Life sentence given for pistol slaying

Bruce Baldwin received a life imprisonment sentence after pleading guilty in Orange County Superior Court last Thursday to the first degree murder of William "Pearlie" Edwards.

The 31-year-old Chapel Hill Negro's case was handled by court-apponted attorney Bob Satterfield. Baldwin was charged with the single-shot pistol slaying of the 20-year-old Edwards youth on the sidewalk in front of a Chapel Hill cafe on the night of Oct. 8.

The defendant acknowledged to Judge Raymond Mallard that he realized the life imprisonment was mandatory if he pleaded guilty to the charge. The entire trial took less than five minutes. Baldwin did not question the only witness in his case, Chapel Hill Patrolman David Caldwell.

The officer testfied that Baldwin had told him that Edwards had called him an "SOB," and that after that he (Baldwin) took a taxicab home, got his pistol, and came back and shot Edward." Baldwin was taken without resistance by officers a few minutes after the slaying.

Other cases:

Joe Lewis, unawful possession and sale of illicit liquor, prayer for judgment continued to Feb. 1961 term.

Walter L. Burgess Jr., an affray; nol pros with leave.

Charlie Atwater; driving drunk; nol pros with leave.

Darell Allison, rape; that he be remanded to jail without bond to await trial; case continued on motion of defendant.

Toy Crabtree; non-support; nol pros with leave.

Howard M. Pendergraft; driving drunk; nol pros with leave.

Joseph Bryan Williams; reckless driving; $50 and costs.

Richard F. Crocker; prayer for judgment continued for two years.

$20 fine against juror Arthur F. Creenbaum was ordered stricken and he was excused for the term.

Charles Craig, assault with deadly weapon; eight months in jail, suspended for five years.

Willie Dempsey Wynn; driving drunk; $200 and costs, six months, suspended for five years;

Duncan McDaniel; worthless check; prayer for judgment continued to February criminal term; $1,000 bond ordered.

Nathaniel Ray Jones; assault with deadly weapon; six months.

Linwood Robert Somers; driving auto after license suspended; $200 and costs, four months, suspended for five years.

Bernice Atwater, crime against nature, innocent.

Clyde Lewis Brown; larceny; innocent.

Bruce Baldwin; murder; life imprisonment.

The cases of Pete Stevens and Clifton Stevens were ordered abated by death and dismissed;

Joseph J. Perring; larceny of auto; nol pros.

Leola Foust; illegal sale of liquor; prayer for judgment continued to Feb. term.

Arvell T. Turner and Walter B. Harrell; prearranged racing; found guilty of engaging in willful speed competition, fined $50 and costs, four months, suspended for three years.

Roscoe Fuller, assault; prayer for judgment continued to Feb. term.

Jack Mack; manufacturing liquor; nol pros with leave.

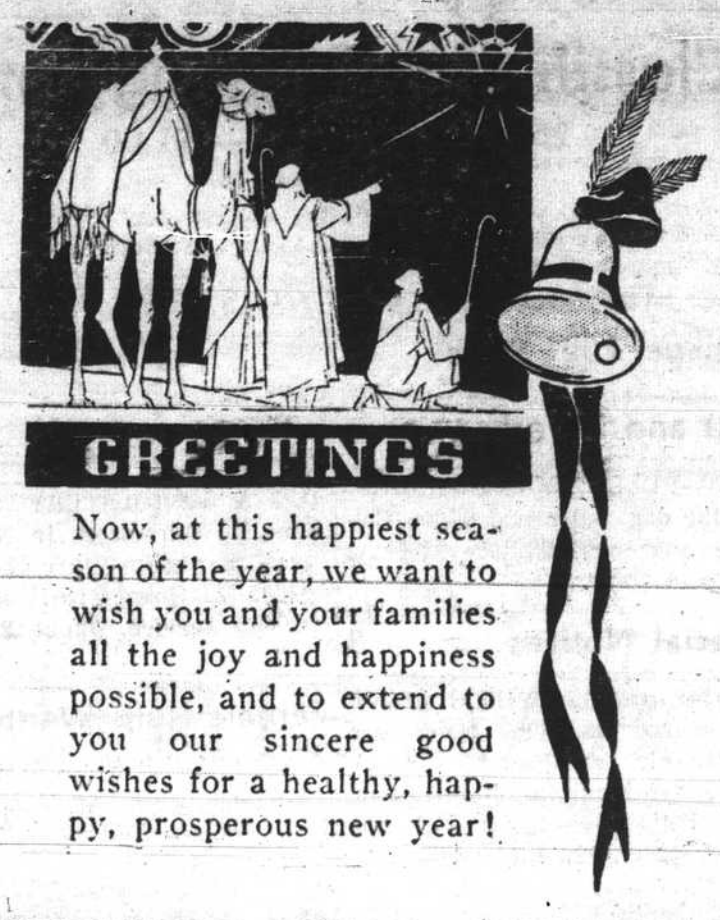
E. C. Neville and Floyd Bowden; violation of zoning ordinance; innocent.

Charlie Farrington, violation of suspended sentence; to serve 30 days.

Rudolph Cotton, two cases of public drunk; violated suspended sentence; to serve 30 days.

Willie Riggsbee; inadequate support; nol pros.

Jessie Thomas Wilson Jr.; reckless driving; $25 and costs; six months, suspended for five years; $3 for use and benefit of Billy McDade; one year suspension of license; on the charge of operating a vehicle without valid operator's license, confined to county jail eight days.



Now, at this happiest season of the year, we want to wish you and your families all the joy and happiness possible, and to extend to you our sincere good wishes for a healthy, happy, prosperous new year!

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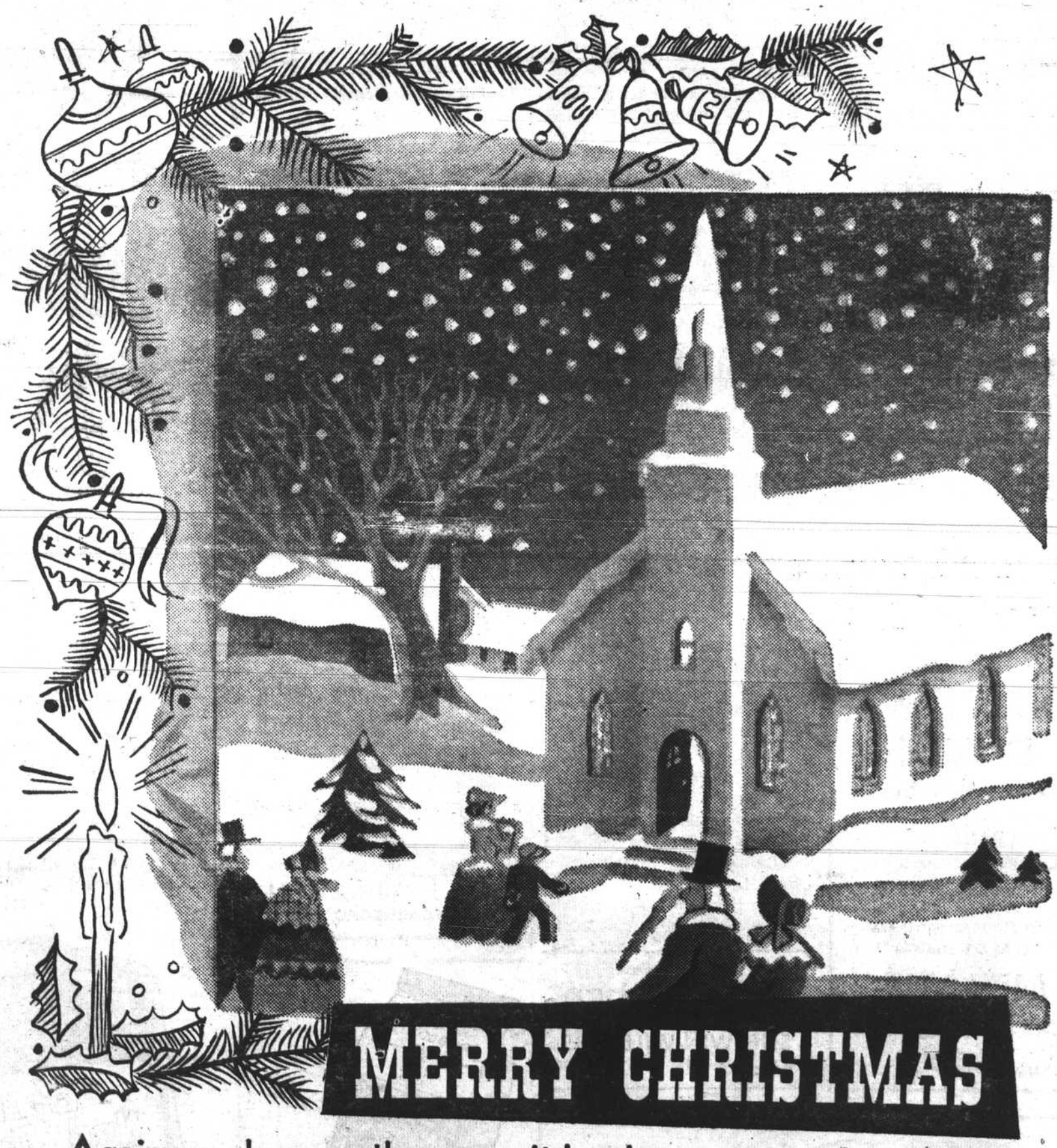

Again we close another year. It has been a year when we have enjoyed your patronage and appreciated your good will. We wish you a Merry Christmas surrounded by family and friends, and a Happy New Year.

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