of Anderson & Blakely, began a canvass for stock subscribers in the hospital association, which he proposes to make a stock company, owned, controlled and operated by the city, subject to the approval of the corporation.

An effort has been made to The Advertiser, Mr. Anderson said that twenty-five shares would meet the institutional need ready for operation; the Belton property on East Main street was for sale at \$15,000, and had \$10,000 remaining. \$5,000 more, however, and improvements would be made to render the place a fit site for a hospital. "I have a valuable plot of property and would like to see the place for a hospital, since the 1908 rooms in the house, some of them of the very best material, and most will be necessary in what is required for a hospital."

Mr. Anderson said: "The hospital company, and the cotton plant, are going to be conducted for a stock company. Their employees will be employed in the hospital and in the cotton plant. Some of the way clear is made. It need not be strictly a stock company. If it will pay, it will be a stock company. The Belton property on East Main street was for sale at \$15,000, and had \$10,000 remaining. \$5,000 more, however, and improvements would be made to render the place a fit site for a hospital. "I have a valuable plot of property and would like to see the place for a hospital, since the 1908 rooms in the house, some of them of the very best material, and most will be necessary in what is required for a hospital."

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