

Ike Will Back Court Orders

WASHINGTON (UP)—President Eisenhower said Tuesday the Justice Department will respond to any call for help from a local federal district judge who feels that his school integration orders are being defied.

Mr. Eisenhower made the statement at his news conference when asked to spell out what "formula" he would apply to determine when federal intervention is necessary in a school integration dispute.

The President said the first step would be for a federal district court to decide that "someone is in contempt of that court."

"At that point I think it is customary for the court to call in the Justice Department to assist in bringing out the evidence and threshing the case out," he said.

"If anyone is in contempt, I assume that it is the job of the U.S. marshal to serve the warrants and to take the men, the offenders, to jail or to pay their fines or whatever happens," he said.

Mr. Eisenhower emphasized that it would be up to the local court to initiate a contempt proceeding because "I know of no way from this distance that those things can be determined."

Deploping "violence" in school disputes in some areas, Mr. Eisenhower volunteered high praise for Louisville, Ky., where integration of public schools was carried out earlier this week with little trouble.

The President said Omer Carmichael, superintendent of schools at Louisville, "must be a very wise man."

He said he had read that "this man Carmichael campaigned for two years in an educational program" to prepare students and their parents for trouble-free integration.

Refreshing beverage: combine a brown flaked banana with a chilled 12-ounce can of apricot whole fruit nectar in the electric blender.

Shop, Save and Bank in Statesville

Iredell County Was Struck By Bizarre Outbreak Of 7 Homicide Cases In 1883

By HOMER KEEVER

The year of 1883 saw an outbreak of homicides in Iredell that had the editor of the Landmark worried.

"If Iredell County has been noted, all these years, for anything more than for the intelligence of her people, it has been for their law abiding character," editor Joseph P. Caldwell wrote early in November of that year. "Are we not in serious danger of losing this character in the eyes of our neighbors?"

"Certainly seven, probably eight, probably nine homicides have been committed in the county in the past twelve months. That is a frightful record."

Caldwell was right on most of the points. One searches the files of the papers and court records of the years before that and finds only occasional records of homicide. After 1883, even with better news reporting, homicides do not bulk nearly so large in the total amount of newspaper copy, not even in the recent years with their manslaughter with automobiles and their unsolved murders.

He was wrong in stretching the time in which the homicides took place to 12 months. The Landmark records the seven certain ones and one of the probable ones in detail, and possibly it tells of the other probable one. But they were packed into seven months instead

ORNERY OSPREY
MONTCLAIR, N.J. (UP) — Patrolman Arnold Bostic concluded Tuesday that even minding his own business is no guarantee a man will stay out of trouble. He was walking his dawn patrol when an osprey, a member of the hawk family, with a five-foot wingspread and inch-long claws, flapped down and clawed his face.

NAMED FOR THEM
The Mason-Dixon line was named for two English surveyors who laid it out in 1766 to settle a border dispute between Maryland and Pennsylvania.

of the 12.

The first homicide occurred about the middle of April. Lum Redman, justice of the peace and respected citizen of the upper end of Rocky Creek in New Hope Township, shot and killed his cousin, John W. Redman, ex-deputy sheriff, in a quarrel over a land boundary.

The Redman clan had been at outs for some time over the division of the estate of Hosea Redman, son of the founder of the clan. By the eve of the Civil War Hosea had built up an empire of thousands of acres in North Iredell. With his death family trouble had started over the division of the land. But until the shooting of John W. Redman, the battles had been confined to the courtroom.

John W. Redman objected strenuously to Lum's building a fence on what he considered his land, objected so strenuously that he began tearing the fence down. Everyone agreed that Lum then advanced on John with a shotgun and that Lum's brother, Zan, advanced with a hoe, and that Lum shot John and then hit him on the head.

Stories disagreed as to whether John was advancing with a knife at the same time and whether he still advanced after he had been shot through the heart. His wife said that John had no knife, and it seemed unbelievable to many that he had kept on coming toward Lum with so much of the charge from the shotgun in his hand.

And yet a knife was found where John had fallen, and Lum insisted that John had kept on at him after the shot had struck him and that he had clubbed his cousin only to save himself from the knife.

Lum and Zan Redman disappeared, but their brother came in to town to hire some of the best lawyers and promised that the two would show up at the proper time. And they were in Statesville for the trial at the August term of the Superior Court.

The jury took a long time to decide the case. Later reports said that three stood for conviction of murder, one for acquittal, and the rest for conviction of manslaughter. The three who insisted on murder were soon willing to compromise for manslaughter, but it was hours before the one for acquittal would give in. The sentence was three years imprisonment.

July saw three more homicide cases, two of the certain ones and one of those that had been designated as probable. On the Fourth of July two young Wilkesboro men stopped at Oak Spring some 14 miles north of Statesville, and one shot the other, possibly accidentally, in some horseplay they were indulging in.

On the eighth a Negro woman in the south end of the county was mixed up in the death of her husband. "No one was present when the fight occurred," said the Landmark, "and so the woman's story about her husband's having fallen upon the handle of the shovel and driven it into his eye and thence into his brain stands uncontradicted."

While there were some who thought it peculiar that he had fallen onto the handle of a fire shovel when it was in her hands, the grand jury which had returned a true bill against Lum Red-

man found not a true bill against Bettie Harris in the death of Sam Harris.

The third July homicide was one in which William Pearce shot his father-in-law somewhere in the neighborhood of Cool Springs. The Landmark called both men vagabonds and insisted that there had been considerable drinking by both leading up to the episode. Pearce claimed that he was protecting his wife.

The regular August term of court took up so much time with the Redman trial that the other two had to be put off and there was talk of a special session to take care of the extra cases. But before it could meet in January of 1884, there had been four more homicides, two of which were to be tried with them.

There was no trial for the other two. They happened when the circus came to town on October 15. The circus came in a day early because its cars could not get through the tunnels on the mountains to fill a date in Asheville, and while it waited to unload near the depot, a large crowd came into town. In the drinking that went on there was a shooting.

The victim was John Redman, son of the John W. Redman who had been shot six months earlier. He was shot by a Taylorsville Negro by the name of Charles Campbell. The Landmark said the quarrel was an old one and was simply renewed. Some of those present were inclined to think that the fight had been forced by Redman; others claimed to have heard the Negro threatening to get Redman.

On one thing most of them agreed, John Redman, like his father, had kept on going with a bullet in his heart, kept on for fully 15 steps. It is small wonder that present day Redmonds, as they spell the name now, noted that in World War I and in World War II many men were known to have kept on going with bullets in their hearts.

As to the aftermath, the Landmark tells the story rather vividly: "At 1 o'clock there had been a tap at the jail door, and Mr. R. D. Joyner, the jailer, got up to see who was there. As he opened the door, he was confronted by a crowd of men, about 30 in number, one of whom stepped forward and asked if he was the jailer. Receiving an affirmative answer the speaker said, 'We want Campbell.'"

"By this time there were two or three inside the door, and the jailer was told if he resisted they would fix him. He endeavored to dissuade the crowd from its purpose, but several men stepped forward and demanded the keys.

"He got the keys and the man snatched them from him and ordered him to show them where the prisoner was. He went up the stairs, the mob following. They opened the cage and ordered Campbell out. He came out and they put a rope around his neck and led him off, leaving as quietly as they came. When leaving they ordered the jailer not to follow them.

"He examined the faces of several of the men by the light of his lantern, but knew none of them. Some of them had handkerchiefs drawn over their faces.

"About 10 o'clock the next morning the dead body of the murderer was discovered after a diligent search, dangling from the limb of a tree in a skirt of woods near the Western North Carolina railroad, just beyond the corporate limits of the town. He had been hanged with a small well rope, with a regulation hangman's knot."

The Negroes of the town met and demanded that action be taken to punish the mob, but nothing came of it. Of all the homicides in Iredell during 1883, the lynching was all that remained a mys-

tery as to who done it. And yet there are those in Iredell today who say that they can tell the names of at least some of the mob.

Less than a month later, the Landmark of November 9 told of two more homicides in North Iredell. Samuel L. Wilson, deputy sheriff, shot and killed William Pope in an argument over the collection of taxes, and Mary Ball Minish split her husband's head with an axe as he was putting on his shoes at 5 o'clock in the morning.

Pope, who was in arrears with his taxes had said he was willing to pay the back taxes but not the 50 cents costs that had been added. Wilson threatened to levy on the mule with which Pope was plowing and a fight ensued, during which Pope was shot. As in the Redman case, Wilson claimed that Pope was advancing on him, according to the story in the Landmark, with a rail in his hand.

Unlike the Redmans, Pope immediately gave himself up and told his story to other officers of the law. Investigation failed to show where Pope had left his plow to get a fence rail, and other investigation brought out the fact that Wilson had been emphatic that Pope would not get by without paying the 50 cents. At the special term of court Wilson, like Lum Redman, was found guilty of manslaughter, but his sentence was longer, 10 years.

The Minish case, which happened about the same time of the Wilson-Pope case, was entirely different from any of the other homicides. Mary Ball Minish slipped up behind her husband, Warren Minish, in the Union Grove section of the county and clove his head with an axe while he was putting on his shoes at five o'clock in the morning. After the first lick, she struck him three more times.

Her justification was that the Lord had told her to kill "Pappy." Neighbors disagreed as to whether she was insane or just plain "mean." At the special term of court a jury was quickly unanimous that she was crazy, and the judge sentenced her to Morganton. An interesting sidelight on the trial was the evidence as to her insanity presented by one of her neighbors, a Baptist preacher by the name of Joshua Dowell.

"On Tuesday," recounts the Landmark under a headline Bang-

and Insanity, "Rev. Joshua Dowell testified in the Superior Court it was his belief that Mary Minish, the murderess, is insane. One of the reasons he said was that she had cut her hair and let it hang down over her eyes. He asked her why she did it and she said it made her look like the angels. Mr. Dowell observed that if the angels looked that way they must be a sight."

Later when Joshua Dowell died, the Landmark commented that he was best remembered for his testimony about Mary Minish and her bangs.

Search as one will the files of the Landmark, one cannot find a case that could be interpreted as the one that caused the editor to say that there had probably been nine homicide cases in Iredell during 1883. But there were two more homicides in which Iredell men were involved. Some Iredell Negroes across in Rowan got into an argument and one was killed. That happened the same week of the Wilson-Pope and Mary Minish episodes.

Its aftermath was another lynching, that too seemingly involving Iredell Negroes just across in Rowan, Lawrence White, who had killed Junius Frazier, was taken from the home of Squire McLean by a mob and left hanging by Miss Kate Frontis' spring. While some thought that there were whites in the mob, most were of the opinion that it was the work of Negroes who were simply copying the whites in their methods of applying justice.



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