



Should...

Name: Thomas...
 Job Title: Barber
 Hometown: Winston-Salem
 Describe Yourself in one word: "Competitive"
 Hobbies: Boxing, basketball and wrestling
 Favorite...
 Photo by...

NEWS DIGEST

National, state and local news briefs compiled by Greg Brown

Man freed where police withheld evidence

STATESVILLE -- An Iredell County Superior Court judge last week dropped armed robbery charges against a 25-year-old black man who's attorney proved police withheld crucial information which would have aided in his defense.

Ted Alexander of Statesville was convicted of robbing a man of \$18 and a radio by an all-white jury last October and was sentenced to 14 years in prison.

But Alexander won a new trial in January after his lawyer proved that crucial witnesses who could have helped with his defense weren't called to testify. When a grand jury indicted Alexander on the same charges again last week, the attorney filed a motion asking for the dismissal of the charges and a halt to further prosecution for the robbery.

The motion said a state-administered polygraph test found that Alexander was telling the truth when he denied involvement in the robbery. The motion, which also included Statesville police reports, said police did not investigate the case adequately and did not reveal discrepancies they found to the grand jury or during the trial in which Alexander was convicted. Last Monday, a Superior Court judge denied a motion to compel disclosure of all evidence favorable to Alexander.

Danny Ikard, a codefendant, was convicted of the robbery, but said Alexander wasn't involved. None of the three other men Ikard named as accomplices have been prosecuted. The victim of the robbery had identified Ikard and Alexander as two of the four men who committed the robbery.

White policeman guilty in black's death

WADESBORO -- A white Wadesboro policeman was sentenced to four years in prison last week after he was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter in the death of a black man by an Anson Superior Court jury.

It was the first time in 24 years that a white had been convicted of killing a black person in the county.

The policeman, 56-year-old Kenneth Hamilton, originally had been charged with first-degree murder in the death of Roswell Smith, 52, of Morven on May 4. Smith was killed as he and Hamilton struggled over the officer's revolver at the intersection of U.S. 52 and N.C. 145, according to police.

An agent of the State Bureau of Investigation

testified during the trial that Hamilton said while he was being fingerprinted that it wasn't "against the law to kill a nigger in Anson County."

"The jury's decision shows Anson County is not as bad as we thought it was," said Ada Ford Singleton, president of the Anson County chapter of the NAACP.

During the weeklong trial, the judge ordered everyone entering the courtroom to be frisked after the defense attorney reported receiving threatening telephone calls. The defense attorney filed notice of appeal.

The judge found mitigating circumstances outweighed aggravating circumstances in the case. Hamilton could have received a 10-year sentence for the voluntary manslaughter charge.

Picketing stops in SCLC-Shoney's dispute

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. -- The Southern Christian Leadership Conference has ended a seven-week picket of Shoney's Restaurant after the restaurant chain's management agreed to a four-point plan which includes possibly upgrading the status of black employees.

The picketing was sparked by the June 15 firing of Gloria Fisher, the only black assistant manager at the Birmingham restaurant. Management said Fisher failed to carry out her managerial responsibilities and was "incompetent."

After a five-hour negotiating session two weeks

ago, Shoney's vice president of operation, Frank Givens, said he would not tolerate any form of racial discrimination within the Shoney's organization.

Under the agreement with the SCLC, Shoney's rehired Fisher and granted her backpay for the period of her firing, agreed to consider upgrading the status of blacks within the chain, agreed to begin advertising with black newspapers and Givens said he would recommend that the chain's board of directors make contributions to black colleges and universities.

Open Line

Unsafe house needs to be razed

Open Line is presented to readers as a weekly feature in the Chronicle. It is designed to answer consumer questions and help citizens cut through government red tape. If you have questions about your local government or any general question concerning local black people, community or social events, write to Open Line, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101 or call 723-8428.

Q: There is an abandoned house on the corner of Dunleith, between First and Third streets, which has been standing there for over a year. Neighbors have attempted to get the city to bulldoze the house without success. How can we get the house torn down before someone gets hurt?

E.M.

A: Gary Brown, director of the city's Community Development Department, said a contractor has been hired to raze the house and it will be demolished.

Tom Elijah, president of the Urban League, said the organization is updating the business directory of minority entrepreneurs which it published in 1981. The directory will list more than 200 businesses in Winston-Salem.

If you need more up-to-date information about the directory, contact the Retail Merchants Association or the Chamber of Commerce.

Q: How many people in the United States of voting age are unregistered to vote?

C.D.

A: According to the Federal Research Center in Washington, D.C., there are approximately 169,339,000 people who are 18 years or older who are able to vote. Of that number, approximately 114 million are registered, leaving roughly 55 million unregistered, potential voters.

Human Relations appointees

From Page A1

meeting, but he declined to be more specific.

At the conclusion of the full board's meeting, black aldermen Vivian Burke, Larry Womble and Larry Little met behind closed doors with Masten to discuss the ongoing investigation into the Aug. 10 murder and sexual assault of newspaper copy editor Deborah Sykes. A black man, Darrell Hunt, has been charged in connection with the murder.

"I'm concerned the police are going for a quick fix in the case," Little said after he spent another 15 minutes alone with Masten. (See related story below.)

The aldermen appointed five black members to the Human Relations Commission to replace five black members who were ineligible for another term. Another black member was reappointed.

The black appointees include: •Rachael Jackson of 726 W. 25th St. Jackson is employed by the main branch of the Forsyth County Library.

•Marilyn Baldwin of 1505-208 Woods Road. Baldwin is the program director of CONTACT in Winston-Salem.

•Ann Simmons of 2536 Ansonia St. Simmons is employed by the

Reynolda branch of Wachovia Bank & Trust Co.

•Dorothy M. Ross of 3519 Fieldstone St., a housewife.

•Clarence G. Watson of 3519 Glen Oak Drive. Watson owns an accounting firm.

The remaining appointees include:

•Ann Ryder of 748 London Lane. Ryder is employed by the state Department of Human Resources.

•The Rev. Henry J. Keating of 2813 Wesleyan Lane, pastor of First Presbyterian Church.

•Donald A. Donadio of 422 Horace Mann Ave., a technical writer for AT&T Consumer Products.

The board also reappointed Marie Hill Roseboro of 1021 Shea Court. Hill, who is black, is an officer of the Winston Mutual Life Insurance Co.

With the exception of Roseboro, all of the appointees will be eligible for reappointment to two-year terms in September

1986.

In other action, the board:

•unanimously approved providing up to \$8,000 each to four households forced to relocate from substandard housing which landlords said they would not repair. The residences are located at 733, 737, 741 and 743 N. Chestnut St.;

•unanimously approved the purchase of 11 parcels of land in the East Winston community for the widening of 13and Locust streets and the realignment of Claremont Avenue.

The street improvements will result in the demolition of structures along Claremont Avenue, and Locust and 14th streets and the relocation of families living in the affected buildings. The city will spend an estimated \$453,730 for acquisition, relocation and demolition and another \$448,730 for the improvements. Total costs for the project are estimated to be \$901,730.

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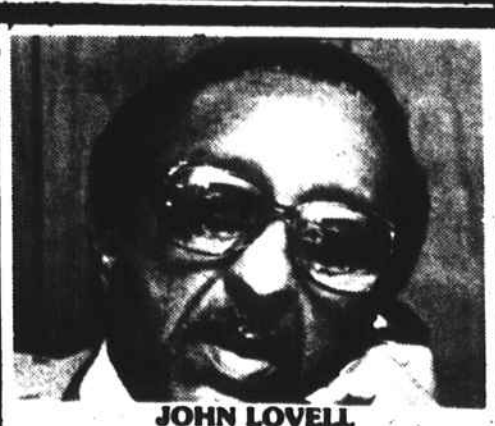
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