Bride Killer Given Chair

May Be First Woman Electrocuted in D.C.

THWARTED IN LOVE

Shot the Rival Who Married 'Her Man'

WASHINGTON

Comely Cloteil (Tex) Cox, 38, on trial in District Court for the fatal shooting of a four-day bride in the Dunbar Hotel last August, was convicted of first-degree murder, Tuesday, by a jury of six women and six men.

CLOTEIL COX

The month-delayed trail, which was originally scheduled for a grand jury hearing last Nov. 8, began Monday, before Judge Henry A. Schweinhaut, during which it was brought out that Miss Cox fatally shot Mrs. Hattie Hutchison Lavender, 34, in the latter's suite at the hotel, 2015 15th St., N. W.

Unless the convicted slayer wins a reversal in a higher court or executive clemency, she will be the first woman ever to be electrocuted in the District.

Death Penalty Mandatory

The first-degree murder verdict, returned by the jury which deliberated an hour and a half, carries with it a mandatory death penalty. Court officials said they could not remember any other woman convicted of first-degree murder here.

The fatal shooting was an outgrowth of a love triangle. The third party in the triangle was Casey Lavender, a petty officer in the United States Navy, stationed at Norfolk, Va.

It climaxed a hectic and disappointing love life for Miss Cox, an alleged "girl friend" of Mrs. Lavender and a former sweetheart of Mr. Lavender.

"You'll Never Take Another"

A witness quoted the convicted woman as saying, "You took my man, but you'll never take another one," as she fired the lethal shots last Aug. 2 as the bride was packing to join her husband.

Witnesses testified that Mr. Lavender, after dating both women for about two years, finally married Hattie last July in Rockville, Md., and then returned to his post at the Naval Air Station in Norfolk.

Present with Mrs. Lavender at the time of the shooting were two friends, Misses Marion Moore, 308 Florida Ave., N.W., and Marie Taylor, who also lived in the hotel.

Two Describe Shooting

They testified that Miss Cox came to Mrs. Lavender's suite and said she wanted to congratulate the bride. She was invited in and drinks were served. They asserted she had several drinks and had taken two types of sleeping drugs, she pointed out.

Two types of medicine were presented in court by Defense Attorney Robert I. Miller, which witnesses, Dr. Rosenberg, deputy coroner, and Dr. Claude Carmichael, private physician, said would make a person insensible as to behavior if overdoses were taken.

Mr. Miller argued that Miss Cox was intoxicated and was not in any frame of mind to deliberate.

The prosecution did not specifically ask for the death penalty but asked the jury to return a verdict of guilty to the first degree murder charge.

Manslaughter Ruled Out

In charging the jury, Judge Schweinhaut pointed out they could return a verdict of first-degree murder, second-degree murder or not guilty. He ruled out manslaughter because the evidence Cox walked from the living room in the rear did not warrant such a verdict.

Miller expressed surprise when the jury returned its verdict of first-degree murder and stated that he would appeal to the appellate Court and Supreme Court, if necessary.

Miss Cox, who is a former employe of the Republic Gardens, appeared in court in a black hat and black coat. Her once red hair has turned grey. Throughout the trial she appeared to be silently pretty officer uniform.

Miss Cox, who is a former employe of the Republic Gardens, appeared in court in a black hat and black coat. Her once red hair has turned grey. Throughout the trial she appeared to be silently pretty officer uniform.

Seen among the spectators in the overcrowded courtroom was her ex-sweetheart and husband of her victim, Mr Lavender, in his uniform.

Fisher Suit Back in Okla. Court

OKLAHOMA CITY—(NNPA) The suit of Mrs. Ada Sipuel Fisher to compel her admission to the Law School of the University of Oklahoma is back before the State Supreme Court.

An appeal has been filed with the Court from the decision of Judge Justin Hinshaw who denied her application for a writ of mandamus to compel university authorities to admit her.

Trial Last May

In the trial last May, it was contended that facilities of the Langston University's Law School at the Capitol were not equal to those offered at the white university.

Gov. Roy J. Turner said on Jan. 6 he has yet to discuss the matter with Mac Q. Williamson, attorney general, before determining whether he will ask the Legislature for appropriations to continue the law school at the Capitol.

The school has been financed for the last 11 months by a $36,000 grant from the Governor's contingency fund.

School Boycotted

It was set up for colored students after the U. S. Supreme Court ordered the State to provide facilities for Mrs. Fisher to get a legal education equal to those at the University of Oklahoma, or admit her to the white State-supported institution.

AWAITING SENTENCE FOR BLINDING MAN

ELIZABETH —Judge Walter L. Hetfield has set Jan. 27 for sentencing of Christopher Gordon, 27, of 536 W. Third St., Plainfield, for blinding Robert Allen, 524 W. Second St., Plainfied, on Oct. 26, 1947. Gordon was convicted of punching Allen in his one good eye last week.

RE-ELECTED 15th TIME

LOS ANGELES—Thomas L. Griffith was re-elected last week to his 15th successive term as president of the Los Angeles NAACP.

Entire 'Rights' Program in Message by Truman

President, Queried on Lack of Reference to Washington Home Rule, Cites '48 Plea

WASHINGTON — (NNPA) — President Truman made it clear last Thursday that he included his whole civil rights program in his State-of-the-Union message which he delivered to Congress in person on Jan. 5.

The question arose in connection with the omission of a specific reference to Home Rule for the District of Columbia in his message.

Message All-Inclusive

A reporter remarked at the President's press conference last Thursday that there was some disappointment in Washington because of his failure to recommend Home Rule for the District of Columbia.

Mr Truman said he had included his civil rights message of Feb. 2, 1948, in his State-of-the-Union message, and he thought the subject was thoroughly covered.

1948 Requests Recalled

In his civil rights message, Mr. Truman asked Congress for:

Legislation establishing a permanent civil rights commission, a joint Congressional committee on civil rights, a civil rights division in the Justice Department, strengthening of existing Federal civil rights law, a Federal antilynching law, more adequate protection of the right to vote, establishment of an FEPC and legislation prohibiting racial discrimination in interstate travel.

In addition, the President asked Congress to provide home rule and suffrage in Presidential elections for District of Columbia residents, statehood for Hawaii and Alaska, greater self-government for insular possessions, equal opportunities for alien residents to become naturalized citizens, and settlement of evacuation claims of Japanese-Americans.

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BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN

Morganites Visit Smithsonian Institute

In connection with its science survey these Morgan State College students recently visited the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. They are shown assembled before one of the Morgan buildings prior to leaving the city. (Above) The professors who accompanied them were Charles Key, Dr. John W. King, Dr. Thomas P. Graser and Noville W. Hunter, all of Morgan's science department.

Robert Wilkins Joins Police Staff

Robert C. Wilkins, 25, 1924 Riggs Ave., was one of the 15 Baltimore men named to the police department, on Wednesday.

Wilkins, attended Dunbar Junior and Senior High Schools and served in the U. S. Army Quartermaster Corps for three years.

A second colored applicant, Raymond C. Pinderhughes, 23, 548 W. Lanvale St., also was named, but on Thursday, the personnel bureau of the police department received his resignation in which he said he had other plans.

Sworn in

The applicants were worn in in the Police Headquarters Building, Thursday, assigned to various districts, then enrolled in the training school for an eight-week course.

The personnel bureau announced that 13 vacancies still exist in the department.

It Happened In Court

JAILED FOR ASSAULTING 2 WOMEN

Escaping conviction on a charge of criminal attack, Henry Anderson of the 1100 block N. Gilmor St. was sentenced Friday to six months in the house of correction for assault and battery upon two women.

All three parties lived in the Gilmor St. rooming house where the crimes occurred on Dec. 19, it was said. One woman charged that Anderson attacked her while she and another woman were visiting him. Policewoman Violet Hill Whyte affirmed the fact that one of the women suffered a swollen face and a broken tooth.

RAMPAGE WITH KNIFE NETS 90-DAY TERM

Convicted of carrying a disk knife and of disorderly conduct, Luther Byrd, 33, of 1014 Lamont Ave., was sentenced to 90 days in jail, Sunday, in Northwestern police court.

TELESCOPE THIEF GETS 6 MONTHS

Charles Friday, 36, of 1127 E. Amity St. convicted in Western police court on Friday of the theft of a pair of binoculars and a telescope, was sentenced to six months in the house of correction by Magistrate Preston Paire.

CHIEF BRAWL PARTICIPANT FINED

The chief participant in a brawl, which progressed from fist blows to kicks, James Steele, 50, of 636 Greenwillow St., was fined $11.45 in Western police court on Monday. Mrs. Fannie Matthews, 706½ W. Fairmount Ave.; Was the victim.

$57 WALLET THEFT SUSPECT HELD

—The theft of a $1 wallet containing $57 resulted in Samuel Allen of 217 Myrtle Ave. being placed under $1500 bail for court action, when he was given a preliminary hearing on Monday in Western police court before Magistrate Preston Paire.

NEW YEAR'S EVE ASSAILANT JAILED

Convicted of assaulting a man who said he was robbed of $14 and his watch, Arthur Hargrave of the 1800 block Saratoga St. was sentenced, Monday, to six months in jail by Judge John T. Tucker.

James A. Washington of the 1300 block Edmondson Ave., the victim, said he entered a bar next to his home on New Year's Eve, and later he caught Hargrave's hand in his pocket. The manager ejected Hargrave, who waited outside and knocked him unconscious, Washington added.

DIAMONDS MISSING; SUSPECT JAILED

Said to have walked out of a jewelry store with $6,000 worth of diamonds which police have not recovered, James Butler, 42, of 825 Linden Ave., was sentenced, Thursday, to five years in the house of correction.

Butler was in a Baltimore St. jewelry store with another man on Oct. 25 when he scooped up a packet containing 60 diamonds and left the place, proprietors said. Butler denied the theft.

TRAFFIC VICTIM SUES CAR DRIVERS

Suing both the driver of the car in which he was injured and the driver of the second which figured in the collision, William S. Canady of 1821 W. North Ave. entered a $10,000 suit, last week, in Superior Court.

Through his attorney, Mr. Canaday relates that he was riding in the car with Joseph W. Gause Jr. of 646 George St. on Oct. 10, when the automobile collided with another and overturned on St. Paul St. The other driver was identified as C. Paul Maenner of 5701 Edge Park Rd.

2 LOTTERY OPERATORS FINED

Pleading guilty to participating in a lottery operation at a home in the 1800 block Baker St., Theodore Chester was fined $50 and costs, and Mrs. Bessie Caldwell $10 and costs, Thursday, by Judge Robert France.

Sgt. Thomas Joyce said the house is a "turning-in station" and that 309 slips representing 37 stations were uncovered when the place was raided Dec. 15. U. Theodore Hayes, attorney, represented the defendants.

TEEN-AGER ACCUSED OF 12 BURGLARIES

A teen-age youth, charged with committing 12 burglaries since Oct. 7, was held for grand jury action under $6,000 bail, Sunday, after a preliminary hearing in Northwestern police court.

He is Chezles R. Walker, 17, of 524 N. Carrollton Ave.

Later, Edward Snowden, 48, of 524 N. Gilmor St., was held in $500 bail for grand jury action on a charge of receiving a .32-calibre revolver from Walker. The gun, police said, was stolen in one of the burglaries.

BATTERY THIEF CAUGHT IN ACT

Said to have been caught in the act of stealing a battery from a parked truck, two men were given 30 days in jail following a hearing in Northwestern police court, Tuesday.

They were identified as William Jordan, 23, 1125 Stockton St., and William Frederick, 35, 515 Bloom St. The vehicle was listed as the property of Will Wright of 1625 Division St.

$100 FINE IMPOSED FOR FRACAS IN HOME

After a disturbance in his home at 415 N. Carrollton Ave., Joseph T. Miller, 26, was fined $100 in Northeastern police court, Thursday, for disorderly conduct and possessing brass knuckles.

SUSPECT IN 'YOKING AREA' FINED

Arrested in the same neighborhood in which three young men were yoked and robbed late Sunday, Purnell Atkinson, 28, 1600 Spray Ct., was fined $25 and costs for the possession of a paring knife, Tuesday morning.

JURY INDICTS MAN IN BURGLARY

The grand jury, this week, returned burglary charges brought against Melvin Johnson, 32, of the 900 block Madison Ave., by Det Sgt. James Butler and Det. Lloyd Johnson.

According to the officers, Johnson was arrested on Jan. 11 for the theft of two radios and clothing from a Baker St. home on Jan. 10.

Youth Group Eyes Talent Program

The NAACP Youth Council will hold its annual Talent Program at 3 p.m. Jan. 30, at Sharp St. Methodist Church.

Special features will include:

The Girls Choir of East Baltimore, under the direction of Edward Stencil with Miss Mamie Barbour, coloratura soprano, and Jean Brown, mezzo-soprano. Dunbar Junior High School pupils, as guest soloists; the Grace Presbyterian Church Junior Choir, under Mrs. Mercedes Douglass, and St Ann's Juniorites with the Rev. Mrs Lillian Thompson directing.

Speaker From Morgan

Madison Allen of Morgan State College, will be guest speaker. Other youth talent in voice, piano and oratory, from throughout the city will be presented.

Miss Thelma Watson is chairman; Miss Jean Neverdon, secretary; Mrs. Beatrice Martin and Maceo Howard, advisors, and Mrs Lillie M. Jackson, president.

A fellowship dinner and evening of recreation, first project of this kind, sponsored by the Membership Committee of NAACP, will be given at Sharp St. Methodist Church Jan. 27 from 5 to 8, Mrs Mayme Griffin chairman.

Feb. 1 Trial Date in Double-Slaying

Feb. 1 has been set as the trial date for Thomas Edwards, 23-year-old Marley Neck war veteran charged in the double-slaying of a white Glen Burnie couple.

The trial is scheduled to get under way before Judge Robert France in the Criminal Court with Anselm Sodaro, top assistant in the State's Attorney's office, prosecuting.

Venue Change Granted

Two Annapolis lawyers, appointed by the court there to defend Edwards, succeeded in having the trial removed to Baltimore, when they argued that the defendant could not obtain a fair and impartial hearing in Annapolis.

The attorneys are James C. MacWilliams and Ridgley P. Melvin. Edwards is charged in the killings, last Sept. 17, near Ferndale, Md., of Miss Mary Kline and John H. Mahlan.

Car Crash Leads to Larceny Ring

The crash of a stolen car early Monday, led to the arrest of seven persons operating a larceny ring. The suspected ranged from 16 to 25 years of age.

Following hearings in Northwestern police court, Tuesday, at which they faced four larceny and burglary charges, the suspects were held under $14,000 aggregate bail to await grand jury action.

They were identified as: Herbert Banks, 22, 609 Mosher St., Harry Mathews, 24, 403 Pearl St., Melvin Bowie, 17, 660 Franklin St., John Madison, 17, 407 Pearl St., Robert Thompson, 25, 402 Pearl St., Roland Queen, 16, 638 Argyle Ave., and Paul Edwards, 17, of Severn, Md.

Police Chase Car

Police reported that shortly after 3 a.m. Monday, they noticed a stolen car speeding through the 1500 block of Argyle Ave., and gave chase.

The pursuit continued, officers stated, until car sideswiped two parked automobiles and crashed into a building, pinning the driver in the wreckage.

The subsequent investigation led to the arrest of seven young men and the lodging of larceny and burglary charges, involving an auto and $200 in loot.

The case was investigated by Sgt. Joseph Alberts, and officers Isadore Glass, Roger Stocksdale and Anthony Cadden.

Cooker Full of Chitterlings Perils Pair

That popular timesaver in the modern kitchen, the pressure cooker, can be classed as a deadly weapon, according to Mrs. Mattie Roberts of 638 N. Fulton Ave.

"Something went wrong. The thing exploded; and the next thing I knew, I was on the floor and I hurt all over," she told the AFRO on Thursday, shortly after her pressure cooker blew up and spattered half its contents, chitterlings, all over the place.

Walls Liberally Plastered

"My kitchen is a wreck, the stove is bent, the walls and windows covered with grease and many of my dishes broken. H. Foster, who was here helping me, was just covered with chitterlings," Mrs. Roberts added.

The damage was bad enough, but added to that is the time she lost in preparing the meal for the Order of Protective Fellowship, which was to hold a supper at her home that night, she lamented.

"I don't know why I wasn't killed, but I do know that I'm through with pressure cookers forever, Mrs. Roberts declared.

$100,000 Goal Set in Seal Drive

A goal of $100,000 has been set for the 1949 Easter Seal Campaign of the Maryland League of Crippled Children, a private philanthropic agency to be headed this year by Dr. George E. Bennett, surgeon.

Involving an estimated 5,000 handicapped persons in the State, the Easter Seal program is part of a national campaign to provide funds for services to the handicapped. The drive this year extends from March 17 to April 17.

Contributions will help maintain a sheltered workshop in Baltimore and extend service for cerebral palsy clinics and school opportunities all over the State. During its 22 years of service, the Maryland League has aided more than 10,000 crippled children.

Chi Commerce Group to Install Officers

CHICAGO (ANP) — Sidney A. Jones, president of Cook County Bar Association, will install the 1949 officers of the Chicago Negro chamber of Commerce at its annual informal banquet in Community Food Service, Jan. 18.

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