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Jennings Convicted, To Hang for Murder

Gallows Have Taken Lives of 12 in N.H.

CONCORD, July 1 (AP)—If sentenced to hang by electric chair against Ralph E. Jennings, 40, of Rochester, he will be the 13th person to die on the gallows in the Granite State in nearly a century and a half.

A Carroll county jury in Ossipee yesterday found Jennings guilty of the sex slaying of Miss Ruth Rosenberg, 27, of Newark, N. J. Chief Justice John R. Goodnow then sentenced the Negro to hang July 3, 1950.

A state prison spokesman said this morning Jennings will remain in his death cell here until execution is carried out. He will leave it only for occasional haircuts and showers.

Last person to die on the gallows was Howard Long of Alton who was hung July 14, 1886, for the slaying of a little boy, Mark Neville Carter, of Clifford.

Long was the sixth person to be hung in the present prison at the northern extremity of Con-

cord. Six more dropped to their deaths in the old prison between 1812 and 1881.

Long was hanged by the high sheriff of Rockingham county and two deputies. The hanging apparatus is so arranged that there are three buttons. One springs the trap through which the prisoner drops and the other two buttons are dummies. All are touched at the same instant and no participant knows which will be the "live" one when, and if, Jennings is hung. The high sheriff of Carroll county is John Leighton.

Whether Jennings will actually go to his death shortly after midnight on the Fourth of July of 1950, cannot, of course, be determined at this time.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons has taken an intense interest in his case and supplied the three attorneys who defended him in trial proceedings.

It is unlikely they will leave any stone unturned in an effort to have Jennings' life spared.

Execution of Long was first set for Dec. 20, 1898. Various legal sets kept him alive a half-year longer.

The prison said some construction work will be necessary in the death house before sentence can be carried out on Jennings.

Jury Deliberates For 2 1/2 Hours, Orders Death

OSSEPIE, July 1—Ralph Jennings, 40-year-old, graying Negro woodworker, may be dead with a rope strung tight around his neck almost a year from today.

The death sentence was handed down by a Carroll county jury and Judge yesterday against the 350-foot Rochester man, convicted of the sex murder of pretty 27-year-old Ruth Rosenberg, Newark, N. J., child name.

The jury reached its decision only two hours and 34 minutes after offense occurred and prosecution lawyers had delivered their final, fervent summations in the little Ossipee courtroom. Eight minutes after the all-male jury returned its verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree—with a recommendation of capital punishment—John R. Goodnow, chief justice of the New Hampshire superior court, pronounced sentence.

COUNSEL FOR JENNINGS, led by Atty. Arthur Reinhart of Portsmouth with two lawyers representing the Society for the Advancement of Colored Peoples, served notice immediately last they will appeal to the state supreme court. Only a successful appeal will spare Jennings from the noose on July 3, 1950, the date set by Justice Goodnow for the execution.

Before Justice Goodnow gave his charge to the jury, one of Jennings' attorneys, Joseph LeCount of Springfield, Mass., repeated Jennings' calm protestation: "As God is my judge, I didn't kill that girl."

LeCount claimed that the state's case contained "weak links, you, including links."

In his rebuttal for the prosecution, Atty. Gen. William L. Finnney, replied with the charges:

"There is no question that Ruth got into Jennings' car about 7:30 p.m. on the morning of last July 21."

"I leave to you what happened that morning. . . ."

"I leave to you what dreadful thing this respondent did to that girl."

HER BODY was found in November in a inch-hole-like grave in a lover's lane in this community. Hunting dogs turned up the skeleton.

Medical testimony indicated she died of asphyxiation. Her panties had been rammed down her throat.

A watch, which the state claimed was the property of Miss Rosenberg.

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Four Local Men Held as Fugitives By Portland Police

Three Portsmouth men and one from Kittery, who were offering bargains in outdoor markets, are under arrest today in Portland.

A Portland sporting goods dealer became suspicious when Richard P. Simonds, 22, of Circuit road, Clyde W. Heath, 23, of Hanover street, Charles W. Roberts, 22, of Hanover street and Leslie D. Hopkins, 27, of Rodgers' stand offered him motor as a cut rate.

THE FOUR were arrested by Portland police and held as fugitives from justice when the New Hampshire state police informed Portland authorities they wanted the men in connection with thefts at Northwood lake.

County Solicitor Wyman P. Roynton said today that the state police have been working on the case for several days and the "good work" of the Portland department "broke" the case.

He added that the men have already waived extradition to New Hampshire and will be returned today or tomorrow by Sheriff Simon Frank.

THE PORTLAND police said that

Pedestrians Cause Bus To Ram Bridge Girder

NOT QUITE—This bus didn't quite go into the Piscataqua river, but was badly damaged against the girders of Memorial bridge last night. (Portsmouth Herald photo)



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