

Negro Farmhand Confesses Mills and Howard Murders

Last Thursday night Robert Earl Hall, a 22 year-old negro farm worker, being held on a charge of forgery by Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates called the sheriff and confessed to the September 10th shooting that led to the death of Russell Mills and Rodolph Howard, residents of the same neighborhood of western Jones County where Hall lived.

Hall was arrested on September 15th, but did not decide to "tell the truth" until the 24th. He was suspected in the twin-shooting at the time he was picked up on the forgery charge and Yates along with SBI Agents George Canady and E. B. Pearce had accumulated considerable evidence against him at the time Hall decided to confess.

In substance this is the story he told.

The afternoon of the shooting he went to the home of James Fields, and got Fields' .22 caliber rifle, fired it a few times and then without Fields' knowledge took the gun to the "camp" where he lived, which is about 1.2 miles from the scene of the shooting at a filling station operated by Howard at Taylor Crossroads.

Hall says he took the gun to go to Beulaville where he intended to kill a negro that had shot and

seriously wounded him in July of this year. He was hospitalized for some time after the shooting and officers say he is still not completely recovered.

Hall hid the rifle in an out building, and at about 8 o'clock decided to go ask Howard to take him to Beulaville. He said he was going to ask him, and if he refused he was going to make him take him.

Hall walked down the road toward the filling station and each time he saw a car coming he would lay down the rifle. Several people had seen him in the vicinity of the station on the night of the shooting but none had seen the rifle.

Hall says that when he arrived at the station, Howard had already locked up and was out in front talking to arthritic cripple Mills. Hall came from the west to the station which faces south. He says he decided to go around back of the station and wait for Mills to leave. He knew both men well, since he was a native of the neighborhood, and told officers that Mills and Howard were among his best friends.

Hall says he grew tired of waiting for Mills and Howard to finish their talk, and walked out from behind the station and told Howard

who was sitting in the Mills' car to sit still. Howard got out anyway, according to Hall and then Hall says he fired the first of seven shots from the rifle he carried. He says this first shot was fired over the top of the car to frighten the two white men, but Howard ran to his car and said, in substance, "Let me get my pistol and I'll see about this."

Then Hall says he emptied the clip of the rifle in the direction of the two men, firing as rapidly as he could. Four of the bullets hit Howard—one in the face, one in the shoulder and two under the left arm pit. One struck Mills in the head and two other bullet holes were found in the Mills car.

At about that time, Hall says a car came up from the direction of Comfort and Howard ran out and tried to flag it down, but the car turned off NC 41 onto the Pleasant Hill Road and refused to stop, and while Howard stood in the lights Hall says he first realized that he had wounded Howard, since he saw blood all over his shirt.

Hall says then Howard got into his own automobile and drove to the home of State Representative John M. Hargett, about 250 yards north of the station and blew his horn several times.

Hall says he then decided to leave himself. He went to the Mills

car and pushed Mills over to the right side, got in the car and drove just over a mile west toward Hargett Crossroads. He claims that he did not know Mills was wounded at that time. He did not have any more ammunition, explaining why he let Howard drive away.

He says he slowed the Mills car down to about five miles an hour jumped out and let it run in the ditch with its motor running and lights burning. When the car rammed in the ditch he says he noticed Mills still did not move so he went back and saw that Mills was badly wounded. He claims he then tried to back the car out of the ditch and take Mills to a doctor. The officers say there was no evidence that any effort had been made to get the car out of the ditch at the time Mills was found later in the night by another man in the neighborhood, Robert Ellis.

After his failure to get the car out of the ditch Hall claims he then cut off the lights and motor, took the rifle and carried it back to the Fields home and left it on the front porch.

Agent Pearce says fingerprints on the steering wheel of the Mills car appeared to have been deliberately smudged, but a single print was found on one of the spokes of the steering wheel that was not of sufficient quality to

positively identify Hall, but good enough to point in his direction.

The officers knew Hall was in the area. They knew about the rifle. They had the pointing fingerprint and they feel still despite Hall's story that his original motive was robbery. The officers insist that Hall could have gotten numerous people nearer to his home than Howard to have taken him to Beulaville. The officers feel it most unlikely that a negro would have asked a white man to take him off on a shooting mission, and they know that numbers of Hall's friends closer to his "camp" did have cars, and could have been found more easily than Howard. The officers reason that once the shooting started, Hall became panicky, forgot the robbery and just went wild.

The check forgery charge against Hall was the result of his signing W. Bryan Hargett's name to a check the next day after the shooting took place.

In addition to this check charge Hall also has another indictment for simple assault on the docket of this week's session of Jones County Superior Court.

Agents Canady and Pearce express the opinion that Hall is not subnormal mentally. "If anything he's a little brighter than the average", Canady said.

Rotary Scholarship Dinner October 13th

The Annual Meeting of the Second Area of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of North Carolina will be held on Friday, October 9th with the Glen Newton Smith Unit Number 154, Trenton.

Mrs. Z. E. Murrell of Jacksonville, Department President will be guest for the occasion. Mrs. Murrell has selected "Education and Scholarship Loan Fund" as her project for the year. The four main projects of the Auxiliary are the rehabilitation of veterans in hospitals and communities; child welfare; Americanism; and national security.

At the meeting in Trenton the 1960 plans for the second area will be made. About one hundred Auxiliary members are expected to attend. Mrs. Mary E. Best of Kingston, second area Vice President, will preside.

Mrs. Jeannette Lowery of Rt. 1, Trenton is president of the hostess unit. The meeting will convene at 10:30 a. m. in the Legion Hut in Trenton.

Probation for One, Jail for Other in Maysville Break-in

Tuesday in Jones County Superior Court Judge Henry Stevens gave a suspended sentence to one defendant and a prison term to the other in the breaking and entering of the Community Chevrolet Company in July.

Robert Vann Gerock admitted that he took a key he retained as a former employee of the firm and entered it and took some money. He was not sure how much, since he said he was drunk at the time. Sheriff Brown Yates told the court that Gerock came from one of Maysville's best families and was a good fellow except when drinking.

Gerock's attorney, George Hughes, said since the July event Gerock had been committed to the inebriated ward of the State Hospital but had gotten drunk "almost on the way home."

Judge Stevens said in view of Gerock's family background he was going to give him a chance, but he expressed doubt that Gerock would live up to it. The change was a two-year prison term suspended upon condition Gerock remain on probation for two years and upon the special condition that he not drink a drop of any alcoholic beverage during that

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Organized Effort to Improve Teen-Aged Diet Started by Jones County Youth Groups

By Mrs. Fred Pippin

In a recent national survey, it was found that six teenage girls and four teenage boys out of 10 have inadequate diets. These findings come from the Cooperative Nutritional Status Studies in the Western Region. Seven-day diet records were collected from about 800 boys and girls, age 13-15 years.

The problem of the Extension Department is how to improve teenage nutrition. They need to involve both boys and girls in organized programs and expand it to all teenagers. The best approach is to carry on nutrition programs with a joint meeting of boys and girls.

Jo Earp, Extension Nutrition Specialist, met with a group of Jones County teenagers to see if they would do some pilot work on this problem. Jones County was the rural county selected in North Carolina, and Guilford County, the metropolitan, was also selected.

After some discussion, the group decided to undertake this problem.

The other defendant, who broke in the same establishment on the same night, took keys to all the company cars and some cash in a zothered drew a flat nine months another box that Gerock had not in prison. He was Jesse Foy. Foy told the court he saw Gerock go in the place and some out, leaving the door open so he just went in and helped himself to the keys and money and then took one of the company's cars and drove it around a while before leaving it in a wooded area about eight miles from Maysville.

HAULERS HOOKED

Jesse Artis of Kingston route six and Johnny Ray Harris of Hookerton route one were arrested last week on charges of transporting non-taxpaid whisky.

Negro Brothers Draw Prison Terms for Assaulting 'Cousin'

Two negro brothers, Herman and Tadie Jones, Tuesday pled guilty to assaulting their cousin-in-law with a shotgun and generally breaking bad in a neighborhood just east of Trenton during August of this year.

They admitted they were "all drunk" and did not deny shooting up the home of their kinfolk and later chasing another family out of their home in the same neighborhood.

They were given one year in prison to meditate upon the error of their way.

It decided to form a County Council on Teenage Nutrition and the following officers were elected: Co-chairman Pat Huffman and Wellyn Dawson, and secretary Elaine Parker. A representative was from all teenage organized groups in the county. They plan to meet again soon and select a project to begin work on.

The teenage girl is the biggest concern. The reasons are 1. girls are poorer fed than boys, 2. girls are often short of calcium, iron and vitamin C. Boys are often short of calcium, thiamine and vitamin C. The reasons that girls are poorer fed are that they skip breakfast, eat poor snacks, drink no milk and fear they will get fat. Changing these bad habits means a long step toward better diets. Calories are only one part of the weight control picture; activity is the other. When calories and activities balance, weight remains steady. The Jones County teenagers are planning to make up good diets and try to get all teenagers to participate in this nutrition improvement program.

Cadet Mallard Gets Promotion at College



Cadet George O. Mallard, II of Trenton Rt. 1 has returned to Frederick Military College at Portsmouth, Va. A graduate of Jones Central High School in 1958, he has received a promotion to serve as captain of Group A this year. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Mallard.

Dr. J. P. Tyndall to Direct Workshop in Education at Penn.

Dr. J. P. Tyndall, Chairman of the Department of Science and Mathematics at Atlantic Christian College, will serve as director of two special science workshops at the University of Pennsylvania in October.

The workshops are a part of the annual Schoolmen's Week at the University of Pennsylvania. Started in 1914, Schoolmen's Week at the university is held each year to keep Pennsylvania leaders in the field of education abreast of the latest developments. About 20,000 public school teachers, principals, supervisors, and college faculty members are expected to attend October 14-17.

On Thursday, October 15, Dr. Tyndall will direct a science workshop for primary school teachers. On Friday, October 16, he is scheduled to direct a workshop for middle grade teachers.

A native of Trenton, Dr. Tyndall was educated at Atlantic Christian College, Duke, University of North Carolina, and University of Florida. He holds a doctorate from the University of Florida.

During the summer he directed a special workshop for teachers of science education at the University of Pennsylvania.

Assisting Dr. Tyndall in the two workshops will be Stanley K. Robinson, teacher at Chestnut Hill Academy in Philadelphia, Pa., and James E. Polins, teachers at Belmont Elementary School, Upper Merion Township, Pennsylvania.

Senator Sam Ervin Says...

WASHINGTON—This week I am going to discuss the proposed Constitutional Amendment in the field of civil rights.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The Constitution provides that "each state shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the state may be entitled in the Congress" (Article II, Clause 2); that "the House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states, and the electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous

branch of the State Legislatures" (Article 1, Section 2); and that "the Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each state, elected by the people thereof, for six years . . . The electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislatures" (Amendment 17, Clause 1).

FRAMERS WERE WISE

If history shows anything, it shows that the framers of the Constitution were wise in permitting the states to prescribe the qualifications for voters. On one occasion, Congress rejected the wisdom of the Founding Fathers in this respect and undertook to let

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