# —Gets 10 years

Continued from Page One

the verdict was pronounced.

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**J. HAROLD GRADY,** deputy State's attorney, in his final argument said:

"It seems to me that the case is just a shadow less-than-first-degree murder. It's either second-degree murder of nothing."

Attacking the defense contention that the fatal shooting was unintentional, Mr. Grady said:

**"He just didn't react as a normal human being does in an accidental death. Here you have a man who does not go to the police, nor did he try to get her to a hospital. Here's a man who has done everything he could to dissociate himself from the crime."**

"What he did afterward to dispose of the body or cover up cannot increase the degree of the crime itself," ruled Judge Mason.

Barciel Wilson

In arguing for acquittal on the grounds of accident at death, William Sinsky, attorney, told the court:

"Remember, for every man who runs around with a woman, the woman has to approve. The State has offered nothing in this case to show murder."

Wilson went on trial Wednesday in connection with the sensational murder of Helen.

* * *

**THE COURTROOM** of Judge Mason was filled to capacity throughout the trial, which was recessed when the State rested its case at 3:15 p.m. Wednesday.

Testimony produced by Mr. Grady "disclosed that the 19-year-old girl was shot and killed on the night of May 22 or early on the following morning.

**Her badly decomposed body was found on June 1, a week after she dropped out of sight, after it washed ashore near the Potomac River Bridge in Charles County.**

Mr. Wilson maintained in a statement to police following his arrest that the shooting was accidental.

The defendant told police he panicked upon learning the girl had been fatally wounded and stuffed her body in the trunk of his late model automobile.

The following day, the statement revealed, Mr. Wilson drove to the Potomac River near Newburg, Md., a little before dark and dropped the hapless girl 200 feet to a temporary watery grave.

* * *

**MR. WILSON** took the stand in his own behalf at 10:35 a.m. Thursday. The direct and cross-examination of the witness took more than an hour.

During both days of the trial the defendant wore a tan suit with brown accessories. His shoes, shirt and socks had a look of newness about them.

**Mrs. Wilson, wife of the defendant, was released from the hospital Monday in order to attend the trial. Relatives reported she had been under a great strain since her husband's arrest.**

She appeared anxious during the proceedings, and as soon as the judge said "10 years," she sobbed and was assisted from the crowded courtroom by relatives. Her husband could have gotten life or death in the gas chamber.

**HELEN'S FAMILY** — Key State's witnesses in the murder trial of Barciel Wilson were members of Helen's family. Shown here are Mrs. Maria Johnson and William Johnson, her parents, and Miss Pauline Johnson, a sister, who testified that the defendant threatened the victim. Just before Wilson got 10 years, Mrs. Johnson said: "I hope he gets the chair. ."

Among the character witnesses summoned by the defense were:

Fred Wilson, 515 E. 22nd St., William A. Wilson, 1919 Kennedy Ave., and Jesse Wilson, 919 N. Bond St., brothers of the defendant; the Rev. Mr. Winfield A. Showell, 1501 N. Broadway, Johnny Harrington, 958 N. Washington St., and Jesse Hopkins, 1919 Kennedy.

* * *

**THE STATE** called eight witnesses to testify in the murder case. They were:

Charles County Sheriff Adrian C. Moore; Dr. William D. Lovett Jr., assistant medical examiner; the victim's mother, Mrs. Marie Johnson, 1313 N. Broadway; her father, William Johnson, a sister, Miss Pauline Johnson;

John (Country) Grice, 24, 1413 N. Bond St., a boyfriend of Helen; Lt. George Klemmick and Detective Charles Plock, both of the homicide squad.

**Pauline Johnson told of an incident about two weeks before Helen's death when Mr. Wilson threatened the girl. She related that the threat took place "after Helen became "furious" when the three of them missed a movie because the defendant was late.**

"When we got to Broadway and Preston St. he said, 'You'd better buy yourself a black summer dress because you'll need it,'" Miss Johnson testified.

* * *

**WHEN MR. GRADY** asked the witness to whom Mr. Wilson was directing the remark, she replied, "To me."

Sheriff Monroe said when he saw the body "there were blocks of concrete tied to it with pieces of wire."

**Dr. Lovett, who performed the autopsy on June 2, testified that, "This woman died of a gunshot wound of the chest. The bullet penetrated her heart and lungs.**

Under cross examination by the defense attorney, Dr. Lovett said the path of the bullet showed a downward motion.

**Members of the dead girl's family told of a bitter dispute between Mr. Wilson and Helen when he came to visit her two weeks before she was killed.**

Referring to this incident, Mrs. Johnson said, "I heard Delores scream downstairs. Barciel had her by the arms taking her out the door. I ran down and asked him where he was taking her and he said he wanted to talk to her."

At this time, according to the girl's mother, "I said, 'Barciel let her go before I drop something on your head.'"

* * *

**MRS. JOHNSON** also revealed that during the week her daughter was missing, Mr. Wilson visited the house and even made a pretext of helping to locate the girl.

When he came to the house Mrs. Johnson said she told him:

"Barciel you're the last person seen with Delores and look like you ought to help look for her."

**She said he drove her to a woman's house on Caroline St., between Lombard and Baltimore Sts., where he inquired about Helen. "He even called the FBI for me," Mrs. Johnson related.**

Under questioning by Mr. Sinsky, Mrs. Johnson said on occasion her daughter sometime would leave home with Mr. Wilson and stay out all night.

Mr. Johnson said on the night of her disappearance Helen left home sometime before midnight "with this fellow here," pointing a finger at the defendant.

"For about four weeks we went out almost every evening," said Mr. Grice, in describing his relationship with the dead girl.

* * *

**GRICE SAID** he had been riding with Helen on May 22 and took her home sometime after 11 p.m.

He said earlier that same evening a man called Goodtime Reg introduced him to Mr. Wilson. Grice said the three of them sat in Mr. Wilson's car and "drank a half a pint of whiskey."

Then, according to the witness, he, Mr. Wilson and the other man went in a nearby tavern and the defendant bought three bottles of beer. Grice said before he finished his beer "a boy came in the tavern and said that lady wanted me."

**"This girl that was waiting in your car, who was she?" asked Mr. Grady.**

"Delores Johnson," answered Grice.

Pauline Johnson testified that she has known Mr. Wilson about a year and that she and her sister used to double date with him and one of his friends.

"I used to go out with Delores all the time," said the young woman, smartly dressed in a brown ensamble and a tiny hat with a long feather.

* * *

**PAULINE SAID** she was preparing for bed when Helen returned home from her ride with Grice on May 22.

"I asked her if she was going to bed and she said, 'no, I'm waiting for Barciel,'" Miss Johnson testified.

She said that was the last time she saw her sister alive.

**Detective Plock said he and Detective Furrie Cousins arrested Mr. Wilson at Caroline and Lombard Sts. on June 3.**

"On the first day we talked to Wilson and asked him if he would be willing to take a lie detector test and he said he would," said Lt. Klemmick.

The homicide squad officer said the polygraph test indicated that Mr. Wilson had guilty knowledge of Helen's death.

Lt. Klemmick said on June 6 the defendant gave a statement detailing the circumstances of the death.

* * *

**A PORTION** of the direct examination follows, with questions being asked by Mr. Sinsky:

Q—You are married?.

A—Yes, sir.

Q—And you live at what address?

A—At 1742 E. Lanvale St.

Q—Now, you knew Helen Delores Johnson?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q—And how long?

A—About a year.

Q—And how often did you go around with her after you met her?

A—Once or twice or maybe three times a week.

Q—Now, how often did her sister (Pauline) go out with you?

**A.—She has been out with Delores and me a couple of times and she has been out with Johnny (Harrington).**

(Mr. Wilson then testified about the occurrences on the dates.)

**Mr. Sinsky directed the defendant's attention to May 22, the date of the girl's disappearance, and the witness said he made a date to pick her up around midnight. Mr. Wilson said he went by the home of his brother, Amos Wilson, 1919 Kennedy Ave.**

Q—When you got there what did you do?

A—I woke up my brother.

Q—Now, how long did you stay at 1919 Kennedy Ave., with Delores?

A—I don't know just how long I stayed, but it was around 2 o'clock when we left.

**Q.—Did you have any relationship with her?**

A—Yes, sir.

Q—How do you fix the time?

**A.—She woke me up and said it was time to go. I asked her what time it was and she said it was 5 minutes to 2.**

Q—And where did you go from there?

A—She said she was hungry and we went up to the 800 block North Ave. . . . I bought a slice of pie, a dill pickle, a cup of coffee and a hamburger.

**Q.—Then where did you go next?**

**A.—We were going down Orleans St. and it was raining so hard till she asked me to stop until the rain stopped.**

**(In a police confession, Mr. Wilson said he parked on a lot near Thomas G. Hayes School No. 102).**

Q.—What distance did you stop from the school if you remember?

A.—I parked between the school and Caroline St., which would be half way.

Q—Now, when you parked there what did you do?

A.—When we parked she moved over towards me.

(He then related that they were intimate.)

Q—What did she do next?

A.—She finished eating her sandwich.

Q—You said you talked. What did you talk about?

**A.—For one thing we talked about going to Washington that Saturday night. . . . She went to drink the coffee but the coffee had gotten cold and she said a shot of whiskey would make it go good.**

The defendant related that he had a bottle of gin in his glove compartment where he also had placed a gun.

Q—Why did you take the gun out?

A.—When I reached in to get the whiskey the gun slipped down. I reached down and caught it.

Q—Did you have the gun as a whole or were you holding the trigger?

**A.—I don't know.**

**Q.—Now, when she grabbed the gun, how did she grab it?**

**A.—She grabbed it with both hands.**

**Q.—How long was it between the time she grabbed it until the time it went off?**

A.—It went right off.

Q.—What did you do then?

A.—I got up and pulled her up to me and she didn't say anything. . . . I got out of the car and went around to the other side. I didn't know if she was dead or not.

Q.—Was there any argument preceding your opening the glove compartment?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Now, after you found she was dead what did you do?

**A.—After I found out she was dead I didn't think about the hospital. The next thing I thought about was my wife—being married. And thought about the public, too.**

(Mr. Wilson then described how he placed the girl's body in the trunk and rode around with her until the following evening when he drove to Charles County.)

Q.—And what did you do with the body?

A.—I took her and threw her over the bridge.

Q.—The full confession that you gave them (police), is that the story you're telling from the stand today?

A.—Yes, sir.

**During the cross-examination by Mr. Grady, the defense attorney objected vigorously when the prosecutor, while discussing the reason why Mr. Wilson tried to dispose of the body, asked:**

"But you weren't thinking about whether she should have a decent burial, were you?"

Judge Mason sustained the defense objection.

* * *

**THE FOLLOWING** is, in part, the testimony during cross-examination:

Q.—When you were going with Delores for all practical purposes you were still living with your wife, is that right?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—She was quite a bit younger than you were; she was about 19?

**A.—That's right.**

**Q.—Did you say anything to her about if you caught her in the car with this (boyfriend) you were going to kill her?**

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did she ever tell you she was planning to marry Marvin Smith?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Now, you liked the girl didn't you?

**A.—Well, it wasn't love or anything like that because I was married and she went around with other boys.**

Q.—Now, this night when she was killed you were driving your wife's car, weren't you?

A.—I have the car in my wife's name.

Q.—Did you like her as much or better than your wife?

A.—I liked her but didn't like her as well as my wife.

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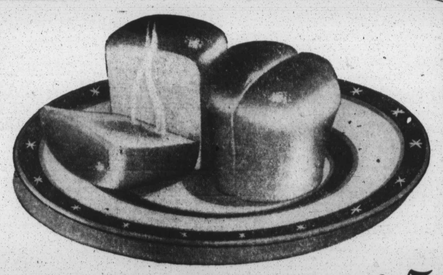

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