

Boy, Free in Murder Case, Back in School

Rejoins His Pals 24 Hours After Acquittal

'What's Cookin', Mitchell Bryant's Friends Inquire

By PHILIP F. CLIFFORD
Mitchell K. Bryant walked briskly into the yard of School 39 this morning.

He was free to join the boys in a bit of teen-age horseplay, before the bell signaled the opening of school.

Yesterday morning at the same hour the 15-year-old boy was a prisoner of the State of Indiana, standing trial for first degree murder. As he strode up to a group of classmates, the boys stopped their chattering.

"Hi, Mitch. What's cookin'?" one lad asked.

Mitch smiled sheepishly at his cronies and mumbled something about "nothin' much is cookin'."

But yesterday morning in the hush of Morgan County's Circuit Court, Mitchell Bryant had no room for smiles. He was fighting for his freedom.

Slain in Alley

It was just a year and six days ago, that James Kelly Brooks, an Indianapolis packing-house worker, was found dead in a South Side alley. He had been shot through the heart.

For almost two weeks police sifted through a maze of evidence and confidential tips. They were baffled.

One night as detectives still puzzled over the case, a pale, thin kid appeared at police headquarters. He said his name was Wiley E. Senteny Jr.

He said he killed Mr. Brooks. "I had a bad feeling inside," the boy told startled officers. "I just had to tell someone about it."

As he unfolded the story of an attempted robbery that led to the slaying of Mr. Brooks, Senteny implicated young Bryant.

Two Boys Arrested

The boys were arrested and later indicted for first degree murder and murder in the commission of robbery.

Bryant's case was venued to Morgan County. The state asked for a first de-



Photo by Bill Oates, Times Staff Photographer.

Mitchell K. Bryant and his mother... a hug for freedom.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

Uncover Clue In Murder of Railroad Man

Retired Monon Brakeman Found Slugged to Death

Times State Service
WINNAMAC, Nov. 9.—A sheriff today said he had a "very good lead" in the slugging-death of a retired Monon Railroad brakeman.

Pulaski County Sheriff Hubert Bollwahn said the "lead" might solve the mystery surrounding the finding of the body of 66-year-old John Fels yesterday.

The body, partly covered with leaves, was found near State Rd. 43, four miles north of Monon. The skull was fractured, the face cut and a wallet, watch and other identification papers were missing.

State police and the sheriff said the body apparently had been dumped from a car into a shallow roadside ditch.

Carried Large Sums

They said Mr. Fels, a bachelor, was known to carry considerable sums of money and that he had flashed large bills in several taverns Monday night.

Police said Mr. Fels was well-known in Monon. It was his regularity of habits that led to the identification of the body.

A restaurant owner became concerned when Mr. Fels did not come to the cafe at exactly 11 a.m. yesterday, as was his habit. He called the hotel where Mr. Fels lived and learned he had been missing all night. Hearing that police had found an unidentified body, the two men called police and later made identification.

The body was taken to Quarry Funeral Home at Francesville where an autopsy was performed. A brain hemorrhage caused death, officials said.

In November, 1948, brooded about his trial.

Wiley, who confessed he fired the shot, is scheduled to go on trial for his life next month in Criminal Court 2.

Jury Out 45 Minutes

Roy E. Patton of Enid, Okla., today was named executive director of Marion County Society for Crippled Children and Adults.

Mr. Patton, a former Oklahoma educator, has been with the Oklahoma Vocational Rehabilitation Division for eight years.

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Dance to Celebrate Paving Completion

A street dance sponsored by approximately 40 members of the E. Michigan and Rural Sts. Merchants Association will be held from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. today celebrating completion of an E. Michigan St. resurfacing project.

Works Board members recently granted permission for the dance to be held near the intersection. Two blocks will be roped off.

OES CHAPTER TO MEET

Monument Chapter 549, OES, will have a stated meeting and friends' night program Monday in the Masonic Temple.

IN INDIANAPOLIS

EVENTS TODAY

American War Mothers, Indiana Chapter, 10 a.m. at Indiana Statehouse. Indiana For Buyers Association Convention—Payson Hotel.

Carry-In Indiana Two-Day Meeting—Through tomorrow, Indiana University Auditorium.

Indiana Brothers Sons of the American Revolution, Luncheon Meeting—12:15 p.m. at Indiana Hotel.

League of Women Voters Meeting—10 a.m. at Indiana Hotel.

Perkins Club Concert—Under auspices of Fairview Presbyterian Church.

Perkins Club Concert—Caledonia Hall, Shortridge High School.

Accredited Flower Show Judges Association of Indiana—10 a.m. at Brookside Community Center.

Lions Club Noon Luncheon Meeting—Clarion Hotel.

Junior Chamber of Commerce Noon Luncheon Meeting—12:15 p.m. at Civic Theater.

Monroe County Chamber of Commerce—Village Green—8:30 p.m. daily through Saturday, theater.

American Education Week Observance—Indiana Schools—Through Saturday.

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Hoosier Association of Installment Credit—Annual Convention—Claypool Hotel.

Claypool Hotel—"Village Green"—8:30 p.m. daily through Saturday.

Hoosier Association of Fall Festivals—Dinner served from 5 to 7 p.m. daily at Claypool Hotel.

Marietta County Past Matrons and Patrons—Annual Luncheon—12:15 p.m. at Marietta Hotel.

West Indianapolis Mexican Temple—World Premiere of "The Big Wheel."

Sen. Cleggart Testimonial Noon Luncheon—Claypool Hotel.

Indiana Manufacturers Association Noon Luncheon Meeting—Claypool Hotel.

Red Cross—Annual Noon Luncheon Meeting—Washington Hotel.

Concord Athletic Club—Annual Indiana Co-operative Club Noon Luncheon Meeting—Claypool Hotel.

Alpha Sigma Nu—Annual Luncheon Meeting.

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