

## Willie Bell Given Death Sentence

### For Murder of Mrs. Bridges Here in August of 1963

Willie James Bell heard the sentence of death imposed on him Saturday — six days short of 20 months after he killed Mrs. Beaufort Campbell Bridges in a Clinton law office.

Bell, slightly built, 31-year-old Greenville Negro, was found guilty of murder by a Greenwood County jury in a trial that started Wednesday afternoon, after drawing of a jury began in the morning.

The case went to the jury at 11:50 a. m. following a half-hour charge by Judge Clarence Singletary of Charleston, who told the jurors they could return one of four verdicts: not guilty, not guilty by reason of insanity, guilty, and guilty with recommendation of mercy. The judge declined on motion of defense counsel to add another possible verdict — guilty of voluntary manslaughter.

The jurors deliberated until about 1:00 p. m., when they went to lunch in a body, accompanied by court attendants. The group returned about 2:00 o'clock for further deliberation and reappeared in the court room with the verdict at 2:33 p. m.

Mr. and Mrs. Gross and children, Patricia and Daphne, are making their home at 105 5th Avenue.

Challenging goals were recommended in outlining the program of work for the coming year at the Clinton Chamber of Commerce coffee-membership meeting Tuesday morning at the Hotel Mary Musgrove.

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These goals will be brought before the board of directors of the Chamber for their approval and will be made public at that time.

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"Earlier workers in this field saw sexual reproduction in these animals, but I am convinced from my experiments that in sexuality is present."

In addition to the presentation of papers, both Dr. Carter and Dr. Stump will preside over sectional meetings of their specialties during the conference.

George Corley, local policeman, who was injured recently by a falling building, continues ill in Self Memorial Hospital, Greenwood, where he is undergoing treatment.

The Oaklane Shop opened in its new location yesterday on South Broad Street, and has announced a grand opening for the balance of the week.

The shop is owned by Mrs. Fred Holcombe, who will be assisted by Mrs. Forrest Adair. The store will feature gifts, decorations, antiques and flowers.

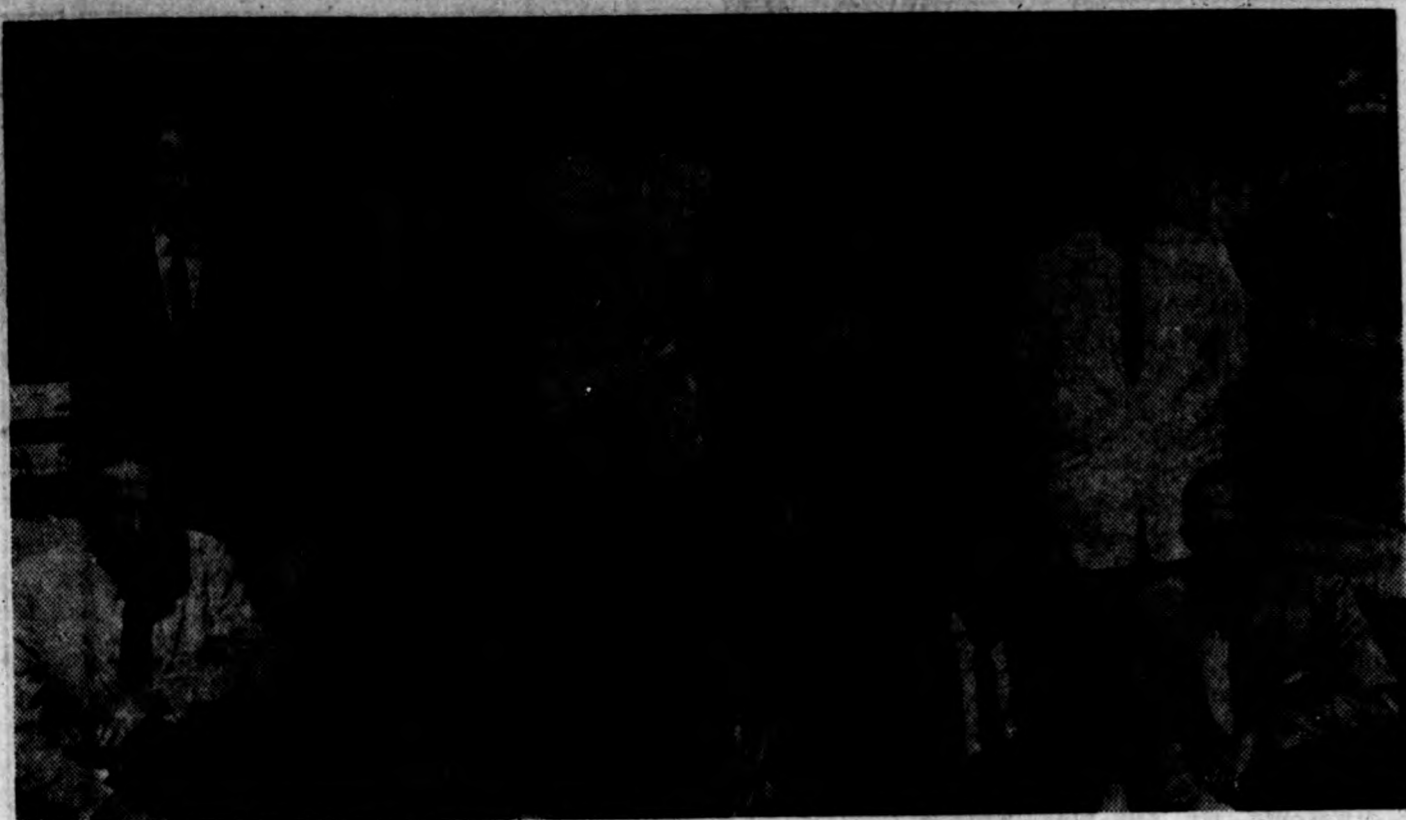
The interior of the building has been rebuilt and a new front added.

Johnson's Men's Shop will change locations early in May. Charles H. Johnson, owner, stated this week.

The store will move into the building on East Main Street formerly occupied by Murray Garber's, which, Johnson said, will allow more space and better displays for merchandise.



Bell Leaves Court Room in Custody of Officers on Way Back to Penitentiary



### Moose Lodge Names Officers

Clinton Lodge No. 789, Loyal Order of Moose, at a recent meeting elected officers for the 1965-66 year. Shown above, they are (left to right), front row—Gene Bostic, governor; J. E. Braswell, secretary;

Willie Kinard, treasurer; Tommie Moore, prelate; back row—Fletcher Davis, Thomas Rowe, Jack Wehant, trustees; Joseph Allman, past governor, Lonnie Tinsley, sergeant at arms.—Photo by Dan Yarborough.

## Religious Census Slated For Sunday Afternoon

More than 150 persons will move over Clinton this Sunday in a comprehensive religious census designed to identify the denominations of local residents.

Fourteen churches are cooperating in the effort to pinpoint the church affiliations or preferences of the townspeople. It is the first religious census to be held in Clinton since 1958.

Representatives of each of the participating churches will gather at 1:30 p. m., Sunday in

the auditorium of the Broad Street Methodist Church. They will receive final instructions at that time and obtain envelopes with census cards to be filled out about the individuals contacted.

By 2:30 p. m. the organization will be ready to move out in two-man teams. Each team is expected to have approximately 20 cards. The schedule calls for extending the work over a two-hour period, to be concluded by 4:30 p. m.

The following week may be used as a follow-up period to include those persons who were missed on Sunday. The project will be closed out completely with final reports on Sunday, May 2.

The Rev. John Rivers and Rembert Truluck serve as co-chairmen of the 1965 religious census. They urge all persons to cooperate as much as possible and to make themselves available in their homes during the 2:30-4:30 p. m. interval of the census this Sunday.

## County Magistrates Must Be Bonded

A measure requiring that Laurens County magistrates be bonded won final approval last week with third reading in the State House of Representatives.

The bill, introduced by Sen. W. C. (Bill) Dobbins on March 24, was reported out with a favorable recommendation Tuesday by the Laurens House Delegation.

The measure requires magistrates to file \$1,000 bond with the clerk of court for the faithful performance and discharge of duties. The county would pay the bond premiums.

Magistrates, except those whose terms expire this year, would have 30 days from the effective date of the act to post the bond.

Wyatt recently completed a three year term on the PC board of trustees, and his son is currently enrolled here. He and other family members provided the Wyatt Chapel wing of PC's new auditorium.



CHARLES T. OAKLEY

## Oakley To Assume Magistrate Post

Charles T. "Buddy" Oakley will assume the post as Magistrate of Hunter Township at Clinton Saturday, the 24th, having already received his commission after appointment by the Governor.

Oakley was nominated in the Democratic primary last June, and his term will extend for four years, to 1969.

In spite of the fact that Oakley was nominated in a primary, the actual appointment is made by the Governor upon recommendation of the County's Senator. The nominee for the post is not entered in the General Election in November.

Oakley succeeds Magistrate Sam McCrary, who has served for many years.

Oakley states that his office will be in a new building recently erected to the rear of Center Service Station at the corner of East Carolina Avenue and South Woodrow Street.

## Miss Clinton To Be Named May 8

The Miss Clinton Pageant will be held Saturday night, May 8, in Belk Auditorium on the Presbyterian College campus, according to officials of the local Jaycee Chapter, sponsors of the pageant.

Bill Dobbins, Jr., and Rudy Hamrick, co-chairmen of the entries committee, state that several contestants have been entered and names of all contestants will be announced next week. In addition to being Clinton's official entrant in the Miss South Carolina pageant, where she will compete for a \$1,000 scholarship, the winner of the local pageant will receive a \$50 scholarship and a handsome trophy. The first two runners-up will also receive trophies.

Larry Gar, announcer for radio station WLGB, Laurens, will emcee the pageant.

## Converse Students To Present Play Monday at College

"The Royal Gambit," a play dealing with King Henry VIII and the women in his life, will be presented at Presbyterian College next Monday night by the Converse College dramatics group known as the Palmetto Players.

It is scheduled for 8 p. m. in Belk Auditorium, and the public is invited to attend. There will be no admission charge.

Playwright Herman Gressler presents a Henry who in the epitome of Renaissance man and then adroitly leads him to contemporary liberal thought. The play begins with the dissolution of Henry's marriage to Katriona of Aragon and proceeds through his alliances with Anne Beleys, Jane Seymour, Anna of Cleves, Kathryn Howard and Kate Pharr Henry remains the same throughout, but the women progress in their dress right up to modern times, showing their full knowledge of the lasting effects of Henry's thoughts through scenes in candlelight chambers and towers.

This historical drama is being toured by the Palmetto Players under the direction of James W. Parker, chairman of the Converse speech and drama department.

## Belk's Observes Founder's Days

Belk's Store in Clinton is observing Founder's Days, according to their advertisement in today's paper.

The store, through D. B. Smith, manager, announces "nine big days of values, offering exciting storewide savings for everyone."

The local store joins with the hundreds of other units in the well-known chain all over the Southeast in honoring their founder, the late William Henry Belk, who started in a small way in Monroe, N. C., 77 years ago.

## Limbs Crash Into House

Two large limbs, broken by strong winds last Thursday night, crashed onto the roof of this house at 108 Washington St., owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Quinn. Damage to the home was said to be considerable, and household furnishings were also damaged from the heavy rain which accompanied the storm. Mrs. Quinn, who was in the house at the time, was uninjured. Mr. Quinn was returning home from a neighborhood errand and saw the crash from across the street.—Photo by Paul Quinton.

## \$100,000 Deferred Gift Designated For Presbyterian

A deferred gift of \$100,000 has been designated for Presbyterian College by Alumnus Knox Wyatt of Rome Ga., through imaginative use of his insurance program, President Marc C. Weersing announced today.

Wyatt pointed out that his experience as an outstanding insurance executive in tailoring his program to provide \$100,000 for PC upon the settlement of his estate after death.

Knox Wyatt, a 1931 PC graduate also holds the designation of chartered life underwriter, serves as southern division manager of the Franklin Life Insurance Company. Twice in the past three years he has been cited as the company's "man of the year" in recognition of record sales volumes achieved by his division.

Wyatt recently completed a three year term on the PC board of trustees, and his son is currently enrolled here. He and other family members provided the Wyatt Chapel wing of PC's new auditorium.

## Oratorical Contest At Bell St. Monday

The junior class of Bell Street High School will present its annual oratorical contest Monday evening at 8 o'clock in the school auditorium.

Speakers are to be as follows: Mae Frances Carwile, Darolene Clark, Sarah Copeland, Vivian Harley, Mary Jean Kinard, Bettie Simpson, Georgia Suber, Spencie Ann Kinard, Albertine Williams, and Johnny Brown.

The public is invited to attend the program.

## National Library Week Be Observed

Presbyterian College and Community Library, located on the college campus, will observe National Library Week Thursday, April 29, with a tea in the main rotunda from 4:30 to 6:00 o'clock. All patrons are invited. Miss Marian Burts is librarian.

## Kindergarten Pupils Being Enrolled Now

Mrs. Vernon Trammell announces the enrollment of the Calvary Baptist Church Kindergarten for the coming year. All children must be at least five years of age to enroll. If interested please call Mrs. Trammell at 833-1273.

## The Oaklane Shop Opens on S. Broad

The Oaklane Shop opened in its new location yesterday on South Broad Street, and has announced a grand opening for the balance of the week.

The shop is owned by Mrs. Fred Holcombe, who will be assisted by Mrs. Forrest Adair. The store will feature gifts, decorations, antiques and flowers.

The interior of the building has been rebuilt and a new front added.

## Gross Is New Harper's Manager

Lawrence Gross has arrived and assumed his duties as manager of Harper's 5 and 10c Store in Clinton.

He came to this city from Piedmont, Ala., where he was manager of the W. W. MatK Store.

Mr. and Mrs. Gross and children, Patricia and Daphne, are making their home at 105 5th Avenue.

## Commerce Group Hears Year's Goals

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Larry V. Fulmer Employed By Belk's

Larry V. Fulmer has joined Belk's Dept. Store as office and credit manager. It is announced by D. B. Smith, manager.

Fulmer is a graduate of Newberry High School and attended Newberry College.

An officer in the Laurens unit of the National Guard, he is a graduate of the Palmetto Military Academy, training school for National Guard officers.

He is a member of Colony Lutheran Church, Newberry.

Fulmer is married to the former Nancy Dowd of Newberry and they have a son, Larry, Jr.

## Kiwanis Club To Entertain Farmers Tonight

The Kiwanis Club will have its annual "farmers night" meeting tonight at Hotel Mary Musgrove. The session will begin at 7 o'clock.

Each member is expected to invite a farmer as his guest for the meeting.

Tom Morgan, associate director of Extension Work at Clemson University, will be the principal speaker.

A style show will be presented under the direction of Miss Myrtice Taylor and Mrs. Marie Haigler, home demonstration agents for Laurens County, featuring cotton goods.

## Car Hits Apartment

This car went out of control Monday about 5:00 p. m. and crashed into a garage apartment on the lot of Marvin DeYoung at the corner of Davidson and Shands Streets. John Thomas Banks, driver, is said to have attempted to make a turn from Davidson Street into Shands, went across DeYoung's yard and hit the apartment occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wood, son-in-law and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. DeYoung. Damage to the apartment is said to amount to about \$800, including contents of the corner room where the car struck the house. The car is reported to be owned by Banks' father, Robert O'Dell Banks of Cross Hill.—Photo by Paul Quinton.

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Prosecuting attorney for the state was Solicitor William T. Jones, of Greenwood, who skillfully marshalled his witnesses and presented testimony beginning with finding the body of Mrs. Bridges by her husband in his Clinton law office, which she staffed, on the night of Aug. 23, 1963, horribly beaten and mutilated, and placing the defendant within a few feet of the Utopia Building on Musgrove Street, where the law office was located on the second floor, on the day of the crime.

Justin A. Bridges, Laurens attorney and former legislator, was the first witness. He told how the Clinton branch office had been open only about three months, staffed by the 45-year-old wife on the second floor of the Utopia Building where only a sign painter had other quarters and was rarely there.

On the fatal day — Aug. 23, 1963 — he had lunch in Clinton with Mrs. Bridges, he said. Only that morning they had seen their daughter off for South America to join her husband there. The daughter, Mrs. Ann Bridges Martin, was at his side throughout the trial.

Bridges said he left Clinton about 12:45 p. m. and returned to Laurens, where he saw a waiting client about 2 p. m. He said it was about then that Mrs. Bridges called (telephone records put the call at 2:01 p. m.) from the Clinton office to say "a boy" was there who wanted to talk with him about an insurance claim. Bridges said he advised his wife to have the client see him at the Laurens office, where he promised to wait.

When no one had come by 2:30 p. m., he said, he got a haircut, picked up his car where it was being serviced, returned to the office and stayed until 5:40 p. m. During the interval, he said, he talked with two others in the office, then made a trip to Greenwood to see a nephew, Marvin Watson, on business. He said he ate hamburgers there at a drive-in restaurant and was back in Laurens about 9 p. m. to find that his wife was not at home.

Bridges testified he was disturbed because he and his wife were planning to leave the following morning for a trip to Fontana, N. C.

"I knew something was wrong," he said. He called neighbors and others without success, then drove to Clinton where he immediately noticed lights still burning in the office there.

"I rushed up the stairs," he said. "The door was open. I saw her lying on her back. She was in a bloody mess. Her clothes were torn. I knew she was dead for safety could possibly live in that condition."

He said he called for police.

(Continued on page 4)