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ELEPHANT HANGED FOR KILLING EIGHT MEN

“Murderous Mary,” Valued at \$8,000, Swings to Death In Chains at End of Steam-operated Crane — Bullets Had Failed to Disturb the Huge Beast.

Murderous Mary,” the huge elephant which killed Walter Eldridge, an employee of the Sparks’ circus in Kingsport, Tenn., and, according to the admissions of the show people, had killed seven other men during her career in captivity, has been tried, convicted and put to death by hanging, being the only elephant ever executed in this manner, so far as is known, in this country.

The great beast’s trial and execution took place at Erwin, Tenn. She was sentenced to death by the State authorities. As bullets had failed to disturb her when circus attendants and spectators attempted to save the unfortunate Eldridge, some other means had to be recommended to put the dangerous modern mammoth out of existence. Showmen valued the animal at \$8,000.

Having none of the quick



poisons at hand, the showmen readily acquiesced in the plan to hang the beast. A derrick car of the Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio Railway was used. Heavy chains were looped about the elephant’s neck and the steam-operated crane lifted the massive form into the air.

The animal struggled for quite a while before death finally resulted from strangulation.

The elephant attack on Eldridge was without warning, and occurred before a crowd of spectators. The elephant lifted her victim in her trunk, hurled him to the ground and gored him to death. As previously explained, animal keepers and spectators fired a volley of revolver bullets into the beast, but apparently without effect. “Murderous Mary” is said to have taken part in the night performance as tho nothing unusual had happened, but next day her doom was pronounced.