'ew York Times

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Three of the Guilty and Sheriff Who Was Acquitted in Mississippi

Sam H. Bowers Jr., a Klan leader, leaving court after he had been found guilty.

Associated Press Wirephotos

Cecil R. Price, left, and Alton W. Roberts being taken to jail after the verdict. The others convicted were released on bail.

United Press International Telephoto

Sheriff Lawrence A. Rainey of Neshoba County is embraced by friend as he leaves the court after jury found him not guilty.

MISSISSIPPI JURY CONVICTS 7 OF 18 IN RIGHTS KILLINGS

All-White Panel Acquits 8 and Rules a Mistrial on 3 in Klan Conspiracy Case

2 JAILED WITHOUT BOND

Judge Rebukes 'Wild Man' After Receiving Report of a Dynamite Threat

By WALTER RUGABER
Special to The New York Times

MERIDIAN, Miss., Oct. 20 —A Federal Court jury of white Mississippians convicted seven men today for participating in a Ku Klux Klan conspiracy to murder three young civil rights workers in 1964.

Guilty verdicts were returned ed against Cecil R. Price, 29 years old, the chief deputy sheriff of Neshoba County, and Sam H. Bowers Jr., 43, of Laurel, identified as the Imperial Wizard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Also convicted were Horace D. Barnette, 29, a one-time Meridian salesman; Jimmy Arledge 30, a Meridian truck driver; Billy Wayne Posey, 30, a Williamsville service station operator; Jimmie Snowden, 34, a Meridian laundry truck driver, and Alton W. Roberts, 29, a Meridian salesman.

The maximum penalty for the conspiracy convictions is 10 years in prison and a $5,000 fine.

3 Will Be Retried

Eight other men were acquitted by the panel of five men

and seven women. The jurors were unable to reach a verdict on three of the 18 defendants, and mistrials were declared. Judge Cox said that the three would be retried.

Mr. Bowers had been accused of approving the Klan plot to "eliminate" the three rights workers and the six others were among those placed on the murder scene by Government evidence presented during the two-week trial.

The United States District Court Judge, W. Harold Cox, ordered the compilation of the probation reports on the seven convicted men by next Friday and deferred sentencing until after they were received.

Murder is genrally no a Federal crime unless committed on government property. The conspiracy charges, filed under a Reconstruction era law, were brought after the state courts failed to take action.

Gasps From Relatives

Two of those convited—Price and Roberts—were called before the judge, denounced and jailed without bond. No additional charges were made. Judge Cox set a hearing on their release for 9 A.M. Monday in Jackson.

"I'm not going to let any wildman loose on a civilized society, and I want you locked up," Judge Cox told the two after the jury pronouncedthem guilty.

There were gasps from relatives of the defendants, but

Continued on Page 18, Column 1

ALL-WHITE PANEL ACQUITS 8 OF MEN

Rules Mistrial on 3 Others —2 Jailed Without Bond After a Dynamite Threat

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

the judge continued:

"I very heartily enter into this jury's verdict, particularly regarding Mr. Roberts."

After the jury reported a deadlock yesterday, Judge Cox read it new instructions drawn from the so-called "Allen charge," a set of directions used in the case of Allen v. the United States and upheld by the Supreme Court in 1898.

Lawyers also refer to the instructions as the "dynamite charge" because it is designed to help jog the jurors into a unanimous verdict.

Judge Cox said he had learned that Roberts, while awaiting the jury's verdict, had made the following threat:

"Judge Cox just gave that jury a 'dynamite charge.' We've got somedynamitef or 'em ourselves."

The judge, known for his stern demeanor and disciplined courtroom, then delivered a slashing rebuke.

"There's not a power on this earth that can frighten this court," he said. "No one else need be frightened with his bluster and his bluff for a long time. We're not going to have any anarchy down here, not as long as I'm on this bench."

[The United Press International reported that Roberts and Price had been party to other such statements in and around the corridors of the courtroom.]

Roberts and Price were whisked from the courthouse by United States marshals and driven to the Hinds County jail in Jackson. The five other men were continued in $5,000 personal bonds and released.

The convictions were said to be the first in a civil rights slaying in Mississippi. The state has had a series of unpunished racial killings in recent years, starting with the murder in 1955 of Emmett Till, a Negro from Chicago.

But the lynching in nearby Neshoba County of the three young rights workers occurred at the height of the direct assault on segregation in the South and has been one of the most widely followed criminal cases of the decade.

The Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation fought in court for more than three years. Informed estimates of the prosecution's cost ranged upward from $1-million.

The dead youths were Michael H. Schwerner, 24, of New York, a white field worker for the Congress of Racial Equality; Andrew Goodman, 20, of New York, a white college student, and James E. Chaney, 21, of Meridian, a Negro plasterer.

They disappeared June 21, 1964, after driving to Neshoba County from Meridian to investigate the burning of a Negro church. Price arrested them and placed them in the county jail that afternoon.

3 Held for Lynching

The Government found that Price held the three until a Klan lynching party could be assembled, then released them, recaptured them on the highway and turned them over to the gunmen for execution.

The bodies were found Aug. 4, 1964, buried about 15 feet beneath the earthen dam of a small farm pond in Neshoba County. Prosecution witnesses told how the three had been buried in a common grave and covered with the aid of a bulldozer.

Many newsmen, Government sources and other long-time observers of the state were surprised by the news of the guilty verdicts and predicted that the jury's decision would have a substantial effect here.

Several observers said that the convictions would not only restrain terrorist activities in

Sketches of 7 Men Convicted in Mississippi

Cecil Ray Price

TWENTY-NINE years old. . . . Chief deputy sheriff of Neshoba County since January, 1964. . . . Arrested rights workers June 21, 1964, held them in jail more than six hours, released them, recaptured them after highway chase then turned them over to lynching mob, of which he was a member. . . . Born in Jackson. . . . Finished high school and moved to Philadelphia, Miss., six years ago. . . . Worked in automobile agency and then at supply company. . . . Served as Philadelphia fire chief before becoming deputy sheriff. . . . Six feet tall, 225 pounds. . . . Married, no children.

Sam Holloway Bowers Jr.

FORTY-THREE years old. Operates Magnolia Consolidated Realty Company and Sambo Amusement Company Vending Machine in Laurel. . . . Identified as Imperial Wizard of White Knights of Ku Klux Klan who approved lynching plot in advance. . . . Charged by Congressional investigator with having told statewide Klan meeting near Raleigh on Jan. 7, 1964, that "you have a right to kill" civil rights workers. . . . Dabbles in philosophy, student of Roman Empire. . . . Born in New Orleans. . . . Five feet 11 inches tall, sandy hair. . . . Single.

Alton Wayne Roberts

TWENTY-NINE years old. . . . Mobile home salesman, lives in a house trailer near Hickory, Miss. . . . Named member of lynching mob. . . . Born in Meridian, played football in high school here. . . . Served in Marine Corps in 1957 and 1958 and, according to Federal Bureau of Investigation, received bad conduct discharge for fighting, drunkenness and absence without official leave. . . . Worked one and a half years as bouncer at the Sky View nightclub. . . . Six feet 1½ inches tall, 175 pounds, long black hair. . . . Married, three children.

Horace Doyle Barnette

TWENTY-NINE years old. . . . Automotive parts salesman for Allen Supply Company in Meridian until three days after discovery or rights workers' bodies, when he went to Cullen, La. . . . Signed confession that gave eye-witness description of slayings and admitted his presence at shootings. . . . Born in Plain Dealing, La., where he was raised and finished high school. . . . Came to Meridian in May, 1964, after series of jobs as automobile mechanic and truck driver in Louisiana and Arkansas. . . . Six feet tall, 180 pounds, baldish. . . . Married.

Mississippi but also make it easier for the prosecution to obtain convictions in future cases.

The Government will return to Federal Court in Hattiesburg next month for another conspiracy trial in the firebomb slaying of Vernon Dahmer, a Negro voter registration leader killed Jan. 10, 1965. Bowers is a defendant in that case, too.

Jimmy Arledge

THIRTY years old. . . . Meridian truck driver since 1963. . . . Named member of lynching party. . . . Born in Newton County, Miss. . . . Classified 4-F by Selective Service System because of medical history of rheumatic fever. . . . Completed 10th grade in high school. . . . Six feet tall, 145 pounds. . . . Married.

Billy Wayne Posey

THIRTY years old. . . . Manager of Phillips 66 Service Station in Williamsville near Philadelphia. . . . Named member of lynching party. . . . Born in Neshoba County. . . . Six feet 2 inches tall, 150 pounds, receding brown hair. . . . Married, four children.

Associated Press

Jimmie Snowden

THIRTY-FOUR years old. Truck driver for Meridian laundry last 11 years. . . . Nabed member of lynching mob. . . . Born in Bailey, Miss. . . . Attended Meridian Junior College one and a half years. . . . In Army 1954 to 1956 and discharged a corporal. . . . Five feet 10 inches, 140 pounds, brown hair. . . . Married, three children.