



State Asks Death Sentence

Love Triangle's Death Case Sent To Jury After Charge

5 Choices Outlined By Judge

By ANN SAWYER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

The fate of Thomas Walter Taylor was placed in the hands of the all-male jury today at 12:27 p. m. when the "love triangle" slaying trial began deliberations following a charge by Judge J. C. Rudisill that they could return one of five verdicts.

Taylor is charged with the Jan. 3 slaying of Talmadge Ales Parker.

Solicitor Basil L. Whitener, in his argument to the jury this morning, asked that Taylor act in self-defense and under the "unwritten" law of protecting his property.

A not guilty verdict was urged by Defense Attorney Marvin L. Ritchie who said Taylor acted in self-defense and under the "unwritten" law of protecting his property.

Parker "got what he deserved," Mr. Ritchie contended.

Judge Rudisill told the jury that it has a choice of five verdicts:

1. Guilty of murder in the first degree, with recommendation for life imprisonment.
2. Guilty of murder in the second degree.
3. Guilty of manslaughter.
4. Not guilty.
5. First-degree murder was defined as the unlawful killing of a human being with malice, and with premeditation and deliberation.

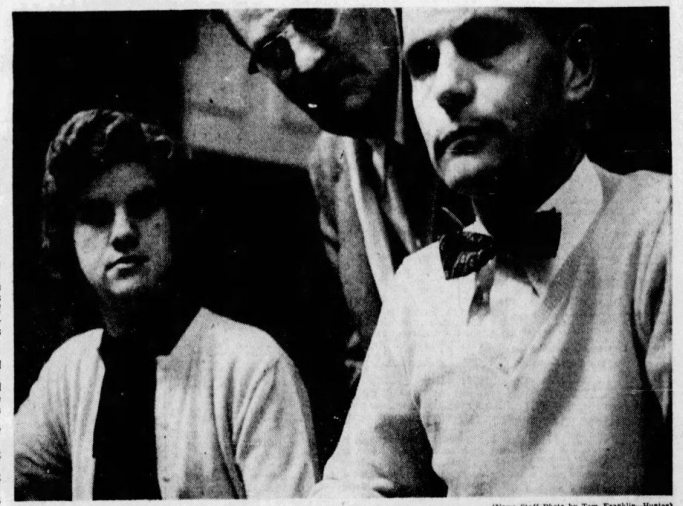
Second-degree murder is an unlawful killing with malice but without premeditation or deliberation. Manslaughter is killing without malice and without premeditation or deliberation.

The highlight of the trial for the 34-year-old construction worker and father of two children came yesterday afternoon when the defendant and his wife testified.

Taylor told how he hid in the trunk of his wife's car, parked near the El Moro Grill, 803 N. Graham St., where she worked as a waitress, and then emerged from the trunk to shoot Parker after Taylor drove to the Meria Grill.

Mrs. Taylor, a slim, 23-year-old brunette, told of her relationship with Parker, a period of three or four months.

Taylor contended that from his apartment where she worked at a dark blue suit and gray overcoat and was bareheaded.



Awaiting The Verdict Today: Mrs. Taylor, Attorney Stennett, Defendant Taylor.

Heavy Snow Dumped On Middle U. S.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The season's heaviest snow storm in the eastern half of the nation, draping a welcome blanket of white across the parched farm lands of the southern plains and Midwest, moved into the Atlantic Coast today.

Snow fell during the night and morning from the lower Great Lakes region eastward to the mid-Atlantic states southward as far as West Virginia and Maryland. Early reports indicated fairly heavy falls, with 4 inches reported at Baltimore and 3 inches at Philadelphia. The storm headed into New York and the New England region.

Snow measured up to 10 inches in some areas hit by the mid-January storm yesterday. The storm center, weakening as it moved from the gulf northeastward toward the western slopes of the Appalachians dumped snow over most of the Ohio valley and the mid-Atlantic states. There was rain, sleet or freezing rain in the Carolinas and Virginia.

Traffic was disrupted in many cities and driving conditions were hazardous on the snow-slickened highways.

In St. Louis, where there had not been measurable precipitation in 47 days, the longest drought in the area's history, snow measured more than two inches. Four deaths were attributed to the storm in Missouri.

In nearby southern Illinois, where lands also were in need of moisture, the fall was to a depth of eight inches in some places.

The heaviest snowfalls in several years—around 10 inches—hit Cincinnati yesterday. Some schools closed, the city airport was shut down and traffic was snarled.

Seven inches of snow fell in sections of Pennsylvania. Falls in most other areas ranged up to five or six inches.

Snow diminished over most of the mid-continent during the night, but only flurries reported this morning across the upper Great Lakes, parts of the Ohio valley and the northern part of the Midwest.

Colder air spread south and eastward yesterday in the wake of the storm and temperatures dropped 10 to 20 degrees into the 30s and 40s in the southeast. At Charlotte, N. C., the drop was from 61 to 32.

Coldest region again today was the northern plains with more below zero readings. It was 19 at Minot, N. D. Yesterday's high at Devils Lake, N. D., was -11. In contrast, it was 81 at West Palm Beach, Fla.

'Mad Dog Killer' Loose Police Seek Irvin In Five States

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (AP)—An all-state police search spread over a five-state area today for Leslie Irvin, described as a "mad dog killer," who escaped from jail while under a death sentence for one of six killings in which he has been indicted.

Sixty police received unverified reports Irvin had been seen in Ohio and in Missouri and authorities in those states joined Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky officers in the search.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol received a report from a waitress at a restaurant near St. Louis last night that she had recognized a man as Irvin from a television picture she had seen of him.

Early today, a bus depot employe at Rolla, Mo., 10 miles southwest of St. Louis, told the patrol she had seen there a man closely fitting Irvin's description.

The most concentrated search was being conducted in the Evansville area and in nearby sections of Kentucky and Illinois.

Indiana State Police said they had received an unverified report that a man of Irvin's description was seen driving a dark car near New Albany, across the river from Louisville, Ky. Also an unidentified motorist reported a man who resembled Irvin had attempted to force him off the road between New Castle and Muncie in Eastern Indiana.

Irvin, convicted of killing an Evansville man and also charged with killing two Indiana women, was being held in a Kentucky jail, but had been scheduled for transfer Monday to the Indiana State Prison at Michigan City to await execution in the electric chair June 12.

Irvin, held in jail at nearby Princeton during the appeal period which followed his conviction and sentencing in Gibson Circuit Court, was missing at breakfast time yesterday.

Four jail doors had been either unlocked or locks picked, Sheriff Carl Holton said. The sheriff, by some outside help, added one man could not have opened the doors himself from the inside. The warden, a national of the warden quickly covered his tracks.



KILLER IRVIN

Only Irvin's cellmate Lawrence Bryant, 57, Palestine, Ill., awaiting trial a triple killing, saw him escape.

Bryant insisted he knew nothing about the escape, but he later told Sheriff Holton he saw Irvin dress and leave the cell between 10 and 11 p. m. Wednesday.

Prosecutor Paul B. Weaver, who directed the prosecution that brought the death penalty for Irvin, said, "I'm taking no chances. Irvin's mind doesn't work like other people's."

Irvin was described as a stocky 200-pounder, 5 feet 11 inches tall, with dark wavy hair, brown eyes and ruddy complexion. When he left the jail he was wearing a dark blue suit and gray overcoat and was bareheaded.

Our Weather

Cloudy today, tonight and sunny tomorrow.

Low this morning—32.

Low tonight—27.

High yesterday—41.

High today—45.

High tomorrow—50.

Sunrise 7:30 a.m.; sunset 5:39 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

This Motorist Was A Mixed Up Driver

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Police here met a mixed up motorist yesterday. He was going the wrong way on the wrong street in the wrong city. A patrol car was almost hit by an automobile going the wrong way on one-way Florida Avenue. When they straightened the driver out on that, he said he thought he was on Highway No. 1 in Jacksonville.

Bath-A-Month Plan Used In Mongolia

MOSCOW (AP)—You can have a bath once a month if you live in Barnaul in the Altai territory near the Outer Mongolian border. There aren't enough public bath houses to go around.

That, says the official Soviet government newspaper Izvestia, is typical of the poor state of public services in scattered parts of the Soviet Union.

Plane Crashes Into Buildings

WADSWORTH, England (AP)—A plane crashed today into buildings on the main street of this Sussex town. A local reporter said it was feared casualties are high.

The Queens Hotel and two buildings burst into flames soon after the crash.

The East Sussex fire department sent 10 fire engines to the scene. "We are busy mobilizing our appliances," a headquarters official told newsmen. "We do not know any details here yet."

An Air Ministry spokesman said, "We understand it is a Royal Air Force plane, but it has not yet been identified."

Ship Hits Radar Tower, Suffers Much Damage

BOSTON (AP)—A ship crashed into the Texas Tower, radar island 100 miles off Cape Cod, today, and was seriously damaged. The tall tripod structure was unscathed.

There were no casualties.

The ship was the Military Sea Transport Service's Sagitta, which had gone out to the tower with fresh water and other supplies.

She is a 268-foot, 5,202-ton vessel.

While servicing the tower, her starboard side struck the structure, tearing a hole in tanks in the Sagitta's No. 2 hold, admitting seawater which quickly caused such a severe list that members of her crew stood by lifeboats.

Pumps soon controlled the water and the Sagitta proceeded for Boston under her own power.

Capt. John J. Allers, said the weather was "not bad, the best in months."

Gastonia Girl Lost, Found

Little Linda Diane Moses, 14, is apparently gone to be all right.

She was sent home from Gaston Memorial Hospital today after treatment for exposure to near-freezing temperatures for more than three hours yesterday.

Wearing only a T-shirt and one shoe, the little girl toddled from the house to get medicine for another child.

When she returned, Linda Diane was gone.

Evening Prayer

Our loving heavenly Father, make us conscious of the healing majesty of Thy Son, Jesus Christ. Without Him, we can do nothing. Help us to know that Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. In His name we pray. Amen.

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Jonas-Ervin Battle Seen For Congressional Seat

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Some focus came to the Tenth District political picture today.

The battles lines, at this point, are shaping up between Rep. Charles Roper Jones, Republican incumbent congressman from Lincoln, and Democrat Paul R. Ervin, Charlotte attorney.

That's the first phase of the picture.

These facts are clear today:

- (1) Cong. Jones will seek reelection.
- (2) Mr. Ervin is seriously considering the race, in the No. 1 Democratic pick now, and he will make his plans known Feb. 1.
- (3) David Clark of Lincoln, prominently mentioned candidate, will not seek the post.
- (4) All other names—such as Hamilton Jones and Ben Douglas and others—are not taken seriously because of no enthusiasm from the men themselves.

While many local Democrats concede that Mr. Ervin has the inside track right now, they are not at all certain he will seek the nomination and they face the November elections with the "fear" that Mr. Jones could very well go unopposed.

Rep. Jones said in Washington yesterday that the "chances are good" that he'll seek reelection. However, the statement could have been more positive, his supporters say, for he definitely plans to seek a third term.

Mr. Ervin, a well known Charlotte attorney, told The News this morning, "I am giving the possibility of running for Congress the most careful thought. I have had some remarkable offers of assistance, personal not financial assistance, from my friends."

"I will make no decision until Feb. 1 and at that time I will decide whether to seek the nomination or not."

The Democratic candidate must seek the nomination in the May 20 primary, whereas Cong. Jones will probably be unopposed by a member of his party and will not be involved in the primary.

David Clark, a Lincoln attorney, will not seek the Democratic nomination.

Jordan Might Run For Lt. Governor

Dr. Henry Jordan of Cedar Falls told The News this morning that he had received telephone calls from around the state concerning his possible candidacy for lieutenant governor. Dr. Jordan took himself very seriously.

He said he had some remarkable offers of assistance, personal not financial assistance, from my friends.

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In House Next Week

Schools Debate To Be 'Hot One'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Rules Committee's deadlock over the school construction bill was reported broken today, and the big debate on Federal aid to schools is expected to hit the House floor next week.

"And it will be a hot one," said Rep. McConnell of Pennsylvania, senior Republican on the House Education Committee.

McConnell said there's no question about the bill coming out of the Rules Committee next Tuesday or Wednesday, though he said four debates may not begin until the following week.

Other sources said the bill was coming out and debate would start Wednesday.

Pending formal action by the Rules Committee next week, there "was no indication how much time would be allowed for debate or what attempts, if any, might be made to restrict amendments."

Debate is expected to center largely on an expected proposal for federal funds to areas which segregate white and Negro pupils. There had been some speculation that the Rules Committee, which includes several veteran Southern House members, might block House action.

But Republicans on the House Education Committee has approved the Democratic plan to grant \$1,600,000,000 over a four-year period to states to help them build needed classrooms. Allocations would be based on school age population.

President Eisenhower, in a special message to Congress last week, recommended granting the states 14, billions over five years for having allocations on need and ability.

Rep. Kelley (D-Pa), author of the Democrats' bill, said he's "ready to go any time" with it.

McConnell said the Republicans would try to change the measure to fit the Eisenhower program, and "we're ready to go" with it.

Rep. Powell (D-N.Y.) said he's ready to offer the segregation amendment he has been promising for the last year.

But Republicans and Northern Democrats combine to vote Powell's amendment into the bill, its chance of passage in the Senate was regarded as highly uncertain.

Small Decline Is Noted In Living Costs

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government reported today that living costs fell three-tenths of one percent from November to December, the first decline since August.

Prices for food, transportation and housing dropped, while medical and personal care costs edged upward.

The December index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics was 1147.7 per cent of the figure for the 1947-49 base period. This is a fraction higher than in December, 1954.

NEW RECORD LEVEL

The bureau reported that average gross weekly earnings, spendable pay and wage purchasing value of factory workers all rose to a new record level in December.

Spendable earnings, or gross pay less tax deductions, rose to an average \$63.79 for the single worker and to \$72.15 for the worker with three dependents.

This was about \$4.50 a week higher for each type worker than at the end of 1954, and up 30 cents a week from November. In terms of purchasing power the worker was able to buy six per cent more with his pay during 1955 than his pay brought him in 1954, the largest annual increase since World War II.

Booze Snooze Costly

COVINGTON, Ky. (AP)—Snoozing off a booze under a judge's bench is a bad bet. So said City Commissioner Charles Rump yesterday after finding Walter Thornberry sleeping behind a judge's desk in the courtroom during a City Council meeting. Thornberry was charged with drunkenness.

TOUGH POLICE

SALTA, Argentina (AP)—Citizens have asked that the local police station be demolished. They complained the structure, formerly a big old house, (1) looks like something out of the Middle Ages and (2) has symbolized "repression and tortures for many years."

North Carolina Woman Gives Birth In Plane

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A Pan American World Airways Clipper turned back from a flight to Honolulu today after a passenger gave birth to a daughter, two months premature.

The Clipper, with 55 passengers, was about 200 miles out when pursuer Sue M. Sargent rapped on Capt. Henry C. Kristofferson's cabin door and announced:

"One of the passengers is going to have a baby."

With the aid of another passenger, Mrs. Frances Norton of Honolulu, Mrs. Robert Henderson of 216 Patton Ave., Asheville, N. C. gave birth.

Kristofferson returned to San Francisco, where the plane was met by a Pan-American physician, Dr. Frederick Leeds. He said both mother and baby appeared to be in fine condition. He estimated the baby's weight at four pounds.

Mrs. Henderson and the infant were taken to Peninsula Hospital in Burlingame.

Her husband, a sergeant in the 4th Marine Division, said he was not able to help at the birth.

The Clipper, minus the Hendersons, left again for Honolulu.