

LANCASTER FREED BY JURY'S VERDICT

PATROLMAN WHO KILLED HIS WIFE IS ACQUITTED.

Another Case Pending

But Trial For Killing Wife's Companion Will Not Come Up During This Term.

Columbia, Sept. 19.—A verdict of "not guilty" was returned shortly after midnight by the jury in the case of Eugene M. Lancaster, motorcycle policeman of the Columbia police force, on trial for the murder of his wife, Mrs. Allie B. Lancaster. The killing occurred on May 28 of this year, at which time Lancaster also shot to death Newton S. Lorick, his wife's companion in an automobile. Lancaster is still to face trial for the killing of Lorick, but this case will not come up at the present term of court.

Though locked up for the night about 10:30 o'clock the jury let it be known about 11:30 that a verdict had been reached, and officials of the court returned to receive it. It was read shortly after 12 o'clock.

Lancaster himself was the principal witness of the closing day of the trial. He testified that his mind was a perfect blank after he fired the first shot at the couple when they approached in an automobile from the Congaree River bridge.

The motorcycle policeman, facing a courtroom which was jammed to suffocation, made his statement as to the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the double tragedy. At the trial with him were members of his family, including two of his young sons and his little daughter, the latter being taken out, when anything bearing on the alleged infidelity of her mother was brought out.

Lancaster said when he got out of the automobile, his wife threw up both hands and said to Lorick, "My God, Newt, there is Eugene."

Describes Shooting.
"With that," continued the patrolman, "Lorick turned his head and looked towards me, and as he turned his head he threw his hand from the steering gear to his hip pocket, and when he did I fired, and from that my mind was a blank."

From the time of the first shot, Lancaster testified, his mind was a perfect blank "until he came to himself" at the police station several days later, and he had no recollection as to how he got back to his car or anything else connected with the tragedy.

Lancaster said when he got out of had been brought to his home from a local hospital, where he was treated for a broken leg, sustained while on duty, he became suspicious of the relations of his wife and Lorick, who, he claimed, posed as one of his best friends. He detailed several instances which, he claimed, made him doubtful of his wife's fidelity.

Went in Search of Wife.

He testified that on the afternoon of the tragedy Mrs. Lancaster told him she was going to a motion picture show. He testified that he then went in search of his wife, going to the Gervais street bridge in a transfer car driven by a negro chauffeur, James Harmon, who yesterday detailed the circumstances of the double killing. He swore that he saw his wife and Lorick coming across the bridge in an automobile. He told of having to use crutches, stating that his leg was still in a plaster of Paris cast. He was looking through the back window of the car, which had the curtains up. Lancaster did not testify as to how he knew that the couple was coming over the Gervais street bridge, which is four or more miles from his home.

"I looked across the bridge," Lancaster testified. "I saw my wife and Newton Lorick coming in an automobile. She was in the front seat with him. Just about the time I looked I saw her put her left arm around his neck and kiss him."

The testimony of the State, as detailed by the chauffeur, Harmon, and other witnesses, was that Lancaster was helped into his car by Harmon, who drove it up to the Lorick automobile which had been stopped by a post on top of a steep embankment and that Lancaster fired the remaining shots in his revolver and those of another pistol into the bodies of his wife and Lorick. Some witnesses testified that they were dead after the first shots, and others swore that Mrs. Lancaster opened her eyes and looked at her husband before the last shots were discharged. In rebuttal to Lancaster's testimony of alleged loss of memory, the State today put up Magistrate Ollie Mefford and Deputy Alex Heise, who testified that Lancaster asked that Newton S. Lorick's kinsman be kept away from him, as they might retaliate. This statement,

contended the State, showed that Lancaster was in his right mind.

The defense put up John W. Richardson, chief of police; John M. McCain sheriff of Richland county, and other peace officers, who went to the scene of the killing, to show that Lancaster was suffering from emotional insanity.

Other Defense Testimony.

Several witnesses were introduced by the defense who told of alleged compromising situations Mrs. Lancaster and Lorick were found in, to

substantiate the testimony given by Lancaster.

A portion of the testimony consisted of the deposition of Lancaster's 16-year-old son who was too ill to attend court. This affidavit told how the boy had seen Lorick and his mother in various compromising situations. He testified that he had been given \$50 one time and \$100 another time to keep his mouth shut, and Lorick's actions later became such that he told his mother if she did not keep Lorick away from the Lancaster

home he would kill him. The boy swore that his mother on two occasions gave him firearms and told him to kill his father, who was confined to his bed with a broken leg. The youth testified that he could not pull the trigger either time.

His Last.

The general was riding along on a blazing hot day when a dilapidated soldier, his clothes in rags, with no shoes, his head bandaged and his arm

in a sling, came in sight.

The general stopped. "Why, my good fellow, you seem to be pretty well done up?"

"Yes, sir; I am just a bit," said the soldier. Then, looking up at the general he said: "General, I love my country. I'd fight for my country. I'd starve and go thirsty for my country. I'd die for my country. But if ever this confounded war is over I'll never love another country!"

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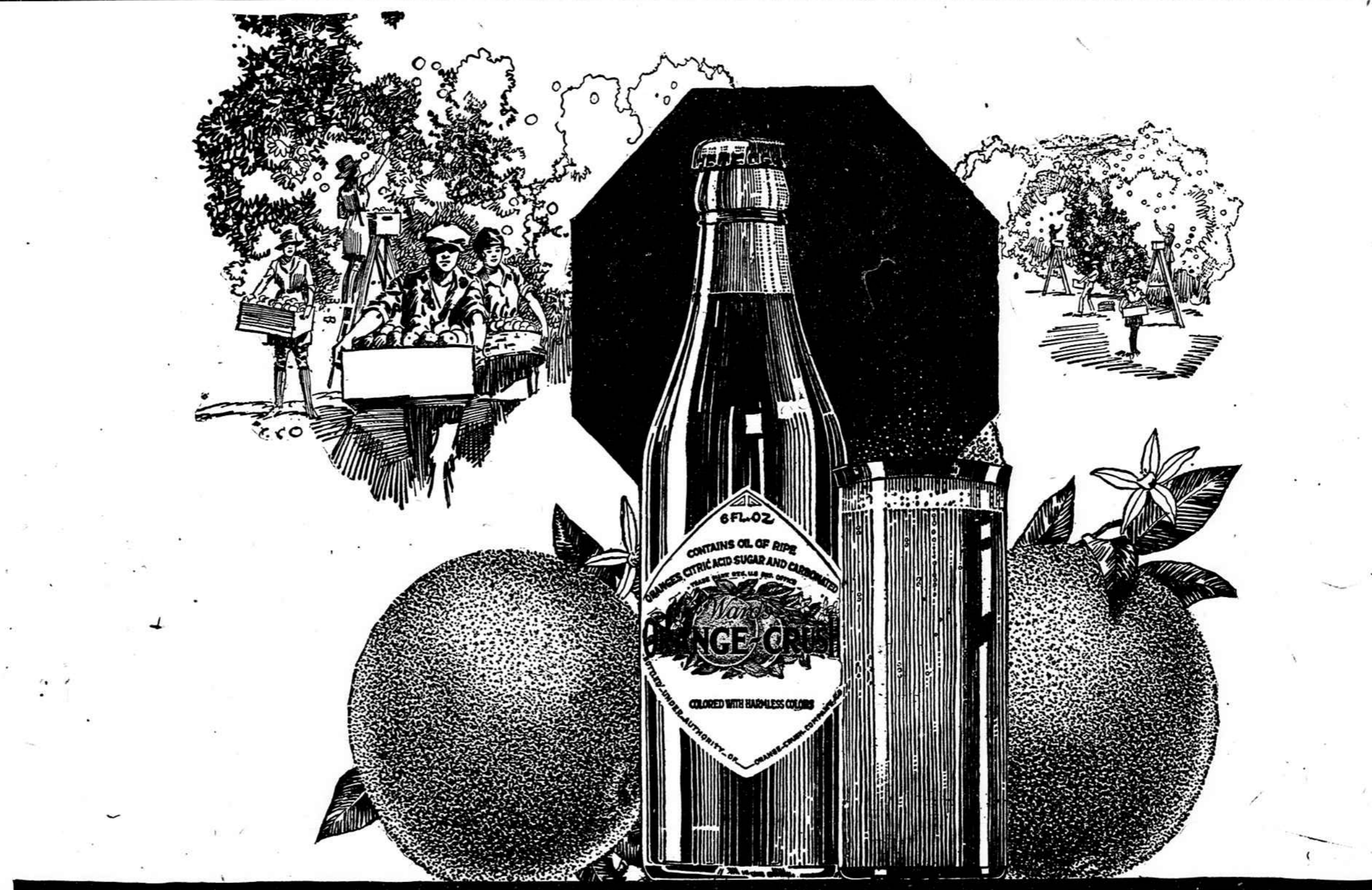
A Conservative.

"In his palmy days the stage-robber was a picturesque individual."

"Yes, and not grasping in his methods, either."

"No?"

"Unlike the modern profiteer, he merely took what the passengers happened to have at the time. He didn't take an option on what they expected to earn for the next five years."—Birmingham Age-Herald.



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