

White Jury Frees Suspect

SUMNER, Miss. (AP)—Elmer Otis Kimbell was acquitted of murder late yesterday in the shotgun slaying of a 33-year-old Negro.

"I wasn't sure justice would be done," said the 35-year-old white Glendora cotton gin operator, "but I should have known."

A 12-man, all-white jury, made up mostly of farmers, deliberated more than four hours before freeing Kimbell.

Two witnesses testified they saw Kimbell blast Clinton Melton three times with a shotgun Dec. 3 at a Glendora service station.

Witnesses said the shooting was an aftermath of an argument between Kimbell and Melton over gasoline to be put into Kimbell's car. Kimbell testified that Melton cursed him during the argument.

Defense Atty. J. W. Kellum said Kimbell fired the fatal shots in self-defense. Kimbell said three shots were fired at him before he opened fire, one wounding him in the shoulder. He showed a scar and brought in a doctor who verified the gunshot wound.

But neither Lee McGarrh, white owner of the service station, nor George Woodson, Negro who said he witnessed the slaying, said they saw or heard Melton fire. No weapon was found on Melton's body or in his car.

The trial took place in the same courtroom where half-brothers J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant were found innocent six months ago of the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till, Chicago Negro.

Kellum was one of five defense attorneys in the Till case.

Shortly after the slaying, the Glendora Lion's Club passed a resolution unanimously on "the regrettable tragedy . . . which claimed the life of one of the finest members of the Negro race in this community."

Members of the club contributed about \$400 to aid Melton's widow and their five children. Last week Mrs. Melton was killed and two of her children slightly injured when she drove off a country road and turned over into a ravine near her home.

Relatives said she was learning to drive.

TRAINER CRASHES

TOKYO (AP)—A U. S. Air Force jet trainer crashed near the Yokota Air Base Tuesday afternoon shortly after takeoff. The pilot was killed. His name was withheld. The cause of the crash was not known.



A BATON WIELDER of no mean talents is Doreen Morasch, one member of the touring OJJ troupe slated here March 15 in Mills Auditorium. Under the sponsorship of the Moose Lodge, proceeds from the show will go toward the purchase of musical instruments for Altamont Junior High. Tickets are available at the door or may be purchased from Miller's, Penney's, Korian's, the First National Bank and the U.S. National Bank. Curtain time is 8 o'clock.

UNEXPECTED VACATION

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. (AP)—Pupils at the suburban Spackenhill School have received an unexpected vacation for the rest of the week. Principal Martha Lawrence last night called off classes until March 19 because 12 of the 18 teachers on her staff are out with virus illness.



NEIL R. CORNWALL, U.S. Marine Corps PFC, son of Mrs. Hazel Watson, 447 Market Street, recently completed his recruit training at the San Diego Marine Base. Cornwall joined the Marines in November, 1955. He completed his recruit training as honor man of his platoon.

Caesar Splits With Leading Lady

NEW YORK (AP)—Comedian Sid Caesar is parting company with the leading lady of his television show for the second time in a little more than two years. A statement yesterday said Caesar and Nanette Fabray were "sorry to announce that they have not been able to arrange for the continuance of Miss Fabray's association with Caesar's Hour beyond the present season ending in June."



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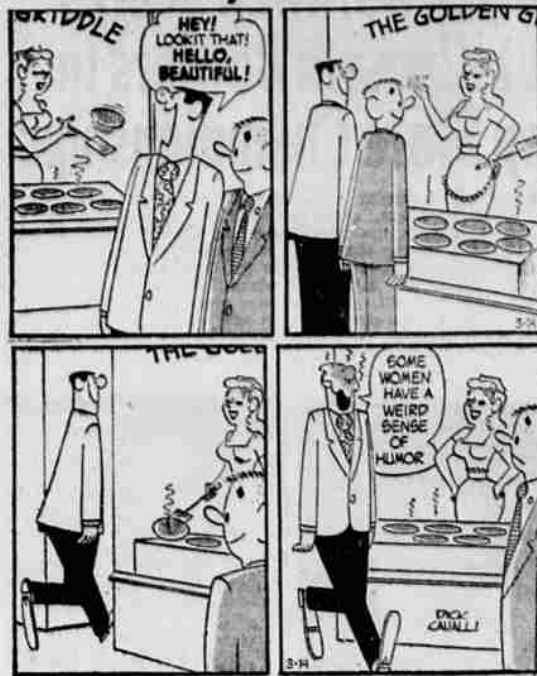
STARLIGHTERS

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Morty Meekle



Rita Loses Contract Suit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actress Rita Hayworth has lost her \$75,000 breach of contract suit against Columbia Pictures Corp. and now faces the studio's countersuit for \$150,000.

U. S. Judge Ben Harrison ruled yesterday that Miss Hayworth was entitled to nothing because she had waived her rights, if any, by her own actions. She claimed Columbia failed to start principal photography on the movie "Joseph and His Brethren" in time for her to take her daughter Yasmine to see Aly Khan in Europe July 1, 1955.

When the shooting did not start April 5, Miss Hayworth walked out of rehearsal and refused to re-

turn, wiring the studio it had breached its contract. Her suit then was instituted.

The studio had contended in the departure from the movie was inspired by maneuvers of crooner Dick Haymes, then her husband. The court commented at the close of the case that testimony showed Haymes was the source of trouble between the actress and her studio.

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McKay Election Manager Told

WASHINGTON (AP)—William L. Phillips Sr., Salem, will manage Secretary of Interior McKay's campaign for the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate, McKay said Monday.

The secretary said he plans no active campaigning in Oregon until after his resignation from the cabinet early in May. The primary is May 18. He said he had been invited to debate his likely opponent in the November election, Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.), but had declined. He said he did not think he should campaign while remaining a federal official.

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