Doomed Man Says 'God Saved Me'; Given 'Reprieve'

Felt He'd Be Spared From The Chair, Knew God Wouldn't Let Innocent Man Die—Doomed Man

RICHMOND

"I knew God wouldn't let an innocent man die . . ."

That's the way Albert Jackson Jr., who was saved from execution when lightning struck power lines to the electric chair, explained his narrow escape from death.

Interviewed in the death row at the State penitentiary, Jackson said he didn't expect to be saved by lightning but he felt certain he would be spared from the chair "by some means."

The 24-year-old Charlottesville man, sentenced to die for the criminal attack of a 40-year-old white woman on May 5, 1951, gained national publicity when lightning knocked out power lines to the death house just three days before he was to be executed.

"New Date Set"

Since the damage could not be repaired in time for the scheduled execution, the court set July 28 as the new execution date, automatically granting Jackson a 30-day lease on life.

As news of the phenomenon spread across the country, it set off a chain reaction of sympathy for the doomed youth. Letters poured into the penitentiary, to the Governor and to editors of Richmond newspapers.

"An Act Of God"

Most of the letters described the "act of God" as a "warning" and asked that Jackson's case be reconsidered. Some asked a commutation of sentence.

Meanwhile, a citizens committee, formed in Richmond launched an independent probe and reportedly uncovered some new evidence.

Last Saturday, Martin A. Martin, attorney, journeyed to Charlottesville and obtained a 30-day stay of execution from Judge R. Watson Sadler, of Charlottesville Corporation Court — the same judge who sentenced Jackson to die.

Judge Sadler said in the order that he wished to afford the defendant an opportunity to present a petition for clemency to Governor Battle, who was then attending the Democratic convention in Chicago.

The Commonwealth's attorney agreed to the stay, the order said.

New Trial Sought

Mr. Martin said that if sufficient evidence is unearthed in the investigation now underway, he would seek a new trial for Jackson. If not, Mr. Martin added, he would present a petition for clemency to the governor and seek a commutation of sentence.

The new execution date is Aug. 25.

Maintains Innocence

Jackson has maintained his innocence since his arrest over a year ago. The alleged attack occurred in a Charlottesville parking lot. The defendant insisted that no force was used and that it was a "mercenary transaction." This was substantiated by the first policeman on the scene who reported hearing the woman say, "Give me my five dollars."

Meanwhile, Jackson bides his time in the death house, reading the Bible and praying.

"The Lord always answers prayers, I don't think he'll let me down," Jackson told his lawyer Mr. Martin in a death house interview.

When originally tried, Jackson was defended by Gregory Swanson, Martinsville attorney.

Md. Man Slain, Wife Kidnapped

The killer of a 45-year-old New Market, Md. man and abductor of his wife is being sought by a posse combing a wooded area of this St. Marys' county hamlet.

Andrew Barnes was killed by a blast from a 12-gauge shotgun, fired from outside his home at 3 o'clock Sunday night.

The killer escaped into the woods with Barnes's wife, State police reported.

Another Escapes

An undentified man, in the house at the time, jumped out a window and ran two miles to a telephone to notify police.

Joining in the search are Sheriff Willard B. Long of St. Marys county and his deputies, State police under Sgt. Richard E. Stallings, and a detail of men from the Patuxent River Naval Air base.

Burglar Helps Free His Pal

Edward Beasley, 21, 1100 block Forrest St., pleaded guilty Monday morning in Criminal Court to a burglary charge and then took the stand to help a friend accused of receiving stolen property.

Chief Judge W. Conwell Smith found Beasley's friend, Norman Scott, 21, 1000 block E. Sterling St., not guilty and sentenced Beasley to 2 years in the Md. State Reformatory for Males.

Beasley admitted he had broken into a Southern Avenue home on July 16 and stole two watches and two pairs of shoes. He said he gave one of the watches to Scott who the latter helped him move on July 17.

Scott, who was just paroled in February after serving a 3-year term for burglary, denied he knew the watch Beasley gave him was stolen.

2 Boys Shot As They Sit Near Home

1 Badly Wounded; 37-Year-Old Man Held As Suspect

Two young boys were shot as they sat talking on the steps of a house in the 1200 block of Madison Ave., about 10:15 p.m. Saturday night.

One of them, 14-year-old Samuel Walker, who lived in the block, is in fair condition in Provident Hospital. A bullet was removed from his back after piercing his abdomen.

The other youth, Albert Paster, 15, also a resident of the 1200 block of Madison Ave., was treated at Maryland General hospital and released, a bullet having gone through his left hand.

37-Year-Old Suspect

A 37-year-old suspect is being held in connection with the incident.

The two boys told Northwestern district police that they were seated on the steps Saturday night when two men passed by and one stopped and said to the other:

"There's the—that jumped me."

Gunman Left Alone

The man then told his companion to wait for him, the boys said, but the second man walked off.

The two youngsters reported that the first man then pulled a .38-caliber pistol from his belt and fired.

Walker says he jumped from the steps and started running down the street but fell and was shot before he could get away.

Police said, however, that only one shot may have been fired, that one having passed through the hand of the Paster boy and hitting young Walker, who might not have realized he was shot until he fell.

The suspect was arrested after he was named by one of the boys as having shot them. The other youth said he did not know the man.

Burglar Given Year's Sentence

Milton Frazer, 22, 800 block N. Aisquith St., was sentenced to a year in the Md. State Reformatory for Males, Monday, after he pleaded guilty to a burglary charge in Criminal Court.

Frazer was accused of breaking into a lunch counter in the 6600 block Holabird Ave. around 3 a.m. July 26 and taking three packs of cigars and $22.50 in currency.

Police, responding to a call, knew the watch Beasley gave him was stolen.

Governor Cuts Sentences Of 6 Jailed For Murder

Upon recommendation of the parole, probation and commutation board, Gov. Theodore R. McKeldin has granted paroles and commutations of sentences to several inmates of the Maryland House of Correction.

Five of the persons affected by the governor's order have been convicted of murder.

John Wright sentenced in Oct. 1940 by the Somerset County Circuit Court to life imprisonment for 1st degree murder was released under parole. His sentence had previously been commuted 35 years.

Clarence Johnson sentenced on Sept. 5, 1947, to 10 years in the House of Correction for 2nd degree murder, was released under parole.

Another inmate, William Albert Thomas, also sentenced for 2nd degree murder, was also released.

Thomas was sentenced July 23, 1946, by the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County to nine years after the storekeeper he assaulted and robbed died of injuries.

Commutations Of Sentences

Three other inmates sentenced to life imprisonment on 1st degree murder charges received commutations of sentences.

They were Herman Cole whose sentence was reduced to 25 years and William E. Harris and Vernon Hopkins whose sentences were reduced to 40 years.

Hopkins was sentenced in January 1940; Harris in 1938, and Cole in March 1945 by the Circuit Court of Frederick County.

Paroled or Pardoned

The following other inmates were released on parole:

Leroy Bishop who was sentenced Feb. 24, 1951, to 4 years on two charges of assault to murder. Bishop is to be returned to North Carolina, his native state, where he will be under parole supervision.

Ernest Corbett who was sentenced in Oct. 1951 by the Magistrate's Court of Carroll County for assault with a deadly weapon.

Thomas A. Harper who was sentenced in December 1951 to 18 months in the House of Correction by the Circuit Court of Montgomery County for assault with intent to murder.

Hoabert Lee Johnson who was sentenced Feb. 14, 1952 by the Magistrate's Court of Talbot County for one year on a charge of assault and beating with a deadly weapon.

Elijah White Patterson, sentenced Feb. 1948 by the I. Marys' County Circuit Court to eight years for juvenile delinquency.

James O. Whitehead sentenced Oct. 1951 for purse snatching.

Leroy D. Walker Sr., sentenced Oct. 1951 by the circuit court of Prince Georges county to two years for carrying a concealed weapon, assault with intent to kill, and assault and battery.

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He Doesn't Want To Kill

Pvt. Hugh S. Carter, Boston, who has staged a 15-day sit-down strike at Blackstone, Va. A member of Jehovah's Witnesses, he opposes "Killing." He is in the Medical Corps.

Four Cut In Hoffman Street Knife Battle

A free-for-all knife-wielding battle in the 200 block of Hoffman St., was brought to a conclusion Saturday, after four people had virtually "cut each other to pieces."

The four were: Mrs. Susy Perry, 45, 200 block Hoffman St.; Mrs. Alfreda Downey, 29, 500 block Bridgeview Rd.; James Downey, 30, 500 block Bridgeview Rd.; and Miss Jeanette Downey, 25, 500 block Bridgeview Rd.

All were treated at Provident Hospital for cuts and bruises following their arrest.

James Downey was hospitalized after suffering stab wounds in the chest. His condition has been described as serious.

Two "Spectators"

Two other persons, who described themselves as spectators, were also arrested. They were: Herikiah Downey, 21, 1121 Pennsylvania Rd.; and Richard Perry, 48, 200 block Hoffman St.

The wholesale butchering began during a drinking party at the Hoffman St. address.

According to witnesses, Mrs. Perry at first stabbed James Downey during an argument over drinking glasses.

Wife Returned

Downey's wife Alfreda accompanied him to the hospital but returned to the Perry home. Upon her arrival, it was stated that she informed Mrs. Perry, "I come back to cut you for stabbing James."

Mrs. Perry stated that she ran to the kitchen to get a knife and was followed by Mrs. Downey who picked up a knife from a nearby table. Both then commenced cutting away at each other.

At the conclusion of the slashing, the right arm of Mrs. Perry had been cut to the bone and she had gashes on the left hand of Mrs. Downey had been cut.

Ear Cut "Accidently"

Miss Jeanette Downey suffered cuts on the right hand after "throwing in front" of the two women, she stated.

A sister — in-law of Alfreda, she claimed that she had nothing to do with the cutting.

In a hearing Tuesday before Magistrate E. Everett Lane at Northwestern, the four cutting cases were postponed until Aug. 12. It is believed that by then, James Downey will be able to appear in court.

Bail for Mrs. Susy Perry was set at $1,100; and for Alfreda Downey, $2,000. Jeanette Downey was fined $26 for disturbing the peace, and Richard Perry also $26. Charges against Herikiah Downey were dismissed.

Northwestern Leads In Traffic Warrants

As another 76 Traffic court warrants were delivered to police districts, Monday, the Northwestern had the largest number 24.

The warrants are part of the test plan concerned with reducing the 10,000 unserved Traffic Court warrants which have piled up over the years.

Chief Inspector Joseph Itzell has instructed the police district commanders to make every effort to find the defendants listed in the warrants and to make arrests in this farming method.

The warrants dated back to the latter part of 1951 and included both parking and moving vehicle violations.

Other districts where the warrants were delivered were the following: Western, 4; Southeastern, 15; Central, 7; Southern, 4; Southwestern, 4; and Northern, 18.

Barmaid Fined For Serving Teen-Agers

Failure on the part of a waitress to question the age of two teenage girls at Dowell's in the 700 block of Pennsylvania Ave., Saturday, resulted in a combined fine of $2,000 for the restaurant owners.

The waitress, Miss Lillian Wheeler, 25, of the 500 block N. Carey St., was in addition fined $25 and costs for selling gin to the minors.

The accused girls, one 18 and the other 19, were fined $25 and costs each.

Licensed In Baltimore Co.

TOWSON, Md. — Fifteen couples from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Ohio applied for marriage licenses here, according to the Baltimore county license bureau.

They are:

ALEXANDER-BRAXTON — Freddie E. Jr., 20, and Hermione, 22, both of York, Pa.

BONES-WEBB — Melvin C., 22, and Mary M., 22, both of Newkirk, Md.

SETON-DICKSON — George J., Jr., 20, and Louise, 19, both of Tyler Pa.

LEWIS-FOREST — Anderson W., 20, Chase, Md., and Bettie J., 20, Chase, Md.

ROBINSON-JACKSON — Richard L., 22, Jarrettsville, Md., and Helen C., 22, Glen Arm, Md.

JACKSON-WEBB — James L., 21, and Margaret E., 18, both of Overlea, Md.

GORDON-MORSLEY — Edward D., 20, and Delia C., 45, both of Baltimore.

CLAYTON-SYKES — Louis W., 22, Orrtanna, Md., and Jean H., 21, Adams Grove, Md.

THOMPSON-WOODRUFF — Earl C., 21, and Alameda, 30, both of Dundalk, Md.

GREENE-MOORE — Frederick E., 20, Cleveland, Ohio, and Hilda B., 45, Mt. Washington, Md.

LOVERS-GREEN — James, 24, and Hattie B., 25, both of Mineola, Md.

NEELETT-BARNETT — William H., 20, and Mildred L., 19, both of Turtle Point, Md.

TAYLOR-HARRIS — Edward V., 31, Gaithersburg, Md., and Sonia E., 19, Dundalk, Md.

WINTSON-ALSTON — Joseph E., 22, and Margaret, 20, both of Baltimore.

GREEN-CARTER — Robert E., 20, and Mary E., 25, both of York, Pa.

Pentagon Gets A Shake Up

Col. Robinson Goes To Korea; Others Out

By LOUIS LAUTIER
WASHINGTON

The Pentagon gets a shake up as James H. Robinson, who has been executive assistant to James C. Evans, civilian aide to Secretary of defense resigns.

Robert A. Lovett, has had orders to go to Japan as an operations officer. Tommy Martin, an Army captain, who has been a public relations officer in Japan and Korea, succeeds him.

Col. Robinson

As a full colonel, Robinson should be assigned as an operations officer to an Army unit. Very well he doing his second stretch in the Pentagon. After World War II he was there as a public relations officer.

For Advance Course

Capt. Henry M. Francis also is out of the Pentagon and is now preparatory to attending the advanced course at the Artillery School at Fort Sill (Oklahoma). A native Washingtonian, he is a graduate of West Point. He is due to report at Fort Sill this month.

Also out of the Pentagon is Maj. Andrew L. Johnson, who was in the office of the Chief of Chaplains. Major Johnson wanted to attend the chaplains' school at Yale and had arranged an exchange with Maj. Lewis M. Durden, a June graduate.

White Replacement

But the Army brought in a new Chief of Chaplains, who canceled Durden's orders and took the position that he had the right to select his own staff. Johnson is going to Europe and his replacement in the office of the Chief of Chaplains will be white.

Colonel Robinson had planned to take two sons, James H. Jr., and Hugh G., back to West Point the other Monday. They've been here on leave. But his wife's father became ill in South Carolina.

So, he put the boys on the train and they went on without their father-in-law had died.

To Europe

Killer, Three Others Escape Crownsville

A convicted killer and three other potentially dangerous inmates escaped from Crownsville State hospital Sunday night.

None of the men are considered dangerous at present." Dr. Jacob Morgenstern, hospital superintendent, said, but added that they could become so.

With the latest escapees, some 40 persons have gotten away from the institution this year.

List of Escapees

The four are:

Clarence Brown, 31, 1000 block N. Gilmor St., who Dr. Morgenstern said was convicted of fatally shooting another man in 1942 and wounding a policeman who arrested him; Charles Smith, 23, first block S. Amity St., Talmadge Pearson, 17, 900 block W. Fayette St., and Raymond Falcon, 16, 200 block N. Carey St.

Dr. Morgenstern classified Brown as a schizophrenic—a person suffering from a psychosis characterized by loss of contact with environment and by disintegration of personality. The others, he said, are feeble-minded.

Pry Loose Bar

The escapees pried loose a bar on the door of the G-building about 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dr. Morgenstern reported. A patrolman of the floor was looking after other patients at the time, the superintendent said.

The G building, except for the top floor of the four-story building is not considered a maximum security building, Dr. Morgenstern revealed. The four fugitives were housed on the first floor.

The problem of mental patients escaping from Crownsville is now under study by a special committee appointed by Gov. Theodore R. McKeldin.

The committee has already recommended that the hospital staff be strengthened by additional qualified guards and that separate housing facilities should be established for all "criminally insane" patients.

Gov. McKeldin, in a letter Monday issued a warning that there would be a shakeup at Crownsville unless the problem of numerous escapes is ended immediately.

The Governor, who said it was hard to believe there was no negligence involved in the latest escape laid the responsibility for stopping the runaways in the lap of Dr. Clifton T. Perkins, State Commissioner of mental hygiene.

Meanwhile, two of the four men — and Sunday have been captured in a wooded area on the grounds. They were Talmadge Pearson, 17, who lived at 900 block W. Fayette St., and Raymond Falcon, 16, who lived in the 300 block N. Carey St.

AFRO Supervisor's Father Dies In Ala. VA Hospital

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — The Rev. George Clyde Randall, 72, died Friday at the Veterans' Administration Hospital here after an illness of three weeks.

A chaplain in World War I, and a member of the Tenth Cavalry in the Spanish-American War, he was a retired Congregational minister, having pastored People's Church in D.C., and Plymouth Church, Detroit.

He was also a YMCA secretary in Columbus, Ga., and East St. Louis.

Survivors include his wife, the former Ada Brazley of Detroit, whom he married in June 1907; three sons, James, an instructor at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Arthur, assistant managing editor, AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers; Dudley, a librarian at Howard University, Wash., and a daughter, Mrs. Esther Lamarr, Red Cross social worker in Detroit.

He is also survived by a sister, Mrs. Ellen Patterson, Macon, Ga., A native of Macon, he was educated at Talladega College. He was also the son of the late Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Randall. His dad was also a Congregational minister.

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