

LA.-MISS. NEWS

Charles Wilson Is Convicted of Dahmer Killing

HATTIESBURG (AP) — Charles Wilson, 36, has been convicted of murder in the firebomb slaying of Negro leader Vernon Dahmer.

A Forest County circuit court jury, after almost six hours' deliberation, returned a guilty verdict last night. The verdict carried an automatic life sentence since the jurors couldn't agree on a penalty.

Wilson was charged in the Jan. 10, 1966, firebomb attack on Dahmer's home and store near Hattiesburg, which killed Dahmer.

A Laurel service club named Wilson their Man of the Year a few days before the incident.

The FBI identified Wilson as a member of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

It was Wilson's second trial on the murder charge. The first ended in a mistrial.

In all, 13 men were indicted on charges of murder or arson, or both, in the firebombing. One was convicted of arson, and there were four other mistrials.