

## Killer Released In Manslaughter Case at Hearing

Laverne Roberson Under  
\$500 Bond for Shoot-  
ing Willie C. Hassell

Finding no probable cause of intent to kill, Justice John L. Hassell last Tuesday evening released Laverne "Mutt" Roberson under \$500 bond for the fatal shooting of Willie Clyde Hassell, young colored man, at John Riddick's fish market on Washington Street here last Saturday night. Unable to arrange bond immediately, the 29-year-old killer was returned to jail, but his release was effected later.

Justice Hassell declared the case bondable when several witnesses declared that Roberson and Hassell had had no argument, that the shooting was accidental.

Riddick, the first witness for the state, told the court that he was called out of his market, that when he left Roberson was not there. Returning to his place of business, Riddick found Roberson there. "Roberson said he wanted to show me his gun. I saw him take the pistol from his pocket and shake the bullets out. He then closed the breech, held the pistol up and pulled the trigger," Riddick said. On cross examination by Attorney Clarence Griffin, defense counsel, Riddick said that Roberson and Hassell had had no argument, that Roberson did not point the pistol at any one in particular.

The next witness, Kader Brown, told about the same story, saying that he saw "Mutt" walk into the fish house, and pull the pistol out of his pocket. "He shook the bullets out and I saw him hold the gun up and pull the trigger," Brown said, adding "I thought I had been shot." Brown then said he saw the Hassell boy lying on the floor and blood pouring from his throat. "Roberson stepped over me and left," Brown concluded.

Supporting the evidence offered by the first two witnesses, Gilbert Respass said he told "Mutt" when he saw him take the gun out of his pocket that he had better take the bullets out before he hurt someone. "He shook the bullets out and thought he had them all. He closed the gun, held it up and fired," Respass said. When it was suggested that a witness take the gun and re-enact the shooting, Justice Hassell ruled it out, saying they thought it wasn't loaded when the boy lost his life.

S. T. Brown and Joe Willie Williams, two more witnesses who were crowded around Roberson as he pranked with the gun, told about the same stories heard from the others.

Officer P. A. Ballard said that he was at the police station, that

## Issue Licenses To Chauffeurs

Safety Examiner Boyce of the Highway Patrol is now issuing licenses to chauffeurs in this county each Wednesday and Saturday in the courthouse for the 1947-48 year.

Drivers of taxi cabs, busses—not school busses—for-hire trucks and chauffeurs for individuals must renew or get the licenses, the examiner said.

It was pointed out that those who now hold 1946-47 licenses will not have to take the tests, but they must have their licenses renewed, the cost being \$2 for new or renewal licenses. Present licenses expire June 30.

## Local Freezer Locker Receiving Strawberries

Quite a few patrons in this section are packing away strawberries in the local freezer locker plant, and others are asking instructions for preparing the berries for storage.

Manager C. J. Goodman states that sugar is available at the plant for packing strawberries, that the sweetening may be had without a coupon. Particulars for preparing the berries may be had by contacting the plant management.

## Stock Show Winner And His Grand Champion



Master Billy Bailey, Everetts 4-H club member, is pictured above with his grand champion steer at the recent fat stock show in Williamston. After taking top honors in the show, the youthful club member, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bailey of Everetts, sold the animal to the Smithfield Packing Company for 62 cents a pound. Pictured with Bailey and the champ is a young friend who stood ready to lend a helping hand, just in case the champ should resent having his picture snapped by Whitney Saunders.

## Ministers Plan For Classes In Bible and Union Service

Meeting in the Memorial Baptist Church last Monday morning, members of the local ministerial association continued their plans for the introduction of Bible classes in the local schools. Rev. John L. Goff, investigating methods for teaching and financing Bible classes in other schools in the State, reported his findings, and it is now considered possible that the special courses will be made available in the schools here next term.

The ministerial group advanced plans for holding union religious services each Sunday evening, beginning the first Sunday in June and continuing through August. The first in the series of union services will be held in the Baptist church by Rev. John Goff.

Tentative plans were made for

the union daily vacation Bible school to be held here this summer. A meeting of the several ministers and the members of the faculty is to be held Friday evening at 8:00 o'clock in the Baptist church to complete arrangements for opening the school. A call for volunteers is being sounded, and it is hoped that an adequate number will respond to conduct an effective school.

Reporting on the drive for old clothing, Chairman Hurley stated that 776 pounds of wearing apparel had already been shipped to the collection center in Maryland for transfer to the ill clad in Europe. It was explained that several of the churches had not forwarded their collections to the centers.

### IMPROVED

Following light showers in most sections of the county this week, prospects for the tobacco crop were somewhat improved. The plants are growing out of the blue mold and warm weather has, for the most part, been favorable for transplanting during the past few days.

However, transplanting is not yet under way on an extensive scale, but it is expected to reach a climax next week.

## Oak City School Alumni Reunion

On April 29, 1924, nine seniors graduated from Oak City High School, receiving diplomas signed by H. M. Ainsley. Since that time twenty-three classes have passed through the portals of Oak City High School, each diploma bearing that same familiar signature.

On the night of May 9, 1947, four of the original nine along with two hundred and nineteen other graduates and their husbands or wives assembled in the High School gymnasium as an Alumni Association to pay tribute to one who had moulded the lives of so many young people.

In March of this year several alumni of the school met and organized an Alumni Association for the purpose of meeting each year at a banquet and dance. The group elected N. W. Johnson of the class of '28 as their president; Ernest Edmondson of the class of '24 as vice president, and Miss Bettie Mae Smith of the class of '44 as secretary and treasurer.

For the first banquet, Mrs. Harry Daniel was appointed chairman of the food committee and with the aid of her committee served a splendid cold plate with coca cola and ice cream. The gymnasium was decorated beautifully with streamers of gold and black crepe paper by the able hands of Miss Katie Speer and J. A. Everett, Jr., co-chairman of the decorating committee.

Robert Haislip did an able job of seating the throng as chairman of the arrangement committee. The program which included the history of the school and several songs by talented alumnae was prepared by Professor George Haislip, and Hartford Smith arranged the dance to follow the

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## Army Recruiter At Post Office Each Wednesday

M/Sgt. Virgil B. Lindsey of the U. S. Army Recruiting Station in Greenville has announced that a change has been made in the place of the recruiting station due to the fact that the Selective Service office has been closed. The recruiting sergeant will be at the Post Office building each Wednesday morning.

## Finals Program In Local School

The first in the series of commencement exercises in the local high school will be held Sunday evening at 8:00 o'clock when Rev. John L. Goff delivers the annual sermon to the seniors and the general public in the high school auditorium. The minister will use for his topic, "No Short Cut to the Promised Land."

Next Tuesday night at 8:00 o'clock the seniors will hold their class exercises. Miss Louise Hines, the president, announces the program will center around a play.

The last in the commencement series will be held next Wednesday evening at 8:00 o'clock when State Senator H. G. Horton delivers the main address. Twenty-eight graduates—twenty girls and eight boys—will be presented their diplomas by Robert L. Coburn, local school committee chairman, and special awards will be made by Mrs. C. J. Goodman, R. H. Goodman and Elbert S. Peel.

Special invitations have been extended to the members of the county board of education, local committees and presidents of the various civic clubs to attend the graduation exercises, and the public, in general, is invited to any or all of the events, Principal B. G. Stewart announced.

Marshals, chosen for scholastic achievement, include, John Gurkin, chief; Laura Peel, Marceline Johnson, Edna Hadley, Carrie Dell Peaks, Mary Lou Coltrain and Lucy Roberson.

### FINALS AT JAMESVILLE

Following the commencement address Wednesday night by Dr. Marshall, Jamesville pupils returned to school Thursday to get report cards and end the term.

## Open Immunization Clinic Against Typhoid in County

Beginning next Monday morning, Martin County Health authorities will launch their annual immunization drive against typhoid fever. Twelve special clinics, in addition to the regular clinics, will be held in the various parts of the county for the convenience of the public. Dr. John W. Williams, health officer, announced this week. The special clinics will be held on schedule days through June 11.

For the past seven years, an average of eight thousand persons, mostly children, has reported to the clinics for the protection. The immunization work has been most successful, but it fell short of its goal by at least two cases last year, the health authorities stating that one of the victims had been found to be a carrier. "While the cases are few, the immunization work must be

## Only Five Cases Heard on Monday In County Court

Summer Slump Hits Docket and Only \$70 in Fines Collected

The Martin County Recorder's Court experienced a regular mid-summer slump last Monday when Judge J. Calvin Smith called only five cases for trial. One of the five was continued and verdicts of not guilty were announced in two other cases. Fines in the sum of \$70 were collected, the revenue dropping to a record low for the year.

The session, lasting hardly two hours, attracted a fair-sized crowd.

Proceedings: In the case charging them with being drunk and disorderly and assaults with deadly weapons, Clyde Cowey pleaded not guilty and Shirley Harrington pleaded guilty of simple assault. Both defendants were adjudged guilty of being drunk and disorderly. Harrington was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs and Cowey was fined \$10 and required to pay the costs.

In the case charging him with bastardy, Columbus Daniel pleaded not guilty. After hearing the state's evidence, counsel for the defendant made a motion for a directed verdict of not guilty and the motion was allowed.

The case charging Warren Griffin with larceny and receiving was continued until next Monday for the defendant.

Pleading guilty of speeding and operating a motor vehicle with improper lights, Troy Lee Haymer was fined \$35 and taxed with the costs. The court recommended that the defendant's license to operate a motor vehicle be revoked for six months.

Elbert Mitchell pleaded not guilty in the case in which he was charged with bastardy. At the conclusion of the state's evidence, defense counsel made a motion for a directed verdict of not guilty and the motion was allowed.

### Former Rector Returns Here For Short Visit

Rev. Morrison E. Bethea, former rector of the Church of the Advent here, and daughter, Mrs. John Satterfield, of Reidsville, were the guests of Mrs. J. H. Saunders here Tuesday night. The minister, now in retirement, was rector of the local church thirty years ago. They were en route to Woodland.

### DEMONSTRATION

On Saturday, May 24, Miss Rose Ellwood Bryant, specialist in Home Management and Home Furnishings, will be in the county to give a demonstration on 4-H Room Improvement. This demonstration will include floors, walls, and storage; the sleeping, dressing, and study unit; pictures, curtains, rugs, color schemes and light. The meeting is an all day meeting and will be held at the Woman's Club, beginning at 10:00 a. m. The public is cordially invited to attend.

## File Damage Suit In Superior Court Here

Brothers, Injured  
In Wreck, Asking  
\$40,000. Damages

Action Brought By George  
H. and Tom Manning  
Against M. W. Corey

A \$40,000 suit—one of the largest on record in this county—was filed by Attorneys Peel, Manning and Griffin with Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne this week against Marvin Woodrow Corey for George Harrell Manning and Tom Brown Manning, brothers who were critically hurt when the defendant wrecked his automobile at 2:30 o'clock on the morning of last October 20 in Jamesville. Reports state that the defendant is protected by adequate insurance, that the suit is a friendly one.

While the complaints filed by the two plaintiffs are virtually the same, one of the plaintiffs, George Harrell Manning, is asking \$25,000 damages. The other plaintiff is a minor and is appearing by his next friend, James Raleigh Manning, who is asking \$15,000 damages.

The brothers, in their complaints, state that they were riding as invited guests with Corey in his 1941 Ford sedan early in the morning of October 20, 1946, adding that they had been to Juniper Lodge, near Plymouth, and were returning to their homes in Jamesville with the defendant driving.

They allege that just prior to reaching Jamesville's town limits, Corey was driving his car at a speed of 25 to 30 miles an hour, that upon entering a bad curve at or near the town limits the defendant "carelessly and negligently" sped his car up to 60 miles per hour, a speed greater than that allowed by law, and greater than was prudent upon said curve.

As a result of his careless and negligent action the plaintiffs allege, the defendant lost control of the car, ran off the road into an electric light pole and turning the machine over, seriously injuring the plaintiffs.

Plaintiff George Harrell Manning states that he suffered a broken back, a compressed vertebra and other injuries, that after receiving preliminary treatment in a Williamston hospital he was removed to a hospital in Richmond, that he spent eight weeks in the hospital. He also states that since his discharge from the hospital he has been unable to work, that he is still receiving medical attention, that he still suffers and that he believes his injuries are permanent.

Plaintiff Tom Brown Manning states that his back was broken, that he suffered other injuries and that he spent seven and one-half weeks in the hospital. While his injuries are believed to be permanent, his condition was not thought to be as critical as that of his brother, and, therefore, he is not asking as much damage.

The case is tentatively set for trial at the term of court convening next September.

## Compensation Claim Allowed

After much litigation which dragged through hearings here, in Washington and Durham, the North Carolina Industrial Commission this week awarded full compensation to the family of the late N. S. Riddick. The award calls for approximately \$6,000 less certain advances and is to be paid at the rate of \$21 per week over a period of 276 weeks. The compensation will go to Mrs. Idell Riddick, the widow, and two children.

Mr. Riddick was injured while driving a furniture truck back in 1945, and died in May of last year. Action on the claim had been pending since that time, the attorneys, Peel and Manning, having carried the widow's claim before members of the commission at hearings in the three centers.

### Bares Betrayal



One of the American soldiers in a prison camp where, it is alleged, Lt. Comdr. Edward Little betrayed his fellow prisoners, sending two to torture-wracked death, Sgt. Louis Goldbrun (above) is appearing as a witness at Little's court-martial in Washington. Shrouded in secrecy, the court-martial was aired by Drew Pearson, columnist, a few days ago.

## Americans Living Longer and Death Rate Drops

Report Doesn't Explain  
What For, But the News  
Sounds Good

While it doesn't explain what for—war or peace, turmoil or happiness—a report from one of the large insurance companies maintains that fewer Americans are dying and more are living longer than ever before. That's optimistic news and it sounds good if it just carried the assurance that humanity is not being stockpiled for cannon fodder in another war.

The company in its recent report notes a remarkably low death rate for the first quarter of 1947 among its policyholders. About 7.7 persons per 1000 in the U. S. A. died in this period, nearly 10 percent less than the death rate for the same period of 1946 (a heavy influenza and pneumonia year) and 3.3 percent less than in 1945.

The same report reveals that the average length of life among Americans hit the new high of nearly 66 years for 1945, the latest year for which figures are available. This means that two years and three months were added to the average expectation of life at birth, as compared with the immediate pre-war period of 1939-41. The average length of life in the U. S. A. has increased one-third since the beginning of this century, when it was 49 years and eight months.

The improved death rate for early 1947 was shared generally by all of its insured groups, Metropolitan reports in its survey. The relatively low incidence of respiratory diseases during this period was an important factor in the general reduction; deaths from influenza and pneumonia were less than two-thirds the number recorded for the same months of 1946.

But there were lower rates, too, from other important diseases, tuberculosis, the communicable diseases of childhood, syphilis, diabetes and appendicitis.

"Altogether," the Metropolitan reports, "the mortality record for this year is extremely favorable. Barring any serious setback, 1947, will probably take its place in the long series of years which have established new minimum death

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## Policy On Relief In The Post-War Period Reviewed

American Course Report-  
edly Shows Decline In  
Morality

Reviewing its policy on relief and arms in the post-war period, Albert Deutsch, New York writer, expressed the opinion that the American course reflects a decline in morality. He writes:

Progress isn't always linked to passage of time. How far have we advanced in ethical concepts, for instance, during the past generation? Let's take the postwar world relief situation as a measure.

American relief to Europe after World War I was supervised by Herbert Hoover, who had been our "food czar." After that mission was over, rumors began to circulate that Mr. Hoover had used relief as a political instrument, granting it to governments and groups favored by the State Department, withholding it from others. Americans generally were horrified by the notion that bread could possibly be used as a political weapon. The charges against Hoover—later documented—were dismissed as too crude for belief; no American could possibly be so barbarous as to let people hunger because we didn't like their government or their political beliefs.

What is the situation today? Bread as an instrument of politics is an implicit part of our diplomatic policy. Nobody tries to hide it; the great mass of Americans seem to accept it as valid.

The striking differences between our attitude toward bread-in-politics during the two post-war periods reflects, I submit, a lowered level of social morality. Last time, the suggestion was commonly regarded as an abominable slur; today it is accepted as a part of realism.

The decline in our ethics, expressed in the international field, is also discernible in other ways. The House of Representatives voted in full a straight \$100,000,000 military-aid appropriation for Turkey, but slashed \$150,000,000 from the \$350,000,000 requested for food and other desperately-needed relief for war-torn areas. It then attached conditions that beggar the recipient peoples. Congress killed UNRRA last year with the implicit promise that we would see the needy peoples through under other auspices; we have already welched on that promise.

We helped set up the International Relief Organization (IRO) for aid in resettling and rehabilitating displaced persons; the IRO

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## Acts To Prove Odd Fish Story

Claiming that he had been ridiculed when he declared that fish had been rained down from the heavens, J. Lawrence Peel, local jeweler-inventor, appealed to certain authorities to have his story verified.

Mr. Peel is well satisfied with the evidence offered, but his friends are out to gain added proof in support of the story. It was said that during the brief rain last Monday afternoon Druggist Warren Biggs rushed out his door with a fish net. The rain fell for only a short time and no convincing test could be made. However, the druggist is keeping his net in reach for a test later on, the reports adding that Mr. Peel is also maintaining an alert watch for flying fish.

Local Young Man Goes  
With War Department

Just recently back from several years' service in the European theater, Darrell M. Price, an army captain before retiring from active service a short time ago, has accepted a position in the press section of the U. S. War Department's civil affairs division in Washington.

Leaving early this week, Mr. and Mrs. Price are making their home in Clarendon, Va., a suburb of Washington. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Price of Williamston.