

Man Gets Life Sentence For Second Degree Burglary

John Small Looks on Bright Side of Fate

Defendant Hears Sentence Without Slightest Emotion

Small Is Moved to State's Prison Wednesday Afternoon

John Small was sentenced to prison for the remainder of his natural life by Judge Walter Bone in the Martin County Superior Court Wednesday afternoon for second degree burglary and a brutal assault on Mrs. Lyda Jenkins, aged white woman, of this county. The defendant, a small Negro who had worked in a logwoods most of his 30 years of life, heard the sentence without emotion, apparently little realizing the meaning of Judge Bone's words.

Small was hastened to State's prison early that afternoon, his departure closing the last chapter to one of the most brutal deeds in the crime annals of this county.

A jury was chosen in a very short time, and the first evidence was offered when the court reconvened for the afternoon session Tuesday.

Examined by Solicitor Don Gilliam, Mrs. Lyda Jenkins stated emphatically that she knew the voice of John Small and was positive in her identification of the defendant as he came through the window on the night the attack was made. Mrs. Jenkins testified that she had known Small for several weeks, he having visited her home on several missions to buy eggs. The witness testified that she was badly beaten about the head and was unconscious for several hours after the assault. This testimony was corroborated by Dr. J. E. Ward who stated that from 15 to 20 stitches were taken to close the wounds in the victim's head. Seen for the first time since the attack, Mrs. Jenkins personally identified Small when he was presented by Sheriff Roebuck after he was arrested in Northampton County.

The witness was cross examined by Clarence Griffin and Carter Studdert, attorneys for the defendant. In the examination she substantiated most of the evidence she had already given the court through the solicitor, Don Gilliam. On account of her inability to hear very well, and due to the fact that she spoke hardly above a whisper, the testimony was hard to grasp except by those within a few feet of the witness.

Mrs. Jenkins was followed on the stand by C. Abram Roberson, a friend and neighbor of Mrs. Jenkins. He testified that he accompanied Chief Gray to the house and kept visitors away from the room in which the attack was made, until the case was thoroughly investigated.

Sheriff Roebuck testified that he visited the home of Mrs. Jenkins on Sunday morning at 10:30. He met Captain Dorsay, fingerprint expert of the Greenville police force, and together they secured prints from the window glass. After a period of nearly two months, Small was apprehended in a logging camp in Northampton county. He was brought to the county for trial and according to the testimony of the Sheriff, he went to various parts of the county with the defendant, that he (the defendant) might establish an alibi which he claimed he could do. Although he confronted several people, whom he knew, he failed to establish an alibi of even small proportions, according to the evidence given the court by the sheriff.

NO WORRY

"Well, I won't be bothered or have to worry about a social security card on my new job," John Small, colored man, said as he entered State's Prison in Raleigh Wednesday afternoon to start serving a life sentence for second-degree burglary. Leaving the courthouse after he was sentenced early that afternoon, Small talked freely on the trip to Raleigh. "All I want is plenty of work and plenty of chewing tobacco," he told the officials as he entered the prison for what might be a long time.

Small maintained that he planned to leave this section because he did not like a fellow by the name of "Henry," and he held to that story on cross examination. "I knew nothing about the attack on Mrs. Jenkins until I was arrested," Small told the court.

Facing Solicitor Gilliam's cross examination, Small reviewed his travels for a long period of years and made himself a good witness except for the story describing the train trip from Stokes to Suffolk. The defendant said he changed trains only once, that he changed at Parmele and went straight into Suffolk without changing again. When told that he would have gone into Scotland Neck had he not changed at Hobgood, Small still maintained that he changed trains only once, that it may have been at Hobgood instead of Parmele.

Small claimed he was not drunk on the evening of July 23, but he did admit that he took several drinks. He was with a man named "Willie" when he took a swallow. He later drank twice from a quart bottle, and went down the road to a man's house and bought a 15-cent drink. Stating to the solicitor that he left the community where the attack took place and started toward Stokes between 8:30 and 9 o'clock,

Milk Production In N. C. Shows Increase In 1937

Although the number of milk cows in North Carolina decreased 1 per cent in the past year, the average daily milk production jumped from 12.9 pounds per cow in 1937 to 13.2 pounds in 1938, says John Arey, extension dairyman at State College.

the route being the same described to the defense counsel.

It was brought out in Small's testimony that he could not find the tobacco barn where he claimed to have spent the night when Sheriff C. B. Roebuck carried him there to check the alibi.

Small said he had never been in court before in his life, and denied any connection with the brutal attack.

The defense rested, and Judge Bone ordered a recess at 5:05 p. m. until Wednesday, Solicitor Gilliam asking the right to offer evidence in rebuttal if he deemed it necessary when court reconvened.

Reopening the case Wednesday, Solicitor Gilliam called two witnesses for the State, Roosevelt Rives and Will Evans. Their evidence placed Small in the vicinity on the night of the crime. Recalled to the stand Sheriff Roebuck testified to the splendid character of Mrs. Jenkins, the attack victim.

Attorney Clarence Griffin, addressing his first jury, made a masterful ten-minute talk in behalf of Small. Attorney Carter Studdert, making his first address before a Martin County jury, directed an eloquent appeal for the defendant during thirty minutes. Solicitor Gilliam, in a forty-minute address, asked the jury to convict Small. Judge Bone charged the jury for forty minutes and turned the case over to the twelve men at 12:30. After deliberating the case 45 minutes, the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

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Domestic Crude Oil Shows A Reduction

Daily average supply of domestic crude oil to meet the market demand in October is 3,366,800 barrels, 77,500 barrels less than the estimate for September, the Federal Bureau of Mines estimated this week.

The October estimate is 7 per cent less than actual demand for domestic crude in October, 1937, the Bureau said. The decline from a year ago is due chiefly to a substantial reduction in gasoline stocks estimated for October, 1938.

In October, 1937, excess crude runs resulted in an increase of about 3,000,000 barrels in finished gasoline stocks.

Stocks of domestic and foreign re-

finable crude petroleum at the close of the week ending September 10, totaled 282,457,000 barrels, representing a decrease of 2,462,000 barrels over the previous week.

Here from Tarboro
Mr. J. C. Gardner, of Tarboro, was a business visitor here yesterday.

N. C. Hay Crops Show Six Per Cent Increase

The production of cultivated hay crops in North Carolina in 1938 estimated at 874,000 tons is six per cent greater than the record crop produced in 1937, reports the State Department of Agriculture.

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Small Super Suds (Blue Box)	3 for 25c
Large Super Suds (blue) (Gets clothes "Hospital Clean")	2 for 43c
Octagon Soap (giant)	6 for 25c
Octagon Soap (small)	10 for 23c
Octagon Powder (large)	6 for 25c
Octagon Powder (small)	10 for 23c
Octagon Toilet	6 for 25c
Octagon Cleanser	2 for 9c
Octagon Chips	2 for 18c
Octagon Granulated	2 for 18c
Crystal White Soap	3 for 14c
Holly'd Beauty Soap	3 for 14c
Creme Oil Soap	3 for 14c
Klex (Pumice) Soap	3 for 14c
Un'al Hardwater Soap	3 for 14c
Triple Cake Soap	3 for 10c

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Octagon Soap (small) 10 for 23c
Octagon Powder (large) 6 for 25c
Octagon Powder (small) 10 for 23c
Octagon Toilet 6 for 25c
Octagon Cleanser 2 for 9c
Octagon Chips 2 for 18c
Octagon Granulated 2 for 18c
Crystal White Soap 3 for 14c
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Klex (Pumice) Soap 3 for 14c
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