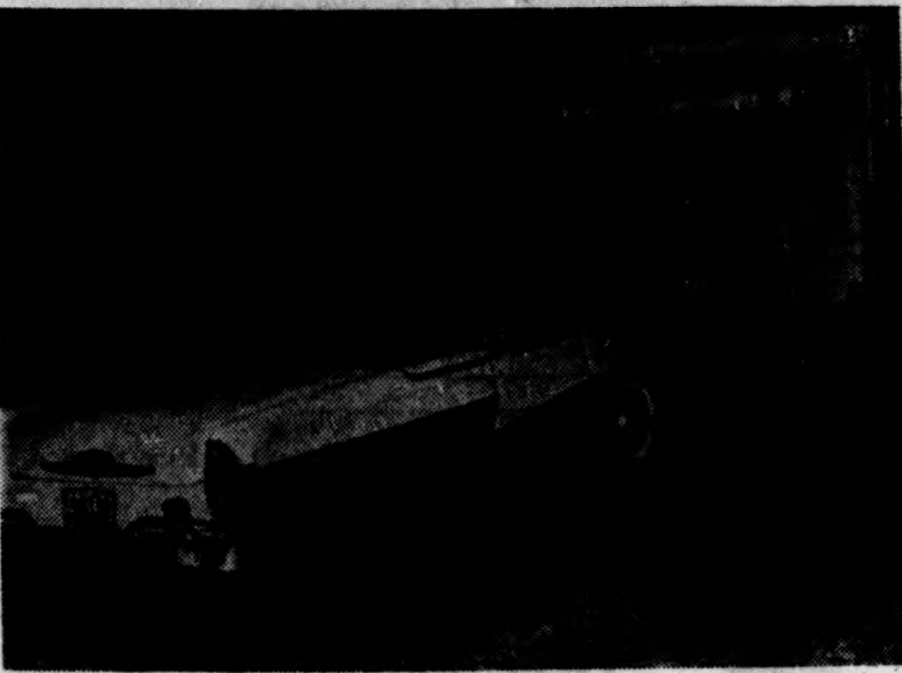


# 18-Year-Old Youth Shot To Death in Joanna Home



Scene of Shooting

A Laurens, Rt. 1, youth was fatally shot at Joanna Saturday afternoon, blasted three times with a shotgun.

A 55-year-old Laurens man also wounded in the shooting affray at the home of the victim's estranged wife and mother-in-law.

The victim was Walter Junior Beck, 18, Laurens County Corner Marshall Pressley said Beck died of 12 gauge shotgun wounds of the lower abdomen, back and shoulder.

Wounded in the shooting was Wesley Craig, 55, of Setzler Road, Wattsville.

Laurens County Sheriff R. Eugene Johnson said the shooting happened shortly before 3:45 p.m., at the home of Mrs. Gertha Rice, 201 Banna St. There apparently were no witnesses.

Deputy A. S. Holt of Joanna said he received word of the shooting at 3:45 p.m., and he and Deputy H. G. Murrah Jr. arrived at the scene about five minutes later. He said Beck was found in the front bedroom of the frame house, lying on his side. The victim was still breathing when they found him, Holt said, but died before being placed in an ambulance.

Officers said the body was at the foot of a bed, about six feet from a door leading into the room. A .32 calibre pistol also was found on the floor of the room, he said. Its ownership was not determined.

Although no witnesses to the shooting were found, officers quoted Beck's estranged wife, 16-year-old Patsy Ann Beck, as

saying the shooting took place about five minutes after Craig arrived at the house only a short time, officers were told.

Deputy Holt said the girl told him she did not hear any words exchanged between the men before the sound of the gunfire. She said Craig walked out after the shooting got in his truck and drove away, according to the deputy.

Craig was arrested about 5 p.m. at the home of a relative in the Laurens area. He was first jailed for investigation, found to be wounded, and taken to the Laurens County hospital. He reportedly underwent surgery for a pistol bullet wound, and was in fair condition late Saturday night.

The wife of the dead youth said she ran to the home of a nearby neighbor to call police.

Sheriff Johnson and his force was continuing an investigation into the shooting this week.

## Christmas Parade Entrants Requested To Notify Buice

Charles Buice, parade chairman for the Merchants Division of the Chamber of Commerce, has asked that anyone wishing to enter a float or unit in the Christmas parade notify him at Maxwell Brothers Furniture Store as preparations are being made for the parade Thursday, December 2.

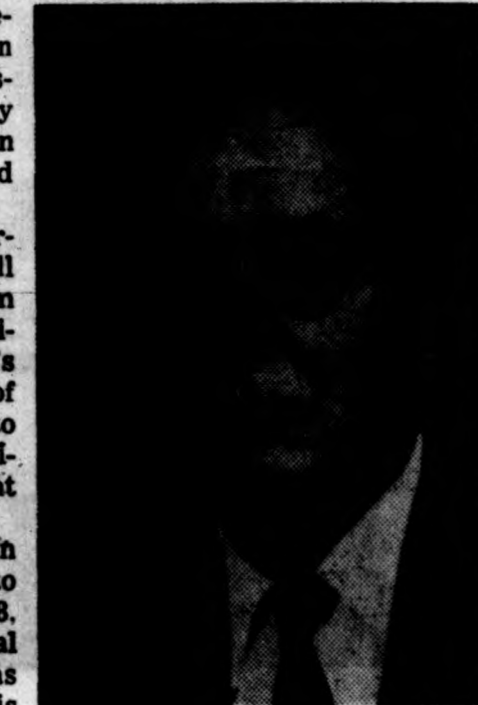
## PC to Award Honorary Degree to Dr. B. O. Whitten

Dr. Benjamin Otis Whitten, retired superintendent of Whitten Village, will be honored by Presbyterian College with an honorary doctor of humanities degree on December 5, it was announced today.

PC President Marc C. Weersing said the presentation will be made as part of a program which will also include the dedication of Clinton Hall women's dormitory. He said the board of trustees had recently voted to honor Dr. Whitten in recognition of his years of service at Whitten Village.

Dr. Whitten, who has resided in Clinton since he first arrived to establish the institution in 1918, announced his retirement several weeks ago from his position as superintendent. He had held this post for 47 years and built the institution into one of the finest of its kind in the country.

From the early beginning as a national pioneer in the field of mental health Dr. Whitten overcame odds in gradually winning public acceptance and support of the work, and in building the operation to its present capacity of more than 2,500 children. Along the way, he became recognized as an authority in the field, often called to distant states in an advisory capacity. He turned down attractive offers elsewhere to dedicate his life to this place and to his constant efforts to rehabilitate as many children as possible for return to their own homes.



DR. WHITTEN

In appreciation for his work the parents of the institution in 1954 prevailed upon the state legislature to change the name from the State Training School to Whitten Village. Upon his recent retirement, the parents club presented him with a new automobile.

B. O. Whitten is a native of Pendleton and a 1909 graduate of Emory University Medical College. After the first three years in private medical practice, he joined the staff of the State Hospital in Columbia for training in psychiatry and came from there to establish the Clinton institution for the state in 1918.



## Collision on S. Broad St.

This 1965 Ford, driven by Eddie Ray Barker of 281 Shands St., was in collision with a car driven by Robert Edward Allen of Greenwood Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 18, at the intersection of S. Broad and Walnut Streets.

Officers state that Barker was traveling south when a station wagon ahead of him driven by a boy attempted to make a right turn. Barker put on his brakes and skidded on the wet pavement into the path of the Greenwood car, going north. Both Barker and Allen suffered bruises and the cars were considerably damaged. City Policeman J. V. Lowe, shown in photo, was among officers investigating.—Quisenberry Photo.

## Hairston Gets \$10 Farmer Wins Last \$25 Prize

Claude Farmer of 504 Bailey St., was the winner of \$25 first prize in the last of the football guessing contest conducted by The Chronicle.

Farmer missed naming the winners in only two games of the 20 listed for the week of Nov. 12-13. He picked Clemson over Maryland and Catawba over Guilford.

A winner of second prize of \$10 was Jimmy Hairston, III, of 105 Locust St., Lydia.

He missed three games, as did 10 others, but Jimmy hit the Clinton-High-Woodruff score right on the nose (13-7 in favor of Woodruff) as the tie-breaker.

Others who missed three, but missed the Clinton - Woodruff score, were Mike Stroud, Rt. 1, Laurens; M. F. Pace, Rt. 1, Clinton; Barry Hairston, Lydia; Barry Whitman, Albert Patterson, and Ray Priestnio, Clinton; Jim Hairston, Lydia; Martha Murphy, Jerry Gaines, and Geraldine Johnson, all of Laurens.

State Senator W. C. Dobbins, a Joanna native, called Tuesday "a red letter day" in the growth and progress of this town. The senator said he favored changing the name of the post office and the town back to Goldville.

According to stories of the early beginnings of the community, Dobbins said the town was called Goldville. "because the man who founded the first industrial plant . . . paid for the tremendous amount of land he purchased in gold."

The name was changed later by mill owners for "industrial purposes," Senator Dobbins said. Now that the plant has been sold to Greenwood Mills, Dobbins said he would like to see the name changed back to Goldville. "It sounds important, progressive, and it glitters," he concluded.

Mrs. Dollie M. Carr, postmaster at Joanna since 1939, paid tribute to the individuals, civic clubs and other organizations "who have worked untringly n our behalf."

She pointed to the progress of the postal service in the community. "Today I am proud to serve in our new modern building," she said.

She introduced the postal personnel that included the two carriers, Maxie L. Reeder, mounted carrier, and James R. Turner, foot carrier, who Tuesday for the first time provided postal delivery service to the approximate 871 homes and businesses in the area.

W. L. Hair, master of ceremonies, introduced special guests.

Others taking part in the program were J. B. Hart; T. C. Langston, representative of the post office regional office at Atlanta, Ga.; Dr. Byron L. Herbin, pastor of the First Baptist Church; the Rev. R. A. Pickett, pastor of Epworth Methodist Church.

The Clinton High School band and the Joanna Junior High School chorus participated in the program.

## Joanna Community Gets Mail Delivery Service

A special program at the Joanna Post Office at 8:00 a. m., Tuesday, marked the inauguration of postal city delivery for the first time in the community.

More than 150 citizens were on hand for the program at the rear of the Post Office on Highway 76.

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## Dobbins Says Courthouse Resolution Passed Senate

Senator William C. Dobbins of Laurens County, in a letter to The Chronicle this week, refuted a statement purported to have been made before the County Grand Jury last week by Representatives Marshall Abercrombie and J. C. League.

The statement was that (as reported) "a new courthouse bill had been passed by the House (during the 1965 session) and sent to the Senate and no more has been heard from the bill."

Senator Dobbins, in his letter, said "the statement is false and misleading" and produces records of the legislature to prove it.

The records show, Dobbins said, that the bill (or resolution) came to the Senate from the House, was amended and passed the Senate, was returned to the House where Representatives Abercrombie and League concurred in the amendments and the resolution passed.

Senator Dobbins further states, "it appears that Mr. Abercrombie and Mr. League are not keeping an eye on legislation pertaining to Laurens County as it moves through the General Assembly."

Following is the letter by Senator Dobbins:

Editor, The Chronicle:

The article on the Grand Jury Report on the Laurens County Courthouse which appeared in the last edition of The Clinton Chronicle stated "two County Legislative Delegation members, Reps. Marshall Abercrombie and Jake League, appeared before the grand jury and it was brought out that a new courthouse bill had been passed by the House and sent to the Senate and no more has been heard from the bill."

If such a statement was made by Representatives Marshall Abercrombie and Jake League, that statement is false and misleading, and it appears Mr. Abercrombie and Mr. League are not keeping an eye on legislation pertaining to Laurens County as it moves through the General Assembly.

First, the legislation referred to in the report is not a bill. It is a Concurrent Resolution. It was introduced in the House by the Laurens Delegation. The resolution provides for the appointment of a committee of five to study the feasibility of renovating or replacing the Laurens County Courthouse.

As of the date of this letter the members of the committee have not been appointed. Under the provisions of the resolution, the members must be appointed and the committee organized by January 1, 1966, or the resolution is dead. If Mr. Abercrombie and Mr. League are as anxious to get something started on the courthouse as their statements before the grand jury indicate, then I suggest that we get together and name the members of the committee.

The people who have heard me speak at various civic clubs throughout the county this year know that I want Laurens County to have a new courthouse and jail combined, with adequate office space for county, state and federal offices, located on a site in an un congested area in the city or on the outskirts of the City of Laurens, the building planned and constructed to serve the needs of the people of the county adequately for the next hundred years.

I would appreciate if you would print this letter in its entirety in your next edition so that the erroneous remarks concerning my actions on the courthouse legislation be publicly corrected.

—WILLIAM C. DOBBINS  
State Senator,  
Laurens County

## CHS Junior Class Play Slated for Friday Night

For the past few weeks the Clinton High School junior play cast has been busily rehearsing for their production of "We Shook the Family Tree," which is directed by Miss Eloise Miller and Mrs. N. P. Robinson. The play will be given on Friday night at 8 o'clock in the High School auditorium.

The three-act comedy revolves around 16-year-old Hildegarde, who is desperately trying to get a date for the big dance. Her mother, in trying to help, lines up a date with a nice boy she knows. Poor Hildegarde! Her mother has picked Freddie Sherman, the only boy in the school who wears knickers.

Playing the part of dramatic Hildegarde, whose imagination often gets her into trouble, is Kayran Cox. Edna Jacobs plays her understanding mother and Henry Adair plays her not so patient father. Hildegarde's little sister and constant shadow is played by Lucille McSween. Hildegarde's also has two mischievous, younger brothers. Bob, the older one, is played by Pepper Bond, and Jimmy, the younger one, is played by Johnny Fulmer.

Phyllis Martin portrays six-year-old Paige, who loves to play postman. Ellie-May, Bob's heartthrob, is played by Kathie Rimer. Donna Brannon plays Jill, her faithful friend.

Freddie Sherman, whose plight has given him an inferiority complex, is portrayed by Ronnie Johnson. Susan Davenport plays Mrs. Sherman, who babies herself as well as Freddie. Mr. Sherman, a stiff, pompous man, is portrayed by Charles Fuller.

The prompter for "We Shook the Family Tree" is Nora Oeland and Earl Turner is in charge of sound effects.

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## WLBG To Broadcast Woodruff-Palmetto Game Friday Night

Radio station WLBG-FM will broadcast the Woodruff-Palmetto High football game Friday night, with air time being 7:45. Game time will be at 8.

The game, played at Woodruff, will decide the championship for the Upstate Class AA Conference. Play by play will be by Bill Hogan and color will be by Lewis Bagwell, Jr.

Joel Whitsel, star Clinton High halfback, has been chosen to play on the South Carolina team in the Shrine Bowl football game to be played in Charlotte, N. C., on Saturday, December 4.

Whitsel is the latest in a long line of Clinton players named over the years as members of the team to represent the state in the game sponsored by Shrine organizations in the states of South Carolina and North Carolina for the benefit of the Greenville Crippled Children's Hospital.

A similar team has been chosen from Senior high school players to represent North Carolina. The teams will spend a week in practice sessions prior to the game.

Whitsel, with his familiar No. 40, has become an outstanding figure in high school football, scoring a total of 18 touchdowns during the current season. His coach, Claude Howe, regards him as one of the two or three best backs in the state.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Whitsel of Joanna.

## GOP Supper At Mountville Saturday

The Mountville Republican precinct is sponsoring a fund-raising supper Saturday from 5:30 to 9:30 p. m. at the Grange hall.

In attendance at the supper will be U. S. Rep. Albert Watson, R-S. C., Harry Dent, head of the South Carolina Republican party, Niles Hanna, chairman of the Laurens County Republican party, and other state GOP officials.

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# The Clinton Chronicle



## At Joanna Postal Ceremonies

Principals at ceremonies Tuesday morning inaugurating postal delivery service are, from left, W. Lester Hair, master of ceremonies; T. C. Langston, representing the Post Office Department Regional Office in Atlanta; Mrs. Dollie Carr, postmaster at Joanna; and Laurens County State Senator William C. Dobbins.—Photo by Dan Yarborough.

## In Death of Lester C. Harris

# Gregory Is Sentenced To 15-Year Prison Term

Laurens — James Capers Gregory, 50-year-old Clinton storekeeper, was convicted of manslaughter in General Sessions Court here Friday in the December 28, 1964, slaying of Lester Coleman Harris, 42, a Clinton textile worker.

Gregory was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment by Presiding Judge C. Bruce Littlejohn of Spartanburg.

The stender, crew-cut defendant told the court before he was sentenced, "I'm sorry it happened. I had nothing against the boy."

The jury which heard three days of testimony began deliberation shortly before 6 p. m. Friday and returned the verdict an hour and a half later.

Two sons and other members of his family were by Gregory's side throughout the trial.

Defense attorney Marshall Abercrombie served notice of appeal and requested that the court set bond while appeal was pending.

Gregory was the 11th and final witness for the defense during the final day of trial.

He said the shooting occurred during a scuffle in a parked truck over possession of a money box that held receipts of a grocery store he operated for his son in the Lydia Mill community.

Gregory testified that Harris, who had been drinking, came to the grocery store at about 8:30 p. m., December 27, and invited him to have a drink.

He said they drank a half-pint of whiskey in the truck outside the store and that Harris then asked him to take him to purchase more whiskey.

According to Gregory's testimony, they drank some more after the purchase, then closed the establishment for the night.

Gregory testified they bought additional whiskey about midnight, then drove to Harris' home; but that Harris asked him not to stop.

He said they drove to the rear of the Harris home and that they stopped on Cedar St.

Gregory said that after two or three drinks here, Harris began accusing him of "buying the grocery store" when he (Harris) wanted it.

Gregory testified that Harris grabbed the money box, "slapped me a dozen times, knocked my glasses off then hit me with a bottle."

Gregory testified he fired "once or twice" and that Harris turned the box loose, opened the truck door and got out. The defendant said he then drove to the man's home.

On Wednesday, the opening day of the trial, Deputy Sheriff Ted Ward testified that Gregory, 50, acknowledged firing a .22 caliber pistol the state contends was used to kill Harris last Dec. 28 just outside the Clinton city limits.

"Is this the gun you shot Harris with?" Ward testified he asked Gregory in the presence of Sheriff R. Eugene Johnson and Deputy Ralph Riddle in the Clinton police station two days after the killing. Ward testified that Gregory "said it was." Gregory inspected the weapon and told the officers it was his, Ward said.

Ward's testimony was admitted in evidence over objections by defense attorney Marshall Abercrombie. Presiding Judge Bruce Littlejohn of Spartanburg ruled the testimony admissible after hearing it in the absence of the jury. It was later repeated for the jury.

Ward was one of seven witnesses called Wednesday by Solicitor William T. Jones.

Harris' body was found lying face up on Cedar Street near his home in the Lydia Mill community about 1:45 a. m., Dec. 28. He had been shot in the chest near the heart. The body had minor abrasions on the left ear, shoulder and elbow.

Two men returning from a coon hunt spotted the body and notified police.

Lt. M. N. Cate, State Law Enforcement Division ballistics expert, testified Thursday that a slub identified as the fatal bullet was fired from a pistol identified in earlier testimony as that of Gregory.

Jerry Satterfield, a nephew of the victim, who lives near where the body was found, testified he had seen the defendant and Harris together in a truck earlier on the night of Harris' death. He said that from his home about 1:30 a. m. he heard three shots but when he could see nothing from the house he did not leave the house. He said he heard a "blump, blump" sound a minute later, then still a few minutes later heard a vehicle crank up. He said that from his window he could see the vehicle "drive down the street easy."

Ralph Duncan and Jimmy Pruitt of Union and Bruce Bagwell of Lydia Mill community, told how they found the body as they returned from a coon hunt in the Rabun Creek section of Laurens County. They reported it to Clinton police and returned to the scene.

According to their testimony, a son of the defendant, Jimmy Earl Gregory, 27, was near the body when they returned with Officers Ed Marse and Lt. Marvin Stewart.

## At College Program

Presbyterian College held a successful Textile Executives Day program on campus last Friday, with 70 textile officials from South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia joining PC students in participation. Four of the leaders are pictured here left to right: President Marc C. Weersing; James A. Chapman, Jr., of Spartanburg, president of Inman Mills and a PC trustee, who presided; Henry Lovett of Kingstree, president of the Presbyterian student body; and Wayne J. Holman, treasurer of Johnson & Johnson, who delivered the keynote address.—Yarborough Photo.



At College Program