



REUNION THWARTED—Legal restrictions kept Mary Ruth Ward (left) and Vera Jean Hornbeck from meeting their teen-age sweethearts William Johnson and William Price at Johnson's trial in the slaying of State Trooper Herbert W. Smith.



STILL IN LOVE—William Johnson hopes the day will come that he can marry Miss Ward.



DARK OUTLOOK—William Price would marry Miss Hornbeck today if he were a free man.

Rigors of Prison Mature Triggerman and Buddy

By VICTOR PETERSON

Twenty-one months ago, State Trooper Herbert Wade Smith fell mortally wounded from his patrol car on State Rd. 9, north of Shelbyville.

A bullet fired from an automobile containing four joyriding youngsters he had stopped for questioning had nicked the edge of his badge, and plowed into his chest.

The two frightened boys and their girl friends sped away in their stolen car. Hours later, they were captured and beaten as they cowered in a cornfield. In jail, they sang "Pistol Packin' Mama" and wisecracked. After Trooper Smith was buried, the youngsters went on trial.

William Price, the trigger man, and William Johnson, his buddy, were given life imprisonment. Their sweethearts, Vera Jean Hornbeck and Mary Ruth Ward, were sentenced to terms of 2 to 21 years.

At their trial, they were cocky and confident after the first scare of being seized by the law had passed.

Today, after 18 months of prison life, they are confident and cocky no longer. A new quietness and serenity have taken the place of the teen-age jaufulness.

In prison the two boys and the two girls seem to have grown up. For the first time yesterday since prison doors closed on them, the four were summoned back to the courtroom, this time to testify in the re-trial of William Johnson.

Johnson asked for a new trial on the grounds that his confession in the shooting was obtained by State Police under threat of physical violence. The State Supreme Court upheld his plea.

It appeared the teen agers would meet again but that was not to be. The State kept them separated, refused to permit them to be together even momentarily for photographs.

Johnson pale and very serious, sat quietly at the defense table in the old-fashioned, high-ceilinged room of Decatur Circuit Court. The thronging spectators stared at him openly.

The state began its case. First witnesses were called.

Now 19, Johnson has the air of new maturity about him. His six-foot frame has filled out to 180 pounds on prison diet and prison hours. At Michigan City he works in the parole board office as a clerk. He has made a study of fingerprinting. He hopes to learn the field of television and radio, banking on the day he will walk out of prison, a free man.

The courtroom crowd stirred.

The girls go to school at the

prison and are studying business courses. Their duties are to care for Mrs. Krueger's apartment. Miss Ward does the cooking and Miss Hornbeck the housekeeping.

As they left for noon adjournment, Miss Ward looked toward the courtroom.

Johnson rose from the defense table and searched for a glimpse of her.

"I just got a sight of Mary Ruth as she walked across the hall," he said. "She looks like a million dollars to me right now. She always has looked like a million to me."

"We can't write, but I still love her and hope she does me."

"The day Mary Ruth walks out of prison, I'll marry her. That is, I'll marry her if I'm out," he said.

Sheriff Earl Marlow took Johnson's arm and led him back to the jail.

Cement Shortage Hits New Homes

No Relief Expected Before First Freeze

A shortage of cement is slowly bringing Indianapolis home building to a standstill, and there's no relief in sight before the first freeze.

Carl Spickelmier of the Spickelmier Building Materials Co., one of the city's biggest suppliers, said the cause was simply that housing had stepped too far ahead of cement production.

Rush to Beat Cold

"The main trouble is demand," he said. "The production of cement is up 18 per cent over last year but we could use 25 per cent more. This is the biggest month in housing. Builders are rushing to get their foundations in before cold weather."

Another building industry spokesman said he had tried to buy "three or four sacks" yesterday but couldn't find them in town.

One large cement dealer said he was getting only 40 per cent of what he had ordered to fill his orders.

In August there were 162 starts in the county, 32 more than August of last year.

Appointed Instructor

Leonard Cohen, 1130 S. East St. has been appointed instructor in psychology for Indianapolis-Purdue University Center. He formerly was associated with University of Miami, Fla.

Answers Stopped

Miss Hornbeck, now 17, left the stand to rejoin Miss Ward in the custody of Mrs. Ethel R. Krueger, superintendent of the Indiana Women's Prison.

Miss Ward was dressed in a yellow print and Miss Hornbeck in a blue, white and gray stripe.

In the background the droned on.

Both raised their eyes and started to answer when asked if they still loved Price and Johnson. They stopped abruptly.

"I don't believe that is something we wish to talk about," Mrs. Krueger said. "We have worked long and hard to show Vera and Ruth the right way. We don't want them to relive old experiences."

"They are as fine girls as I ever have known. I hope that after today the paths of the two girls never again cross those of the boys in or out of prison."

The girls go to school at the

Around the World—

France Accuses De Gaulle Of Forming Illegal Police

Interior Minister Tells Assembly General Has Recruited 15,000 Private Force

The French government charged today that Gen. Charles de Gaulle has organized an illegal private police force of 15,000 men recruited from the ranks of his new party, Rally of the French People.

The disclosure was made in the National Assembly by Minister of the Interior Jules Moch, when deputies questioned him concerning

Great Britain

The third and last reading of a government bill to curb the powers of the House of Lords was approved by the House of Commons last night.

The bill, which now becomes law, limits to one year the period in which lords may consider and thereby delay legislation passed by Commons.

Sweden

The body of Count Folke Bernadotte, assassinated United Nations mediator in Palestine, was reposed at the Bernadotte Castle Dragorarden here today.

It will remain until Sunday, when simple funeral services will be held. Cremation will follow.

Mayor Asks Railroads To Repair Crossings

Mayor Al Feeney today renewed demands that railroads keep up the repair of grade crossings within the city.

He said he had noticed several crossings which had become rough and could cause damage to automobiles. He pointed out that railroad companies are responsible for the upkeep of the crossings and requested that repairs be made at once where they are needed.

Warren to Deliver Speech at Evansville

CARM, Ill., Sept. 22 (UPI)—Gov. Earl Warren, Republican candidate for vice president, today headed his campaign train toward Illinois and Indiana, promising that the GOP will not resort to tactics of another candidate who has said he will give "em hell."

The California governor was scheduled to make stops at Mt. Vernon, Ill., and at Evansville, Ind.

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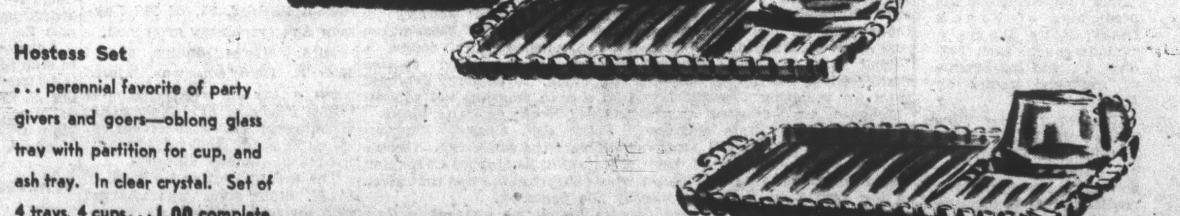
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