

Reporter Helps Man To Win Freedom

REPORTER HELPS MAN
By JOHN E. ROUSSEAU, JR.
NEW ORLEANS (ANP)—The story of the recent freedom of John Griffin from false charges of murder after being imprisoned ten months without bail is a true-life story of a reporter who sought and discovered the facts behind the facts. The heroic reporter was James B. LaFourche, crack correspondent for the Louisiana bureau of the Associated Negro Press.

It all started a year ago when one Eugene Brazey was found dead in a yard about four blocks from the police station. All that was known about him was that he had engaged in a fight or two on the night of his death and that he was stabbed to death. Only suspects were Florence Collins, his common law wife, Manuel Augustine, her sweetheart, and Guffey Matthews, son of Rosa Matthews, mother of Miss Collins.

Police were stalemated until the Collins woman positively identified Griffin as one of two men she saw fighting with Brazey. Police arrested him, got him to sign a "confession," and had him indicted by the grand jury.

At this point LaFourche entered the case. As a reporter he had been following developments all the time. He noted that police reports on how Brazey died differed from the coroner's report. The coroner's jury ruled that he had been stabbed 15 times with a weapon leaving pinholes in him—probably an ice pick.

With this as a lead LaFourche did a bit of sleuthing on his own—a tour of night spots visited by Griffin and his wife on the night of the slaying. He discovered from one owner that the couple had stay-

ed in her place most of the evening and was there at the time the killing took place. He also learned that Florence Collins had traveled three miles to the home of the dead man's sister before notifying the police of his death although the station was only four blocks away.

Armed with the vital evidence LaFourche presented his story to the district attorney and the special investigator on the case, but then it was too late to stop the trial or change the indictment. The election and other cases took up the grand jury's time, so LaFourche had to sit tight.

On each of the 17 days of the trial LaFourche had mustered 17 witnesses to refute the "confession" and the evidence gathered by the DA. When it was all over, Griffin's innocence was established, he became a free man once more.

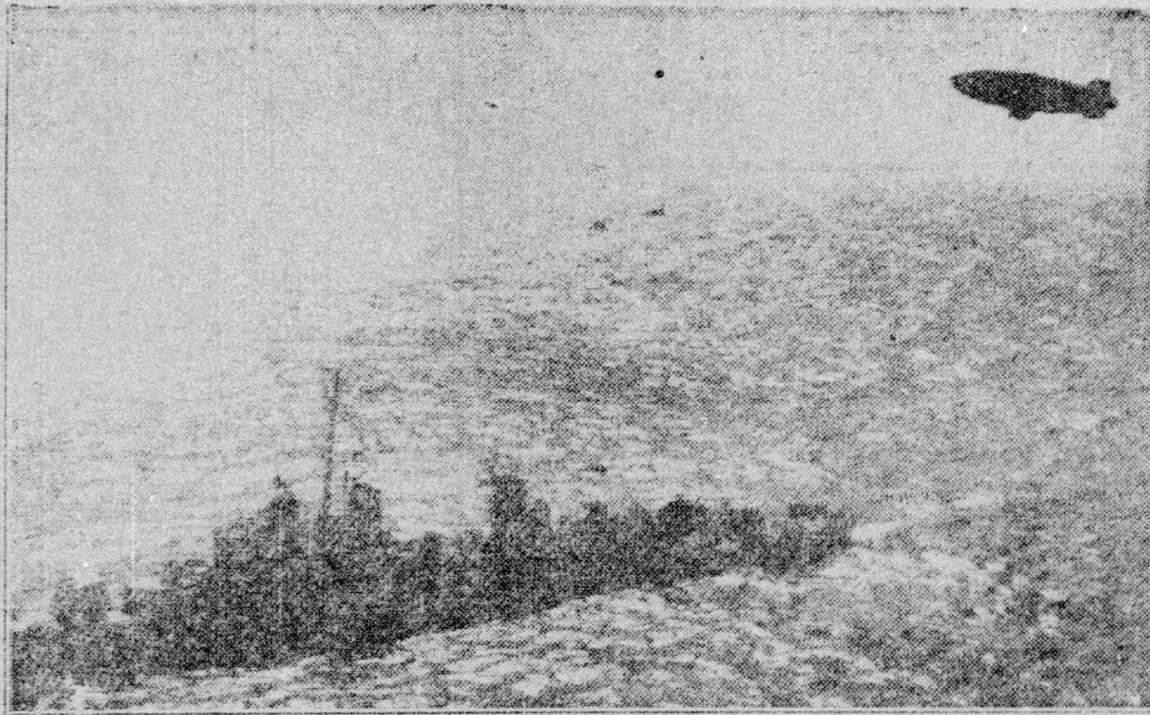
Happiest person in New Orleans was his mother, Mrs. M. Scott, who always said:

"My boy is innocent. I know that God will save him."

She also expressed confidence in the work being done by LaFourche. After the case was over the trial judge, William J. O'Hara, praised him:

"I must commend you and congratulate you for the interest you took and the excellent work you did for the defendant, John Griffin."

"Your intelligent analysis of the facts in this case together with the energetic investigation you made resulted in his release. In view of the evidence that you uncovered it is doubtful that any jury would convict Griffin despite the testimony of two of the witnesses for the prosecution."



TEAMWORK PAYS OFF WITH "SUNKEN" SUBS—Training exercises in the search for "enemy" submarines involve the use of surface vessels, airplanes and blimps employing the latest detection devices. (Official Department of Defense Photo)

"PRIVATE READINGS"

by Bette & Abbe Wallace

TO HELP YOU LIVE A MORE ABUNDANT LIFE

Editor's Note: Bette & Abbe Wallace extend you an invitation to submit your troubles to this column for free analysis. For your "1950 Date of Birth Reading," complete with Lucky Day Chart—send twenty-five cents in coin or stamps. As a special courtesy, the Wallace's offer you advice by mail with your order for the 1950 Reading—this includes free consultation on three questions. All work is confidential. Sign name, birthdate and address to letters and enclose a stamped envelope for mailing answers back to you.

Write to: BETTIE & ABBE WALLACE, care of this paper

NINE YEARS ON ONE JOB—QUITS?

"I want your advice I am working at the Naval Air Station and I have been here 9 years and am 59 years old. I want to know would it be good to keep on any further. I want my birth reading. Born February 9, 1891."

Answer: Hold on to your job as long as you possibly can. You are making good money and have made wonderful progress during these nine years—let nothing persuade you to give it up. You have built up seniority on the job—the longer you stay—the harder you will be to replace. Send 25c for your day of birth reading. I will be glad to hear from you.

PREDICTIONS MATERIALIZE

"I have written you before and believe me things worked out just as you said. I want to know if it is wise for me to stay on alone here in this big house since my husband passed or marry some old man like myself? I am not too anxious to marry. Born June 3, 1889."

Answer: Give up the idea of marriage. You're independent financially and you have many friends in the community—so don't feel compelled to go "husband hunting." It isn't necessary for you to live alone. Rent out part of your home. Your niece would jump at the chance to live there with you.

FIRST SERIOUS ROMANCE DEPRESSES GAL

"Do you feel you could help poor little me? I feel like my future is dark. Several months ago I was satisfied, filled with the spirit and happy. But now I feel like I've lost everything. Nothing interests me I was the life of my small town but everybody is worried about me and I'm worried about myself. Born 1932."

Answer: Be of good cheer little lady, the world isn't going to end. You are experiencing the bitter tea that goes with romance. Life isn't always a bed of roses when you're in love—you're taking the situation much too seriously. Be gay, have fun and be your old self again.

CAN'T WAIT TO GET HANDS ON INSURANCE CHECK

"I want to know just what is holding up my army insurance check. Are they through paying yet? Everyone I know has gotten his. What must I do?"

Answer: Be patient—these checks are being issued as fast as possible. By the time you read this you will have received and spent your check.

YOUNG WIDOW AFRAID TO TRY MARRIAGE AGAIN

"I'm a young widow in my thir-

ties. My husband died and I feel that I deserve a good husband. I work hard every day of my life. I like work. There is a young man whom I could marry. He is a widower. Should I marry or stay single?"

UN Opens Attack

On Venereal Disease

PORT-au-Prince, Haiti (ANP)—Barrington Dunbar arrived here last week to serve as the UN representative of the International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), assisting in the administration and supervision of a mass program for the treatment of yaws and rural syphilis in those countries.

The problem of rural syphilis and yaws is a serious one in Haiti. Yaws is a crippling syphilis-like disease particularly affecting children. Although no census has been made in modern times, it is believed that its incidence among the rural population of Haiti may run as high as 60 per cent. At several points in the island's history serious attempts have been made to suppress the disfiguring disease. Since 1942 thousands of cases have been treated.

Because penicillin readily cures yaws, UNICEF hopes that through the use of its supplies of the war developed drug, the government will be able to reach more than a million people and thus practically eliminate the disease within two years. After that, a control program will be set up to take care of any recurrent or new cases. To help make this campaign a success, UNICEF is providing \$320,000 worth of supplies, the Haitian government is putting roughly \$213,000 a year for administrative expenses and personnel, and the World Health organization technical assistance and international personnel.

Particularly high hopes are held

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U. S. TROOPS IN THE TROPICS—Among tangled reeds in the Panama Canal Zone Cpl. Vernon L. Pope, Marshfield, N. C., (right) and Pfc. Paul G. Oliver, Bassett, Va., prepare for joint Armed Forces in Puerto Rico in amphibious-airborne "Exercise Portrex." Participating in the maneuvers under the direction of the Joint Chiefs of Staff are 90,000 Armed Forces personnel plus ships and planes of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. Climax of the training exercise is an airborne-amphibious assault on the island of Vieques southeast of Puerto Rico. (Official Department of Defense Photo)

SEGREGATION ENDS FOR D. C. POOLS

WASHINGTON (ANP)—The six Washington swimming pools which created so much furor in the Nation's Capital last summer will be opened in the spring on a non-segregated basis, according to an announcement made last Thursday by the Secretary of the Interior Oscar Chapman.

Until last spring the Banneker and Francis pools were used by Negroes while the Takoma, East Potomac, McKinley and Anacostia were traditionally white pools in spite of the Interior's department's long announced policy of non-segregation.

When Negro swimmers realized the department's policy regarding the Washington pools they began to use Anacostia and McKinley pools last summer. It was then that trouble broke out which caused the closing of the pools for the remainder of the season.

Sweet potato acreage in North Carolina and other Southern states is expected to show a large increase this year.

The fight last year was chiefly between the Interior department and the District Recreation board. The local board was interested in taking over the operation of the pools but only on a segregated basis. After the former refused to come to terms with the Recreation board, the latter agreed to accept control of the pools providing McKinley and Banneker could be operated as interracial pools and the others as before on a segregated basis.

After the Interior had turned thumbs down on the final proposition, nothing further was heard from the swimming pools until Secretary Chapman made this announcement last week.

He said he "hopes and believes" that there will be no repetition of the racial troubles this year.

The Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Farm and Home Improvement Contest in both Nash and Edgecombe Counties this year. First prize of \$1,000 will be given to the community showing the most improvement during the year.

The 10th annual Coastal Plain Fat Stock Show and Sale will be held in Kinston on April 12 and 13.