

INQUEST FREES WIFE OF MURDER

Still Indicted For An 'Intent To Kill'

By TED CRAIL, Record News Editor

Thin as a rope and looking hardly strong enough to scour a trying pan, Mrs. Esther Ellen Johnson felt the murder charge lift from her head last night when an inquest jury returned with its verdict.

She still faces a court trial. A week from Thursday she will go before Judge H. Paul Strickland for a preliminary hearing on a charge that, in brutally slaying her husband over another woman, she intended to kill him.

Thirteen years ago he had act-



A DISGUSTED FROWN curled across the face of pretty Mrs. Ethel Barefoot as attorney Duncan Wilson made her admit she hadn't seen the knife that killed Howard Johnson, claimed she was "trying to protect" her mother. The mother, Mrs. Bewlah Strickland, accused as the other woman in triangle that led to bloody slaying, did not appear at the inquest. The young witness's hand-on-check attitude apparently inspired juror (foreground) and Policeman Carson Hall (background) to do likewise. (Record Photos by Ted Crail.)

Three Indicted For Helping Slain Bank Robber Flee

FAYETTEVILLE (UPD) — An ex-jailer and two soldiers accused of rape were charged today in the escape of an accused killer-robber shot to death after a gun battle at a roadblock Monday night.

The three were charged with helping Charles Bradford, 26, of Plant City, Fla., and his 18-year-old companion, John William Odum of Fayetteville, escape from the Cumberland County jail last Friday. Bradford died in the battle, apparently by his own hand and perhaps accidentally, and Odum surrendered.

The formal charges of violation of the Federal Escape and Rescue Laws were placed against Woodrow Vinson, a former assistant jailer who was fired effective March 31, three days before the escape; and Hungarian nationals Zoltan Szabo and Jenő Ronasi, Ft. Bragg soldiers who were in the Cumberland County jail awaiting trial on charges of rape. They were to be arraigned in Fayetteville today before a U.S. commissioner.

Roy K. Moore, special agent in charge of the Charlotte FBI office. (Continued on Page Five)

Big Drive Through Dunn Area Feds Collaborate On Still-Raiding

Enough federal officers to fight a small war conducted a saturation campaign through this area last week and upended 24 stills. Bill Richardson, chief of the Dunn post of the ATU, reported a total of 18,840 gallons of fermenting mash and some 75 gallons of non-taxpaid whisky were seized.

The thirteen officers who collaborated in the raid almost arrested one man, Larry D. Tart, and just missed catching another at the same still. Tart, called Shortie by his friends, waived his preliminary hearing before U. S. Commissioner, or Mailie Jackson and has been bound over to federal court at Raleigh under \$500 bond.

Richardson said officers participating in the mass raid which took three days—on April 1, 2 and 3—were from Goldsboro, Raleigh, Fayetteville and the ABC branch in Sampson County. There were also alcohol tax officers from Rocky Mount.

The search itself extended through Banner township of Johnston of Harnett County. It was a distillery in Meadow County and Aversboro township township that yielded Larry Tart, according to Richardson.

Through the federal officers expect to press hard after bootleggers the leafiness and fresh burgeoning through the year—and there are blossoms that come with April is always an upsurge in Spring—are a boon to liquor men.

It means that any attempts to hunt down their stills via the sky

Susan, David Win Oscars; 'Gigi' Voted Best Movie

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — Flame-haired Susan Hayward and suave David Niven, two veterans of movie making, reigned today as the best actress and actor of 1958.

Miss Hayward, 39, a four-time loser, was honored for her performance in "I Want To Live" by the Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Sciences at its 31st annual Academy Awards presentation Monday night while a real-life drama quietly unfolded at the Niven, 49, was honored for his theater as police checked out a role in "Separate Tables."

"Gigi" a technicolor musical based on the novel by French author Colette, was named the best film and garnered nine Oscars.

One honorary award put the awards bestowed on "Gigi" at 10 to place it in a tie with all-time award winner "Gone With The Wind" in 1939. The "Best Years of Our Life" won nine awards in 1946.

Burl Ives, folksinger-turned-actor, was named best supporting actor for his role in "The Big Country" and England's Wendy Hiller was voted best supporting actress for her portrayal in "Separate Tables."

Vincente Minnelli won a golden statuette for his direction of "Gigi."

The song "Gigi" from the picture of the same name also captured an Oscar, as did the film's musical scoring by Andre Previn (Continued on Page Six)

These Little Things

By HOOVER ADAMS

LITTLE NOTES ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS

Just as expected, stock salesmen are finding it tough to make sales in the Dunn area since so many investors were picked clean by Kirchofer and Arnold.

Walter Lewis of Carolina Securities in Raleigh dropped by the office one day last week.

"How's business, Walter?" we asked. He knew that was a loaded question.

"Well, to be frank," he smiled, "it's fine every other place except right through here and you know the reason for that."

It seemed that Kirchofer center, ed his operations in Harnett and (Continued on Page Six)

Police Nab Driver When Car Burns Fleeing Car Becomes Torch

His whole car served as a torch to direct police to William Earl Ennis, 32-year-old resident of 130 Joy Street, who was arrested last night for careless and reckless driving. Policemen Buddy Jackson and Carson Hall were already out looking for the car which had crashed into a yard on East Pope Street and run over a mailbox.

They had picked up the trail—and were following a stream of gasoline from a leaking tank. But a call came into the Dunn fire station about a 1950 model Oldsmobile on fire at the corner of South King and West Pope Street.

Apparently the accident had set off the fire and the fire, in turn, led to Ennis' capture and arrest. Since the yard he ran into was located just outside the city limits, Chief of Police Alton Cobb said the case was turned over to Highway Patrolman David Matthews.

Matthews promptly charged Ennis and he was released under \$100 bond. The trial is set for Monday, April 13.

Howard M. Lee, secretary-treasurer of the Dunn Fire Department, said a truck and six men spent about 20 minutes at the scene getting the fire in the Oldsmobile put out.

Accused Slayer on Stand In Triangle Killing Connie Tells Of Stolen Love

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (UPI) — Connie Nicholas took the witness stand here today to tell how and why her married lover was shot to death after keeping a tryst with another woman. Her lawyers in this murder trial approached the dramatic climax of her story slowly, beginning with her childhood as an orphan, which she said was spent in moving from one strange home to another.

The defense called the tiny divorcee a day ahead of schedule to tell the "full story" of her love affair with Eli Lilly Vice President Forrest Teel and his fatal shooting beside her in the front seat of his white Cadillac.

Mrs. Nicholas had testified only 10 minutes and told of her early life when Judge Thomas J. Faulconer recessed the court until 2 p.m. The loudspeaker system was not functioning properly and the jury—and the press—could not hear Mrs. Nicholas well.

The 44-year-old brunette was composed and her voice was clear and emphatic, if low. She wore a black silk and wool dress with a demure white blouse showing at the throat. She had on a small rust-colored hat, and black high-heeled pumps.

The 12-men jury stared intently at her, taking in the metal (friction) splints on both hands. Mrs. Nicholas says Teel beat her and wrenched her arm the night she confronted him when he came out of the apartment of his new girl.

Clutching handkerchief, frail defendant waited verdict. . . . killed her 43 year old husband, Howard Johnson. They ruled that he came to death "by uremic poisoning, or Bright's Disease."

Mrs. Johnson's face did not lose, even for a moment, its look of desperate tension when jurors dined in after debating their verdict for approximately fifteen minutes.

During the past year or more, usually gone to prison for killing a man. Accused of murder, along with two companions, in the death of Donnie Maynor on October 5, 1946, he pled guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to two years.

Her husband's allegedly brutal treatment of her and his straying love life are likely to be gone (Continued on Page Six)

Predict Failure for Sterilization Measure

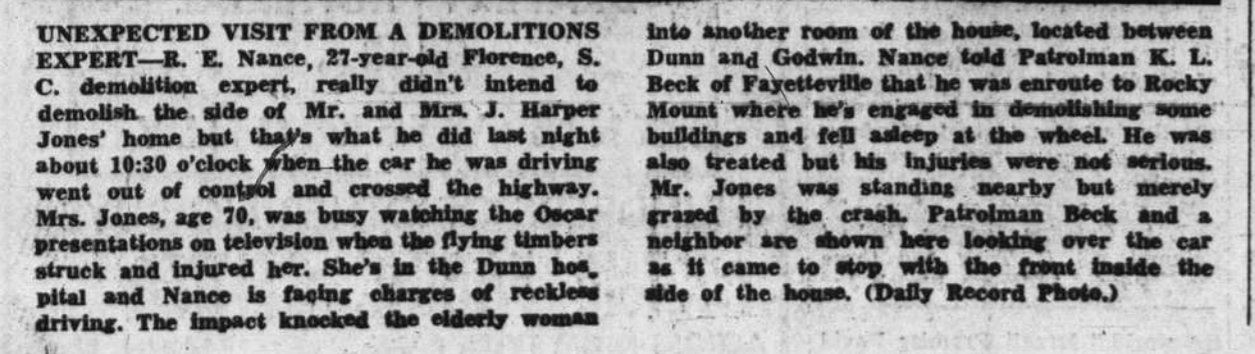
Harnett lawmakers Robert Morgan and Carson Gregory, free on Monday from their duties in the state legislature, met with county commissioners yesterday and predicted an abortive fate for the sterilization bill.

Chairman of Commissioners Lofton A. Tart, Dunn banker, quoted Gregory and Morgan as agreeing that the Davis-Jolly bill will probably go down to defeat. Morgan is in the state senate and Gregory is in the legislature.

A big state-wide controversy is now raging over the bill which was endorsed two weeks ago by Harnett's own Welfare Board. Proponents of the bill think it would be beneficial to the state in relieving the public welfare problem created by payments to (Continued on Page Five)

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Unemployment in March fell by 387,000 to 4,362,000, the government reported today. Employment shot up by more than a million to nearly 64 million jobs during the same period.

The drop in the jobless total was about twice as large as normal for this time of year. Even so, last month's unemployment (Continued on Page Five)



UNEXPECTED VISIT FROM A DEMOLITIONS EXPERT—E. E. Nance, 27-year-old Florence, S. C. demolition expert, really didn't intend to demolish the side of Mr. and Mrs. J. Harper Jones' home but that's what he did last night about 10:30 o'clock when the car he was driving went out of control and crossed the highway. Mrs. Jones, age 70, was busy watching the Oscar presentations on television when the flying timbers struck and injured her. She's in the Dunn hospital and Nance is facing charges of reckless driving. The impact knocked the elderly woman into another room of the house, located between Dunn and Godwin. Nance told Patrolman K. L. Beck of Fayetteville that he was enroute to Rocky Mount where he's engaged in demolishing some buildings and fell asleep at the wheel. He was also treated but his injuries were not serious. Mr. Jones was standing nearby but merely grazed by the crash. Patrolman Beck and a neighbor are shown here looking over the car as it came to stop with the front inside the side of the house. (Daily Record Photo.)