

Two Plead Guilty Ambush Killing

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YOUTH, 15, COMPANION RECEIVE LIFE

Three Other Persons Facing Murder Trial After Jury Selected

DOBSON (P) — Two of five persons charged with the ambush slaying of a pilot mountain farmer pleaded guilty to first degree murder in Surry County Superior Court here this morning and were automatically sentenced to life imprisonment.

They were Monroe Willard, 15 and Johnny Liss Luster, 23.

Three other persons charged in the murder of John Allen Branch on the night of Feb. 7 will be tried on May 7, after additional jurors have been sworn. They are:

Mrs. Irene Holder Luster, 20, the wife of Johnny Liss Luster; Mrs. Mamie Luster, his stepmother; and Amos Maynard, 40. The women are of Pilot Mountain, Rt. 2, and Maynard is of Westfield, Rt. 1.

TENDER PLEAS

Willard and Luster tendered their guilty pleas through attorneys about 10 a.m. shortly after Judge Walter E. Johnston Jr. of Winston-Salem opened the morning term of court.

Both stood without a show of emotion as they heard Judge Johnston sentence them to prison for the rest of their natural lives.

The charges grew out of the slaying of Branch as he stood on the porch of his home in a remote section of Surry County on the night of Feb. 7.

GONE TO DOOR

He had gone to the door, his wife said, to determine why his dog was barking.

Officers said at a preliminary hearing that young Willard admitted shooting him down from the darkness of the yard. He testified the four others put him up to it.

Officers said the five plotted to kill 55-year-old Branch and to rob him. But when Branch was shot in the doorway of his home, he fell back inside. His terrified wife stayed with the body all night before sending for help.

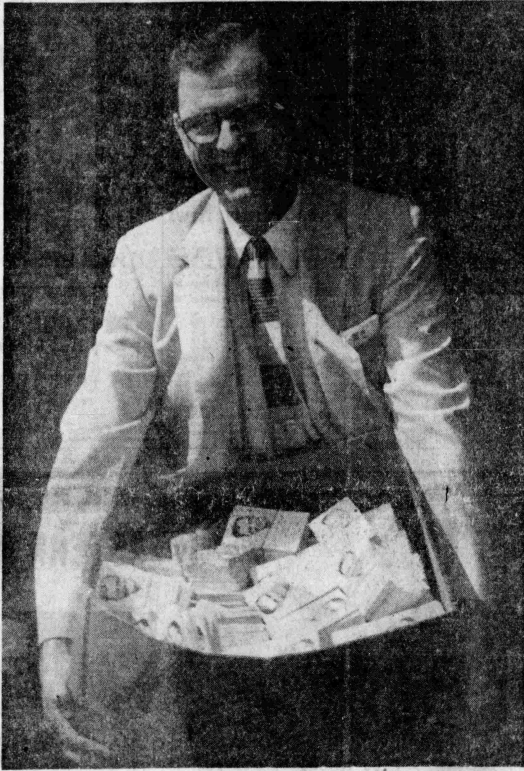
DENIES MOTION

Judge Johnston Jr. denied, yesterday defense motions asking for a change of venue. Additional jurors from another county and for a special Surry County venire.

The defendants were arrested shortly after the shooting and have been in jail here. Mrs. John Luster was released long enough to bear a male child at an Elkin hospital, then was brought back to prison.

MEET MR. MAYOR

No Wheeling, No Dealing



The Burden Of Office: Smith Discards Smith Cards

By CHARLES KURALT
Charlotte News Staff Writer

No cigar.
No victory smile. No circle of back-slapping cronies.

All the artifacts of political triumph were missing from James Saxon Smith's little brush company office this morning.

There were just Jim Smith, a telephone that rang occasionally.

(Other election results on the second front)

ally with congratulatory messages and a big postboard box full of "Vote For Smith" cards that were never used.

The people voted for Smith, 7,101 of them did, and his name will be the only one on the city ballot May 7. On May 13, he will be sworn in as mayor of the town.

He coasted in, with no serious

opposition. Just four years and 40 days after ex-Councilman Jim Daughtry convinced him over a bridge table to run for the City Council, Jim Smith was elected mayor.

He did it without an organization and without a program. He did it with open-faced naivete about the ways of the politicians, relying instead on his life-long Crescent Avenue neighbors and his friends to put him over the top.

TWO VICTORIES

Twice, he led the Council ticket and served as mayor pro tem. After the second victory in 1955, he set his sights on Phil Van Every's mayor's chair.

Now, he's in. This morning, he sat in his office on Arlington Ave., under the shadow of Phil Van Every's Lance Inn, two blocks away, and declared

he hasn't thought much about a "plan" or a "program."

"I don't have any 18 points," he said. "There are some things that need to be done . . ."

"We've got to approve this hospital bond issue. We've got to wind up this ridiculous Health Center business and agree on a place for it."

"And I think we've ignored the Police Dept. I think they need a helping hand — more men, better equipment and probably a little more take-home pay, though I don't know where that's coming from . . ."

The city, Jim Smith said, is in sound financial shape.

HEATING TROUBLE

One thing he would certainly like to see the city obtain, he said, is a good ordinance on heating installations. We don't have one now.

That's the way it went. The city's new mayor is no crusader in the usual meaning of the word.

He's a 49-year-old grandfather, a solid citizen with no pretensions toward anything else.

No wheeling. No dealing. No cigar.

Our Weather

Partly cloudy this afternoon, tonight and Wednesday with chance of widely scattered thundershowers during the evening.

Low this morning . . . 64
Low tomorrow morning . . . 60
High today . . . 85
High yesterday . . . 89
High tomorrow . . . 87
Sunrise today 5:34 a.m.; sunset today 7:07 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

City Limits Bill Tied In Vacuum

Thursday Date Set On Hearing

Charlotte's city limits extension bill went neither up nor down in Raleigh today — it merely remained in a vacuum.

A public hearing has been set for Thursday before the House Committee on Local Government, the second hearing for the controversial bill.

Proponents of the bill, seeking quick action on the bill by the second committee to study it, took the news in stride and began making plans today. However, proponents did not seek an

other public hearing. They did succeed in getting the hearing set for Thursday rather than next Tuesday as originally proposed.

The hearing is set for Thursday 9:30 a.m. in the Highway Commission Bldg.

The measure, which has passed the Senate, was studied by House

(More legislative news on 3-A)

Judiciary Committee 2 and reported to the House of Representatives with a "without prejudice" label.

The House, on a motion by opponent Rep. Jack Love, re-referred the bill to the Local Government Committee.

Local Government, following in the footsteps of House Judiciary and the House membership, presumably took notice of the split in the Mecklenburg delegation over the measure.

FOUR TO ONE

Rep. Love opposes the measure, while Sen. J. Spencer Bell and Reps. James B. Vogler, Ernest L. Hicks and Frank Sneed support it.

See HEARING on page 2-A

Gaston Teener Held In Death

GASTONIA (P) — Coy McElveen, 24, who engaged in a midnight fist fight along a railroad track died early today and his opponent, Ted Butler, 17, 17-year-old amateur boxer, was jailed on a charge of murder.

Police said Butler told this morning.

After an evening spent at a pool room and cafe, he was en route along a railroad track on Gastonia's northwest side when he met the forms of three men in the darkness.

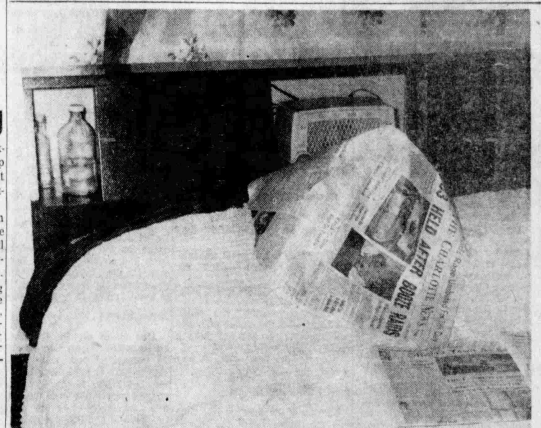
One man shouted at him and a rock-throwing fight followed, after which the trio closed in on him, one striking him in the face and neck. He began swinging fists and, when two of the men stepped back, he squared off against McElveen, striking him in the jaw and mouth.

McElveen made "a funny noise" but the two onlookers assured him "he'll be all right."

He continued to his home, where police arrived at 4:45 a.m., and told him McElveen was dead and that he was wanted on a charge of murder.

Police said McElveen's companions, Pete Glaze, 22, and Leonard Carswell, about the same age, told substantially the same story except they denied throwing the first rock. They added, police said, that they saw Butler argue before the first fight began.

Glaze and Carswell said they took McElveen to Carswell's home, where they later summoned an ambulance. McElveen was inquest, would be held.



Before His Arrest, One Bootlegger Read About Impending Disaster

Officers Round Up 43 Small Fry In Raids On Bootleggers

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

The drags of Charlotte's bootlegging trade got a measure of attention last night.

Forty-three of the "jar boys" — the small-timers who sell it by the half-gallon or the drink — were arrested by Mecklenburg ABC Board agents in swift, orderly raids in the city's Negro sections.

The roundup of Negro men and women helped smash the traffic in moonshine.

The arrests climaxed two days of vigorous activity by local, state and federal agents against illegal whiskey operators. Sunday they nabbed 83 of the state's alleged biggest wholesalers and last night dropped 42 on some of their customers.

The 42 arrested were charged with selling or possessing non-tax

paid whisky and will be tried in County Recorder's Court on misdemeanor charges on May 9.

Eight arrested last night were charged with two counts of selling non-tax-paid whisky to ABC undercover agents. The rest were charged with a single count. All but two posted bond and were released immediately.

The raids were directed by Chief Henry Severs, Mecklenburg ABC Board law enforcement officer. He was assisted by Sgt. A. W. Haynes of the ABC Board and Roy C. Reese, group leader for the Treasury Dept.'s Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit here. They were assisted by the full ABC staff and sheriff's dept. men.

The pickups started at 9 p.m. last night and ended around 2 a.m. this morning.

There was only slight surprise and some grumbling last night as

alleged bootleggers were rounded up. Agents worked in teams of four and went quickly from arrest to arrest. Two agents would come to the front doors of small homes and two would search the rear of the houses.

"Uncle Jim" Ivey was arrested at his N. Caldwell St. shop and promptly put out the lights and sent his customers home.

Viola Thompson of Carmel St. was asleep before her television set.

Charlie Frank of Edgemoor Ct. had turned in for the night when an agent awoke him by banging on his bedroom window.

One agent tried to have some fun with one man. He knocked on his front door and the man answered.

"Got any whiskey?" the agent asked.

RECOGNIZED AGENT

The man recognized him, started to run through the house. The agent followed and found a jar of white-liquor in the kitchen sink. He added another count to his warrants.

An eight-year-old greeted agents

See SMALL on page 2-A

Evening Prayer

Eternal God, who hath brought us unto another Sabbath; assist us to remember this day to keep it holy. Through reverence and worship may we find our spirits and bodies made strong. Amen.

'I Love Mother' Contest Ends Midnight Thursday

"I Love My Mother Because . . ."

If you're under 12 years old you have just 48 hours to consider how to finish that sentence. The Charlotte News Mother's Day Contest closes at midnight Thursday.

So—sit down now and finish the sentence in 25 words or less. Send your entry to "Mother's Day Contest," The Charlotte News, Box 360, Charlotte 1, North Carolina.

The best letters will win prizes of \$25, \$15, \$10 or \$1. There are 10 \$1 prizes.

To enter, you must be no older than 12 on Mother's Day, May 12. Winners will be printed in The News May 7.

—'I'VE NEVER SHOT ANYONE . . .—

Cop Coo With Berserk Man

PITTSBURGH (P) — A routine call over the police radio, "Investigate disturbance at 3337 W. Carson St.,"

was reported by a "berling wife" — turned into a nightmare for officers last night.

For 30 minutes they tried to capture a man they said had gone berserk after threatening to kill his wife. And, with the help of tear gas, they finally seized Frank Kirsh, 36.

"I've never shot anyone during my 14 years on the force and I didn't want to kill him," said patrolman John Spozarski after the tear gas had cleared away. "I would kill a man if my life was threatened seriously but I thought we could take Kirsh without hurting him and we did."

Police said an autopsy and an inquest would be held.

Alice, from their second floor apartment into a tavern below. Some 15 customers scattered and Kirsh began grappling with the proprietor. Kirsh's wife fled through a rear door. He ran upstairs as police arrived.

Spozarski and his partner, patrolman Robert Dedig, went up stairs after Kirsh and ordered him to surrender.

"He threw a jug of wine at me and then picked up a knife," Spozarski said. "I sent Dedig for reinforcements and tied into a bedroom with two doors and locked both of them. Kirsh tried to hack his way at me with a hatchet and I could have shot through the door but I decided there must be some way we could capture him. I went out the other door and down the stairs."

forcements, going to the front door with a knife in hand. One officer knocked the knife from his hand and Kirsh fled upstairs.

Officers threw a tear gas bomb into the apartment and Kirsh calmly picked it up and threw it back, but two other bombs forced him to flee. He toppled onto an awning and rolled into the arms of waiting officers.

Kirsh, who reportedly had been unemployed recently, was hospitalized for observation and no charges were filed. His wife was treated for bruises and shock.

"I'm still glad we didn't have to fire a shot," said patrolman Spozarski. "I'm sorry for the poor fellow."

Shelby Doctor Dies In Fire

SHELBY (P) — A Negro doctor died early today in a fire that broke out in a building on his second floor office in a building three blocks from the heart of Shelby. Police Chief K. K. Smith said police were investigating the possibility of incendiarism.

Investigators said they were told the physician had told a friend he intended moving from Shelby by June 1, but gave no reason.

A Negro taxi driver discovered the fire about 1:30 a.m. and drove away the car of the doctor, Dr. G. W. Singleton, 34, which was parked in front of the two-story brick structure. Police said the car was packed with luggage, clothing and children's toys.

They added that they were told that he planned to visit his wife and two of their three children who are in Nashville, Tenn. where Mrs. Singleton is studying at Tennessee State Teachers College. Dr. Singleton's mother, with whom the third child was visiting, arrived this morning from her Newberry, S.C. home.

Police discounted any connection between the physician's death and his reported involvement in a dispute over retention of a school official at Cleveland Training School, a Negro high school here. An autopsy was ordered at Shelby Hospital to determine the cause of death.

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Texans Raising Flood Defenses

DALLAS (P) — Farmers in many Texas river localities who have made a good crop in seven years of drought today saw this year's plantings ruined by flood.

Meanwhile, some cities along Texas' major streams began sandbagging and throwing up levees in a desperate effort to prevent water damage.

The highest flood in the history of the Sabine River was predicted for the upper Sabine. Major floods were expected on other streams.

In the Cuero vicinity, thousands of acres of bottomlands were flooded by the Gulf of Mexico. Crop damage was reported here about Navasota on the Brazos, with an estimated 30,000 acres in Washington and adjoining counties under water.

"Some of the crops can be replanted when water subsides."

At Freeport, workers were throwing up sandbags around plant "B" of the Dow Chemical Co., where the crest of the Brazos flood was expected by tomorrow.

The Liberty City Council voted to build levees around the Oak Forest section, into which water from the Trinity already was creeping.

"Virtually every major river in east and south central Texas was surging near or above major flood stages."

The April floods and tornadoes have been declared by the Red Cross as the worst disasters in the history of Texas operations.