

This Is The Law

By ROBERT E. LEE
ASSISTING POLICE
OFFICER

Is it a criminal offense for a citizen to wilfully neglect or refuse to assist in the arresting of a person when he is so commanded by a police officer?

Yes. A sheriff or other officer of the law may require a bystander to assist him in making an arrest.

A sheriff or his deputy may command any citizen to accompany him on a trip to arrest a person or to execute a legal process. If the citizen wilfully refuses or neglects to do so, he is himself guilty of a crime. A North Carolina statute expressly so provides.

To the person summoned by a lawful officer to come to his aid in making an arrest, the nature of the offense and the name of the person to be arrested is immaterial. "It is not for him to ask the reason why." It is his duty as a good citizen, and in obedience to the authority of the State as represented by a lawful officer, to aid in the arrest. The guilt or innocence of the party to be arrested does not impair the authority of the police official to command assistance.

and medical treatment and loss of time from work. May James recover from the State of North Carolina for the damages he has sustained?

There is no general law under which he may recover. Yet, if James had failed to aid the officer upon request to do so he could have been charged with a crime.

This was an actual situation arising in North Carolina in 1957. Recognizing the injustice of the situation, the General Assembly in 1959 enacted a special act authorizing the North Carolina Industrial Commission to investigate the claim of Robert James,

and upon satisfactory proof of the facts as stated, to pay to him a sum not in excess of two thousand dollars.

If a similar situation should arise in the future, the injured claimant could recover only upon the passage of a bill applicable to the named claimant and not in excess of the amount determined by the General Assembly.

WEEK-END AT NAGS HEAD

Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Whedbee spent the week-end at their cottage at Nags Head.

RICHMOND GUEST
Mrs. W.B. Huxter of Richmond, Va. is a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar White.

Bridge Results

Mrs. T. W. Wilson was hostess to her bridge club Thursday at a luncheon at her home on Front Street. Guests included Mrs. S. M. Whedbee, Mrs. J. H. Newbold, Mrs. S. P. Jessup, Mrs. C. A. Davenport, Mrs. T. B. Sumner, Mrs. J. R. Futrell, Mrs. C. R. Holmes, and Mrs. Grace Llewellyn. Mrs. Davenport was high score winner at bridge.

Miss Ruby White entertained her bridge club Tuesday night at her home on Church Street. Those playing were Mrs. H. C. Stokes, Mrs. G. W. Barbee, Mrs. John Coston, Mrs. T. L. Jessup, Mrs. Jack Kanoy, Mrs. Herbert Nixon, Miss Mary Sumner, and the hostess.

Mrs. Kanoy won the high score prize. A sweet course was served.

A State highway patrolman was having trouble in placing under arrest a soldier who was driving a stolen automobile. The patrolman called upon Robert James to aid him in making the arrest. James responded to the request and while aiding the patrolman in taking the soldier into custody, the soldier kicked him to the ground and in the course of the struggle inflicted serious injuries on James. James suffered a broken leg and other injuries requiring extensive hospital

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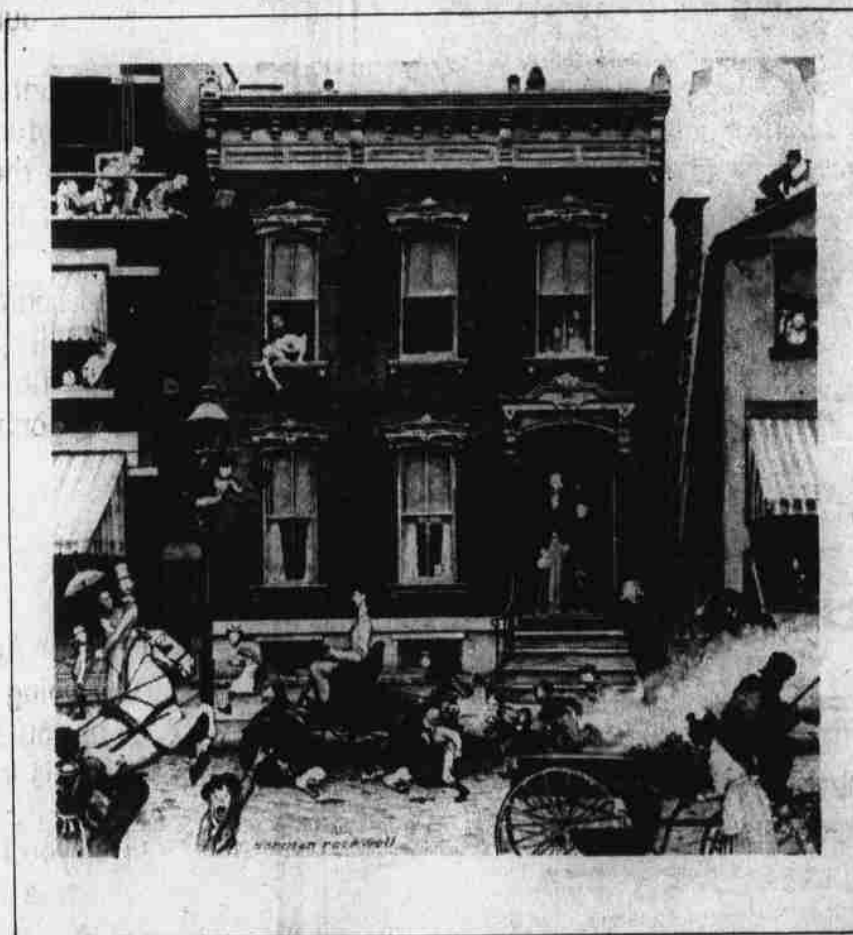
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