

Poisoner Of Seven Will Die In Chair

ALABAMAN CONVICTED OF MURDER

CASE TO RECEIVE AUTOMATIC REVIEW BY STATE COURT

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A hefty, authoritarian waitress who killed her fourth husband with arsenic was sentenced last night to die in the electric chair.

Mrs. Rhonda Belle Martin, who is 49 years old and weighs 170 pounds, admitted killing Claude C. Martin and five other members of her family, but she was tried only for the death of her fourth husband.

Her other victims were three small daughters, her mother, and another husband.

A jury of 12 men deliberated three hours and 10 minutes last night before convicting her of poisoning Martin after about a year of married life.

When the verdict was read, Mrs. Martin buried her head in her arms and sobbed.

INSANITY PLEA
The woman's attorney based his defense on a plea of insanity.

The prosecution countered that Mrs. Martin served arsenic in coffee for her husband in order to "collect some paltry amount of insurance and to get him out of the way so she could marry his son."

Eight months after Martin's death on April 27, 1951, Mrs. Martin married her stepson, Ronald C. Martin, 21 years her junior. He now lives in a veterans' hospital paralyzed by arsenic poisoning.

Ronald Martin's illness, for which Mrs. Martin is under indictment for attempted murder, touched off the investigation that brought to light the series of poisonings.

Under Alabama's automatic appeal law, last night's conviction will go to the Supreme Court. The sentence is postponed until the appeal is decided.

Circuit Judge Eugene Carter overruled two motions for a mistrial early in the 15-hour trial.

Solicitor William F. Theford introduced evidence that Mrs. Martin collected \$2,750 on three insurance policies soon after her husband's death.

She was named beneficiary in two of the policies shortly before her husband died.

Mrs. Martin also is under indictment for killing her second husband, George Garrett, in 1939; her mother, Mrs. Mary Frances Gibbon, who died in 1944; and three daughters.

The first death in the gruesome series was that of a 3-year-old daughter, Emogene Garrett. Another daughter, 6-year-old Carolyn Garrett, died in 1940, and third, Elynn Elizabeth Garrett, 11, in 1943.

Shortly after her arrest in March, Mrs. Martin said in a statement that she served arsenic in whiskey to Garrett, arsenic in milk to her three daughters, and arsenic in coffee to her mother and to Martin.

Only one white woman has died in the chair in Alabama — a nurse convicted of feeding arsenic to her 2-year-old niece. Another was sentenced to the chair but won a reversal on appeal and was later sent to prison for life.

Our Weather

Partly cloudy and mild today, tonight and tomorrow.

Low this morning 57
Low tomorrow morning 62
High today 85
High yesterday 78
High tomorrow 83
Sunrise today, 5:08 a.m.;
sunset today, 7:35 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Established Dec. 8, 1888.

Largest Evening Newspaper in The Two Carolinas
Charlotte, North Carolina, Tuesday, June 5, 1956

FINAL

28 Pages — Price Five Cents



Mrs. Martin on way to court. (AP)

Oppose Segregation

Assembly Upholds 1954 Racial Stand

By HELEN PARKS
Charlotte News Staff Writer

MONTREAT — The General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church has for the second year refused to change its 1954 stand that enforced segregation is un-Christian.

Before the assembly closed its six-day meeting shortly before noon today, it unanimously adopted a report from the Committee on Christian Education.

Negroes and whites have met and eaten together with no difficulty.

Following this discussion, a motion was tabled that asked the Office of the General Assembly to use every precaution in saving commissioners embarrassed and to reaffirm the assembly's stand that segregation is un-Christian.

SOME DISCUSSION
There was some discussion outside of the sessions about the placement of the Negro commissioners attending this assembly together in a certain hall. The majority of the white commissioners stayed in the main inn.

The report from the Council on Christian Relations presented by the Christian Relations Committee investigated in detail causes and prevention of juvenile delinquency.

In connection with the report and in answer to an overture asking the Assembly to go on record as opposing beer liquor advertising through popular media, the Committee recommended the Assembly go on record as "deeply deploring" the advertising and the publishing of horror-crime stories.

Yesterday afternoon the session was adjourned. See PRESBYTERIANS, page 2-A

Tallahassee Cuts Off Runs In Negro Area

Community Service Becomes Unprofitable

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Bus service on runs serving Tallahassee Negro communities has been shut off as a result of an eight-day-old boycott.

The City Commission yesterday authorized the Cities Transit Bus Co. to discontinue the runs after the transit firm reported they had become unprofitable.

Previously the runs to Florida A&M University for Negroes and the Frenchtown Negro section had been regarded as the most used in the Tallahassee system.

The transit company, in petitioning the commission for authority to pull buses off these routes, said Tallahassee operations had been losing money and one way to "minimize the loss factor" was to shut down the runs which were doing little business.

DEMAND REJECTED
The City Commission rejected a demand by the Negro Inter-Civic Council that full integration on city buses be permitted as a condition for calling off the boycott.

Commissioners said to grant the request would be a violation of state segregation laws.

The council coupled its demands for integrated seating arrangements with others calling for employment of Negro drivers and for "courteous service and equitable treatment of all passengers."

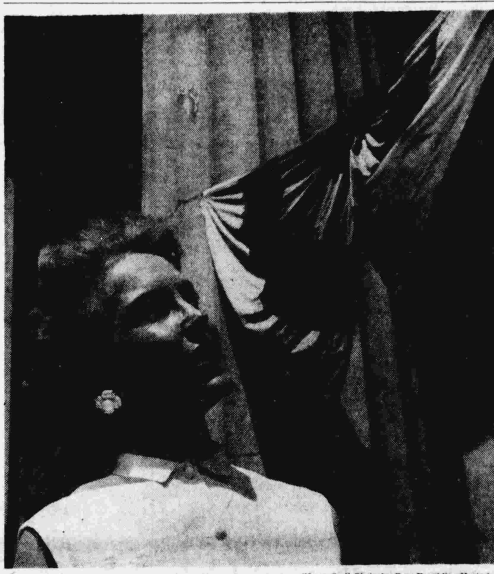
The commission said hiring of Negro bus drivers was a bus company matter and refused to amend the line's franchise to provide for it. Previously the company said it was willing to take applications from Negroes for driver jobs and would give them consideration when vacancies on routes serving Negroes developed.

Only a handful of Negroes are still riding the buses. Others are walking or being transported in carpools.

The boycott was touched off by arrest of two Negro students of Florida A&M for sitting on a seat beside a white woman and refusing to move. The charges were later dropped.

Evening Prayer
Our Father, we thank Thee that we can use the afflictions of life, its disappointments, and sorrows, to lift our lives from weakness to strength and power. Help us this day to use our hardships to build Christian character. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

Segregation Banned On Alabama Buses



BEAUTIFUL BUNTING on the streets of the city tells Marilyn Patterson that some gala event is about to take place. The flags are for the American Legion convention which will bring thousands to this city this week. The convention, opening Thursday, will run through Saturday.

3-Judge Tribunal Is Split

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A three-judge federal court panel in a 2-1 vote today ruled racial segregation unconstitutional on Montgomery city buses.

The panel ruled that both the city and state segregation laws requiring separate seating facilities for white and Negro passengers violate the federal constitution.

Judge Richard T. Eaves of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. of Alabama's U.S. Middle District Court signed the majority opinion.

Judge Seymour Lynne of Alabama's Northern U.S. District Court, Birmingham, wrote a dissenting opinion saying that in his opinion separate but equal facilities are constitutional.

VIEWS WANTED
The ruling doesn't become effective, the court said, until a formal judgment is entered. Opposing attorneys were asked to submit in writing within two weeks their views on the form of a judgment and whether a stay should be granted pending an appeal.

The decision came on the six-month anniversary of Montgomery's Negro bus boycott which started last Dec. 5 in protest against segregated seating facilities on city buses. The suit in Federal Court which led to today's decision was filed by four Negro students who tested at a hearing on May 11 that they have refused to ride city buses since the mass protest began.

DIRECT APPEAL
Today's ruling can be appealed direct to the U.S. Supreme Court and may provide the first clearest test of city bus segregation in the South.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals at Richmond, Va., had previously ruled bus segregation unconstitutional in Columbia, S.C., but sent the case back to the trial court for a determination of damages.

The Supreme Court on April 23 dismissed an appeal from the Court of Appeals ruling, but two of the judges sitting on the panel here, commented at the hearing last month that in their opinion the Supreme Court hadn't passed on the segregation issue itself, but rather dismissed the appeal because the case was still pending in the lower courts.

Since no question of damages was involved in the suit here, an appeal would go directly to the Supreme Court to uphold or reverse the panel's findings.

Royalty Ruckus Details Told
ST. LOUIS — A defense attorney says T. Lamar Caudle, on trial for conspiracy, "took the very hide off" a tax dodger's attorney when informed he had bought an oil royalty in Caudle's name.

Arthur Anderson, attorney for Caudle, former head of the Justice Dept.'s tax division, said Caudle asked Harry L. Schwimmer, "Why did you buy that oil royalty? I didn't authorize you to do that. I don't want it at any price."

Anderson said yesterday at Caudle's Federal Court trial that Schwimmer then said, "I'll get it out of your name. I'll prepare a transfer order."

MONTHS OF INSISTENCE
The transfer was taken care of after months of insistence by Caudle, Anderson said.

Caudle and Matthew J. Connelly, White House appointments secretary under Truman, are charged with conspiring to defraud the government by trying to sidetrack criminal prosecution of Schwimmer's client, Irving Sachs.

Sachs, a St. Louis shoe manufacturer, was fined \$40,000 when he pleaded guilty to income tax evasion in 1951 but escaped a prison term on health grounds.

Early Tabulations Indicate No Change In City Tax Rate

By DICK YOUNG
Charlotte News Staff Writer

No increase in the current city tax rate is reflected in the 1955-56 budget. But he figures, despite the increase in expenditures, the tax rate can be kept at the current level.

WILL BE DECREASE
Actually, at \$1.77, the rate will be a decrease in that additional increases are allowed for the schools, the Park & Recreation levy stood at 7.7 cents but in 1956-57 will contain a full eight cents.

Democrat Butler declared, "will not have any difficulty with the platform."

The drafting committee will meet Aug. 6, one week before the convention opens for business Aug. 13 in Chicago's International Amphitheatre.

Butler said it was "the first time in party history" that the

and excess revenues amounts to \$746,114.14, which is an increase of \$217,886.11 over the 1955-56 surplus.

Although the tax rate is kept at the present level of \$1.77 provisions are made in the new budget for half a year's operation of a new fire station and for the employment of additional workers in

several departments, Mr. Livingston said.

However, the new budget does not contain any provision for establishment of a shorter work week for firemen.

The tentative budget is expected to be presented to the City Commission on Tuesday.

See CITY on page 2-A

Civil Rights Confab Planned By Democrats

CHICAGO — Democratic Chairman Paul Butler says the party's platform committee will convene a week before the 1956 national convention "to get substantial agreement on civil rights."

He told a news conference he is confident a new rights plan, acceptable to northern and southern Democrats will be drawn up during the pre-convention deliberations.

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Morning Migrants Marooned Momentarily

Musclemen Move Mechanical Monster



A five-ton road packer turned on its side and stood traffic on its ear at Mint and Morehead Sts. during the 8:30 a.m. rush today.

It took several men and lots of muscle to right the huge construction machine.

Patrolmen P. W. Sherer and Johnny Helms said the road-packer was being towed by a truck, and turned over on its side when coming out of a service station driveway. No one was injured.

What's Inside

PITTSBURGH, PA., has gone berserk because of a modern miracle caused by the Pirates, now giddy residents of first place in the National League. It's exciting reading on Page 6B.

ACCOMPLISHED TRAVELER John L. Slickley of Charlotte faces even more maneuvering about the globe as the upcoming president of Lions International. Catch him on the Page 1B takeoff.

ACCORDING TO THOSE who know, rigid training is the only way with horses when it comes to hunters and jumpers. There are classic illustrations linked with Sally Watkins' story on Page 3B.

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