

HOWARD CUMMINGS, QUANTICO TAXICAB MAN, IS SHOT AND KILLED BY A. F. CHESSHER

Shooting Occurs Just After Men Had Left Public Dance Hall at The Triangle and Within Sixty Feet of Officers.

Albert I. Chessher, charged with the murder of Howard Cummings at The Triangle about 11 o'clock Saturday night, was brought from the guard house at Quantico yesterday afternoon by Special County Officer John Adams and lodged in the county jail here to await trial. It is expected that the case will go over until the February term of the Circuit court, which is now in session. Chessher, it is said, will plead self defense.

Robert A. Hutchison has been retained as counsel for Chessher. The attorney is said to have been retained through friends of Chessher in the Marine Corps, of which he was a member.

Within a few minutes after departing from a dance hall, owned by John Liming, together and while standing in the road at the junction of the Joplin road and the Richmond-Washington highway at The Triangle, Howard Cummings, 25 years old, proprietor of a taxicab company at Quantico, was shot and instantly killed by Albert I. Chessher, 27 years old, a member of the Marine Corps, Quantico, about 11 o'clock Saturday night.

Special County Officer John Adams and Magistrate W. E. Lloyd, of Quantico, were standing about sixty feet away from Chessher and Cummings when the shot was fired that resulted in the death of Cummings and immediately placed Chessher, who is said to have been standing with gun in hand over the prostrate form of Cummings, under arrest. Chessher was taken to the Marine Post at Quantico and turned over to the officer of the day at the guardhouse for safekeeping. Cummings is said to have lived only about two minutes. His body was removed to the base hospital, Quantico, and later turned over to his family for burial.

The bullet from a forty-five calibre pistol struck Cummings in the left chest passing through his lungs and out of the right side.

According to reports current in Quantico, Chessher and Cummings had a personal difficulty during the morning of the day on which the shooting occurred. This difficulty is said to have taken place in Quantico.

In describing the incidents leading up to the shooting, Officer Adams and Magistrate Lloyd said that they received a telephone call from The Triangle about 10 o'clock asking that they come there and quiet a disturbance that is alleged to have been taking place at the public dance hall operated by John Liming. There were no signs of a disturbance when the officers arrived, and they said that while standing near the door to the dance hall talking to some men that Chessher, Cummings and another man named Jim Dent came out of the dance hall and started walking up the Richmond-Washington highway. The officers said they suspected that the three men probably had a quantity of liquor secreted along the road and followed them. Chessher, Cummings and their companion were talking in an ordinary tone of voice, according to the officers, when they came out of the dance hall, and as they passed on down the road. After the three men had reached the junction of the Joplin road, about one hundred yards away from the dance hall, and while the officers were standing about sixty feet away, a shot was fired. The officers ran forward to determine the cause of the shooting and found Cummings lying on the ground and Chessher standing a few feet away brandishing a service automatic. Officer Adams said he asked Chessher why he (Chessher) shot the man, and in the meantime circled around Chessher as he approached. Chessher kept Officer Adams covered by turning around as the officer circled, but Magistrate Lloyd, watching an opportunity, and while Chessher was facing Adams, grabbed Chessher from behind, pinning the latter's arms to his side. The

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COMMITTEE TO FIX DAMAGES

Property Owners and Highway Commission Fail to Agree on Rights of Way.

Owing to inability of property owners and representatives of the State Highway Commission to reach an agreement on the value of rights-of-way for the Richmond-Washington highway, Judge Samuel G. Brent, in Prince William county circuit court Tuesday appointed a committee of five citizens of the Eastern end of the county to award damages. The appointment of the committee was made in condemnation proceedings instituted November 13, by the State Highway Commission.

The committee is composed of W. E. Lloyd, William Crow, C. C. Cloe, R. E. Mountjoy and Turner Ashby. Any three of the five men are empowered to view the land and act in behalf of the court in fixing fair damages to the property owners.

The property owners who are made defendants in the action are as follows:

R. W. Wheat, Joseph H. Wheat, Rebecca N. Sager, Rachel May, R. H. Wheat, Rose Wheat Bell, Rhea N. Covington, Ruth D. Emery, H. M. Wheat, Robert C. Walker, Ann L. Walker and Margaret S. Walker.

U. D. C. PLAN GIFTS

Owing to the very inclement weather, the regular meeting of the Manassas Chapter, U. D. C. which met with Mrs. J. B. T. Thornton on Wednesday, December 2, was not largely attended, but the usual routine of business was carried out. Mrs. R. L. Byrd presided. The chairman of the relief committee was instructed to comply with the request for clothing from a nearby veteran. Special attention was called to the usual Christmas boxes for the two worthy beneficiaries of our chapter. Members not present, as well as those attending have been requested to send all contributions to Mrs. Albert Speiden not later than December 19. January is the month for payment of dues.

During the social hour the hostess served a delicious salad course with pleasing accompaniments. By invitation the January meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. A. W. Sinclair on Battle Street.

WINNER AT SHOW

At the International Live Stock Exposition, now being held in Chicago, Vint Hill Challenger, owned by the Buckland Hall Farm, Nokesville, won first, in class 2, in the exhibit of short horn bulls.

COUNTY WINS STATE BANNER

Community Leagues of Prince William Rank First in the Entire State.

Prince William county has been awarded the state banner for Community League work for the second year in succession, and according to the rules of the Co-operative Educational Association governing the contest, it will now become the permanent property of the Community League organizations of this county. The award was based on reports of work accomplished in school improvement by the Community Leagues of the county, in competition with other counties of the state.

In addition to winning the state banner, several Community Leagues in the county were classified as banner leagues, among them being the Leagues at Woodbridge, Bethel, Dumfries, Haymarket, Nokesville and Quantico.

Many Junior Leagues also qualified as banner Leagues, among them being Catharpin, Greenwich, Hayfield, Haymarket, Occoquan, Woodbridge, Quantico, Thoroughfare, Wellington, Aden and Nokesville.

FIRE AT CATLETT

Fire Wednesday night of last week at Catlett Station, destroyed a large frame building, owned by W. C. Orndorff, located near the Grist Mill, and used lately for storage. The telephone and telegraph wires were burned, and communication interrupted for several hours.

GETS 8 YEARS FOR ROBBERY

Charles Brown, Negro, Sentenced for Robbery of Hynson Department Store.

Charles Brown, negro, charged with breaking into the Hynson Department store here on October 18, and stealing clothing and other wearing apparel valued at approximately \$100, was given eight years in the penitentiary on a plea of guilty before Judge Samuel G. Brent in Prince William county circuit court Monday. Brown broke into the Hynson department store through a door which had been smashed in a few days before by three other men, convicted at the October term of court and given eight years in the penitentiary.

Other cases disposed of Monday were as follows:

Mrs. Mamie J. Davis, charged with storing and selling liquor, plead guilty to possession of liquor and was fined \$50 and given thirty days in jail, the jail sentence being suspended during the good behavior of the defendant.

W. M. Brown, charged with possession of liquor, was given a fine of \$50 and thirty days in jail. The jail sentence was suspended.

George O. Keeney, charged with violation of the state prohibition law, was held under bond of \$1,000 and his case continued until the February term.

The case of Roberts Randall was continued until the February term and the defendant placed under bond of \$500.

The case of Wilson Anderson, on appeal, was continued until the February term and the defendant held under bond of \$50 for his appearance.

M. F. Davis, charged with storing and selling liquor, had his case continued until the February term, and he was placed under bond of \$1,000 for his appearance at that time.

Warner Butler, charged with a felony violation of the state prohibition law, had his case continued until the February term and furnished bond of \$1,000 for his appearance.

The case of Tom Boswell, charged with violating the state prohibition law, was continued until the February term and the defendant placed under bond of \$500.

Noah Grayson, indicted for a felony violation of the state prohibition law, failed to appear in court and a capias for his arrest was issued by Judge Brent.

Lin Byrnes, Earl Williams and Catherine Byrnes failed to appear to answer an indictment for housebreaking and theft, and a capias for their arrest was issued by Judge Brent.

Martha Hinton was fined \$500 for violation of the state prohibition law.

COLE AWARDED CAR BY JURY

Richmond Man Recovers Automobile Taken in 1924 by His Wife, Now Divorced.

James R. Cole, wealthy Richmond business man, was awarded an automobile or its equivalent value, by a jury in Prince William county circuit court Wednesday, in a suit instituted by Cole to recover the machine, which he alleged was taken by his divorced wife, Mrs. A. E. Cole, when she deserted him in Richmond on September 3, 1924. Suit was instituted in this county because Mrs. Cole, after leaving Richmond in the car, left it here with an acquaintance for safekeeping. The machine was valued at \$3,600, and cost \$5,200 when new, according to testimony of witnesses. Mr. Cole obtained a divorce after the departure of his wife.

According to the testimony of Mr. Cole, his wife left their home in Richmond on September 3, 1924, taking the machine with her. He said that the machine was purchased for her use, but was not her property. He introduced documentary evidence showing that the car was registered with the Motor Vehicle Department in his name.

Mrs. Cole testified that the car was given to her by Mr. Cole prior to her departure from home. She said that Mr. Cole's income was \$80,000 a year. Cole was represented by attorneys Murray M. McGuire, of Richmond, and T. E. Didske, of Manassas. Mrs. Cole was represented by attorney Robert A. Hutchison.

OFFICERS FOR ENSUING YEAR ELECTED AND ROAD BUILDING DISCUSSED AT KIWANIS MEET

Committee Appointed to Interview Chairman Shirley of State Highway Commission on Allocation of Road Funds.

PLAN CORN AND POULTRY SHOW

Arrangements For Annual Exhibit at Local High School Being Completed.

With many exhibits already entered, preparations are underway for holding the Prince William County Corn and Poultry Show at the Manassas high school gymnasium on Saturday, December 19. Experts have been secured as judges in the poultry and corn departments, and the show will be featured by a culling demonstration by A. L. Dean, of Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

J. J. Conner is president of the Corn and Poultry Show; Miss Lillian V. Gilbert, secretary and treasurer; T. T. Curtis, superintendent of corn exhibits and B. I. Rinker, superintendent of poultry exhibits.

Lunch will be served at the school under the supervision of a committee headed by Mrs. E. E. Blough and Mrs. W. M. Pearson.

Premium lists are being distributed this week by T. T. Curtis, county agricultural agent, Miss Lillian V. Gilbert, county home demonstrator and J. Powers Pullen, instructor in agriculture at the local high school.

A good deal of interest in the show has been developed among corn growers and poultry raisers, and it is claimed that the annual show is contributing towards the improvement of the poultry flocks in the county, and the output of corn per acre.

TO HOLD MEET AT HAYMARKET

Second Conference of High School Teachers to be Held There Saturday.

The second conference of high school teachers in the county will be held at the Haymarket high school Saturday. Four demonstration classes will be taught in first year high school work. Teachers not conducting the classes will take notes on the work and the classes will be followed by a conference and criticism of the work. Superintendent of Schools R. C. Hayden is making an effort to secure modified plans for the four-room colored school to be built in Manassas in time for consideration at the regular monthly meeting of the School Board which will be held next Monday.

Students' reports for the past six weeks will be mailed out by teachers at all schools in the county on December 17. The report will be the second that has been issued this term.

A final contract has been closed with the Appomattox Construction Company for the building of the new high school in Manassas. The company will be penalized \$15 per day for each day after August 31, 1926, that the building remains incomplete.

MRS. C. H. PAYNE DIES

Mrs. C. H. Payne died at her home near Occoquan on Wednesday, December 2, following an illness of several years. Although having been confined to her bed for three months, she was conscious until a few hours before death.

Before her marriage Mrs. Payne was Miss Annie Lipscomb, of Manassas. Besides her husband, she is survived by the following children: Selia V. Payne, of Washington; H. Hunter Payne, of Alexandria; Mrs. J. A. Hedges and Estelle C. Payne, both of Occoquan.

Funeral services were held at the home at 1 o'clock on Friday. Interment was in the family burying ground near there.

B. Lynn Robertson and James R. Larkin, representing the Manassas Kiwanis Club, urged the construction of the Manassas to Warrenton road, and requested that a road through Prince William county connecting the Richmond-Washington highway with the Lee and Jackson highways be taken over by the state, in an interview with Wade Massey, member of the State Highway Commission, at Little Washington, Tuesday. The interview was preliminary to preparations being made by the club to have a strong delegation from Prince William county present at a meeting of the State Highway Commission in Charlottesville, on Wednesday, December 16.

Officers were elected for the ensuing year, a committee was appointed to interview Chairman Shirley of the State Highway Commission, and another committee appointed to secure the co-operation of citizens of this and adjoining counties in securing a connecting highway through this county from the Richmond-Washington highway to the Lee and Jackson highways, at the regular weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club on Friday night. G. Raymond Ratcliffe was reelected president of the club and Eli Swavely was elected vice-president, succeeding the Rev. A. Stuart Gibson, who was elected a member of the Board of Directors.

J. L. Moser was elected treasurer, and Thomas H. Lion, trustee. The following seven men were elected as members of the Board of Directors: A. Stuart Gibson, James R. Larkin, C. R. C. Johnson, R. S. Hynson, C. E. Nash, A. A. Hooff and T. E. Didske.

B. Lynn Robertson and James R. Larkin were appointed as a committee to interview Chairman Shirley, of the State Highway Commission, in regards to an allocation of funds for the completion of the link between Manassas and Milford Mills on the Manassas-Warrenton pike, and also to take up with Mr. Shirley the question of taking into the state highway system a road leading from the Richmond-Washington highway to the Lee and Jackson highways.

A resolution was also adopted requesting the road committee, of which R. S. Hynson is chairman, to secure the co-operation of citizens of this and adjoining counties in urging the State Highway Commission to take over as a part of the state highway system a connecting road from the Richmond-Washington highway to the Lee and Jackson highways.

Different members of the club discussed the road building question from many angles, and a good deal of enthusiasm was evidenced in the prospect for better roads in this section.

Miss Louise Maloney rendered several solos with Mrs. William Leachman at the piano, and the club indulged in chorus singing. The attendance was good.

Every member of the club was urged to make preparations to attend a meeting of the State Highway Commission in Charlottesville on Wednesday, December 16, when a hearing will be held on allocation of funds for road construction in this section of the state.

TO GIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Cannon Branch League will give a program at the school house on December 12, at 8 o'clock. The following program will be rendered: Opening song—"Darling Nellie Gray."

Reading—"Seein' Things at Night." Duet—"Whispering Hope." Recitation—"Kentucky Philosopher."

Reading—"Columbia Crum." Short Play—"Family Draw Back." Solo—"Pretty Little Blue Eyed Sally."

Reading—"Most Obliging Little Sister."

Mr. Worth Storke will also entertain with his humorous readings, after which refreshments will be served.