

Henderson Slayer Gets 20 To 30 Years

Solicitor Fails In Fight to Get First Degree

HENDERSON, (CP)—SOLICITOR E. R. Tyler refused to accept pleas of the defense counsel for Claudia Wilson on trial for the slaying of Oscar Mitchell, youthful tenant on the Taylor farm, said the shooting was a clear case of first degree murder and asked for the death penalty when Wilson was sentenced to not less than 20 and not more than 30 years of hard labor in state prison here Thursday morning.

Defense attorneys were ready to submit Wednesday afternoon at the state pressed for a jury decision, contending that the jury had a strong case of first degree murder for which Wilson was being tried.

The case ended abruptly after 10 minutes of testimony when defense counsel submitted second degree murder pleas, but Solicitor Tyler, refusing to accept the plea, disagreed and fought for a first degree charge.

The plea of murder in the second degree came Thursday morning, after the defense failed to prove Wilson was under influence of liquor at the time of the shooting.

The state pointed out that Wilson had told officers he had nothing to drink until after the shooting and that he was therefore in full possession of his faculties.

Judge Harris accepted the plea of second degree murder, but he recognized the statement of solicitor Tyler that acceptance was not at the recommendation of the solicitor, who was asking from the jury a verdict of murder in the first degree.

The solicitor led Wilson through an hour of cross examination during which the defendant denied challenging Mitchell to "repeat his cursings" and drew admissions of several previous arrests and trouble Wilson had been in before.

Wilson said he was drinking before and after the shooting and Dickie Wilson, Wilson's younger brother, said Claudia was drinking before and after the shooting and was "pretty good and tight."

Wilson admitted pulling up a neighbor's tobacco when he was on trail for another affray and fighting in jail since his arrest for the shooting.

Indications Wednesday night were that efforts were being made to end the trial without sending it to the jury, by submission to second degree murder by the defendant.

Wilson had already confessed to first degree murder for which he was being tried — the first such case ever tried in Vance county.

His sentence was believed to be the longest one ever given a white man in the county for killing a Negro and perhaps the first time a white man had ever been tried for his life for such a crime.

The Townville farmer submitted to second degree murder in the Vance County Superior Court and when Presiding Judge W. C. Harris pronounced his 20 to 30 year sentence, he wept. No member of his family, attended him in court.

Two and a half hours were required for selection of the jury, first business of the session which began on Wednesday morning at 9:30 and as usual few if any Negroes were in the special venire of 50 men summoned from which to select the jury and no Negro juror was selected.

Indications are that there were no eye-witnesses to the shooting of Mitchell and that he and Wilson were alone at a tobacco barn they got into an argument on August 1, the morning of the slaying which resulted in the shooting of Mitchell.

In questioning prospective jurors, defense counsel indicate self defense might be offered for the defendant as justification for his act.

Wilson testified he shot the man after he threatened him with a long stick and ignored a warning.

Deputies previously testified Wilson told them on the day of the shooting he shot Mitchell after he cursed him and his mother.

All but rebuttal testimony was in Wednesday night, taking of evidence having begun after the noon recess Wednesday, since the entire morning had been consumed in selecting a jury from regular tailsmen and the special venire of 50 men.

Deputy sheriffs told of Wilson's admission to them the morning of the shooting that he killed Mitchell after Mitchell had cursed him and his mother when Wilson told Mitchell to bring some corn for the hogs.

Deputy E. A. Cottrell, corroborated by Deputy J. C. Inscocoe, testified that Wilson had said that day he went to the house for his shot gun, returned and challenged Mitchell to repeat his statements which Mitchell did and whereupon Wilson shot him.

Wilson took the stand and pleaded self-defense.

He said he and Mitchell were firing tobacco barns all night, drank liquor together and that the argument about getting the corn the next morning Mitchell was advancing on him with a long stick, that he warned him to stop and that Mitchell continued to advance, whereupon the fatal shot was fired.

S. B. I. AGENTS TO TESTIFY IN RIOT CASE AT ROXBORO

RALEIGH, (CP)—Two agents of the State Bureau of Investigation will serve as chief state witnesses in the prosecution of members of an attempted lynch mob at Roxboro when the trial comes up October 13, Frederick C. Handy, director of the bureau, said Friday.



Dr. H. Mack Thaxton, well-known physicist and mathematician, who is at present Professor of Physics and Mathematics at A. and T. College, Greensboro, N. C., has just published two textbooks, namely, "Manipulative Mathematics" and "Experiments in Elementary Physics". These books are designed to show the relationship between mathematics and physics.

The book, "Manipulative Mathematics", is especially adapted to college mathematics and physics courses. Consisting of 12 chapters with numerous examples it places emphasis on various mathematical processes rather than theorem.

"Experiments in Elementary Physics" contains directions for work with helpful diagrams and illustrations for each experiment.

Dr. Thaxton is a member of the American Mathematical Society, American Physical Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Sigma Phi Scientific Society. He contributes regularly to the "Physical Review" and several foreign journals.

MINNESOTA NAACP PLANS COURT ACTION AGAINST GOVERNOR

Minneapolis, Minn. — Because Governor Harold Stassen claims to be helpless to admit Negroes to Minnesota's Home Defense set-up, claiming that he is bound by the "military code of the federal army" and that this code excludes Negroes, the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, plans action in the state courts against the governor and the adjutant general of the state.

Months ago, after members of the National Guard were inducted into the federal service, Governor issued an executive order, number 19, creating the Minnesota Home Defense. There was no provision in the order barring participation of Negroes.

Negroes who volunteered were not accepted and attempts were made to set up a Jim Crow company. The governor appeared before a mass meeting called by the branch and said he was in total disagreement with discrimination. But he stated flatly that it was beyond his power to change the situation because he claimed

Johnston Mills Aids Negro Employees; Several Have Been With Company Over 35 Years

Fifty years ago Mr. C. W. Johnston began a system of textile industries which were destined to serve the employment needs of a number of families in North and South Carolina.

Friendly good-will on the part of the management of this large organization is largely responsible for the success of the Johnston interests. Producers of colored fancy dress and shirting goods the Johnston Mills are pioneers and leaders in this field.

NEGROES BENEFIT

Included among the vast army of employees engaged by the Johnston interests are a number of colored workers, some of whom have been with the company for more than 35 years.

Typical of this group are the men who work in the Highland Mills at Charlotte, N. C.

Their station and privileges in every respect receive the kind consideration of the management and their fellow white employees.

The firm makes available group insurance to all their employees upon the same basis. Substantiating the fact concerning the keen employee interest existing on the part of the employer, we find the company executives on the part of these executives active in and sincerely encouraging all employees to engage in the civic and religious affairs of their community.

Long term Negro employees of the firm include James Maxwell Tom Sellars, and Will Connors. These men have been with the company for a total of 75 years. When three men remain with an organization for a total of 75 years, it must be a great organization!

The Adjutant General's office must operate according to the federal military code which excludes Negroes.

SAYS MILITARY POLICE ASKED OKLAHOMA STATE TROOPERS TO ACT AGAINST NEGRO SOLDIERS

NEW YORK — Military police of the 94th Engineers division asked state police to intercede in moving the troops stationed at Camp Robinson, Ark., it is claimed by Assistant U. S. Attorney General Wendell Berge, in a statement released this week by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Berge wrote the Association: "For this reason there does not appear to be suitable basis for federal jurisdiction under the Civil Rights Statute."

The statement came in answer to an NAACP request made September 10 and accompanied by affidavits from members of the 94th Engineers division, that the Dept. of Justice take action against state patrolmen and civilians who forced Negro soldiers off a highway near the camp.

slapped Lieutenant Donald Curry, white, made an armed invasion of army territory and insulted officers and men of the division.

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