

Negro Says He Beat Man

HENDERSON, Feb. 29 (AP) — A Negro student at nearby Kittrell College admitted beating a white man delivering groceries to the institution this morning.

Robert Roberson, 24-year-old sophomore from New York City, told officers he assaulted Eddie Thompson because Thompson kicked him Friday during a demonstration by Kittrell students against segregated lunch counters in Henderson.

Thompson, about 25, said he was delivering groceries in Franklin County Friday and could not have been in Henderson. His employers corroborated the story.

Deputy Sheriff L. B. Faulkner said Thompson suffered minor injuries in the affray which occurred in the college's kitchen.

Roberson was freed after posting \$300 bond on charges of simple assault. He is to be tried Friday morning in Vance County Recorder's Court.

Roberson said he was the only one in a group of three or four students to hit Thompson.

Dr. Arthur M. Camper, president of the college, termed the incident a "regrettable situation" and said that a Kittrell student—whom he declined to identify—would be disciplined.

Student Movement

Dr. Camper said he felt certain that Kittrell students would not make any further lunch counter demonstrations in Henderson. He said the demonstrations were strictly a student movement.

"I think they (the students) feel they should talk and mediate," he said. "It certainly needs more looking into for understanding—because we do want harmonious relations continued" with the people of Henderson.

Deputy Falkner said the beating occurred while Thompson and a helper, T. S. Watkins Jr., were making a routine delivery of groceries to the college kitchen.

Sound Of Scuffle

He said he was told that after they completed their delivery, Watkins left the kitchen, expecting Thompson to follow. However, he said the door was slammed behind him. He heard the sounds of a scuffle and called for help.

Falkner said Thompson was not sure whether more than one person struck him. He said Thompson was not badly hurt but was treated by a doctor. Allen Gill, an official of the Newman Wholesale Grocery Co., said Thompson told him that as he was leaving the kitchen someone called to

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Man Beaten At Negro College

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him, saying, "Do you remember me?" Thompson said that as he turned around someone struck him. Gill quoted Thompson as saying he did not believe more than one person struck him. Gill said that Thompson was not in Henderson last Friday when Kittrell students were staging their lunch counter demonstrations.

In High Point persons charged in connection with the recent lunch counter demonstrations against segregated food service here were given suspended sentences when tried in Municipal Court today.

Lindsay Thomas, 18, Negro, of Jamestown, was given 30 days, suspended for 12 months. He was fined \$5 and ordered to pay court costs on the charge of disorderly conduct.

Frank Nathan Laws, 20, charged with breach of the peace, drew 30 days suspended for two years, and paid a \$10 fine and court costs.

Coy Spoon, 58, charged with congregating on the sidewalk, was given 30 days, suspended for 12 months.

Today's trials brought to six the number of sentences handed down in connection with the demonstrations.

Two white teen-agers were arrested in Durham today in separate incidents arising from a mass picketing of segregated downtown lunch counters by 25 to 30 Negro students.

Placards carried by the Negro students urged non-patronage of three downtown stores where earlier sitdown demonstrations had occurred.

More than a dozen Negroes concentrated their picketing in front of Woolworth store.

A 17-year-old girl, Linda Ellen Jeston, of Durham, was charged with assault and battery on a North Carolina College student after spitting on Negro picketer Callis Brown of Durham.

A Chapel Hill youth, Ronnie Dale Broadwell, 18, of Route 2, Chapel Hill, was arrested in front of the Woolworth store shortly after the spitting incident on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Both teen-agers were later released on \$50 bond to appear before Recorder's Court Judge A. R. Wilson Tuesday morning.

Judge Wilson Monday morning fined a Durham white man and a Negro college student \$50 and costs for assault and battery offenses which occurred in a sit-down incident at Woolworth's Saturday.

The picketing Negroes marched in front of S. H. Kress, Walgreen and Woolworth stores this afternoon. Crowds gathered and police kept a regular check on the downtown area.

In other developments Monday: The mayor of Shelby, Harry Woodson, declared that never in 20 years in office had he seen so much resentment by whites. Woodson said he hoped the demonstrations would cease before serious damage was done to community relations.

At Charlotte, no demonstrators appeared and all but one of the firms involved opened their lunch counters, which have been closed off and on for two weeks.

Negro students told the Charlotte City Council they had been harassed by police and firemen during demonstrations, and the council referred the matter to Police Chief Jesse James for investigation.

The State NAACP president, Kelly Alexander of Charlotte asked the council to pass legislation outlawing discrimination by any merchant. City Atty. John Shaw replied no municipality in North Carolina is authorized to legislate on matters of segregation concerning private property.

In Raleigh the trial of 43 Negro college students arrested on trespass charges while demonstrating against segregated lunch counters here has been reset for March 14.

Solicitor Pretlow Winborne said the trial will be held in the City Court Room and not at Memorial Auditorium as he previously suggested.

The first trial was continued last Thursday until March 7 when the courtroom and City Hall became overcrowded with spectators and was declared a fire hazard.

Winborne said court officials felt the courtroom was the proper place to hold the trials after studying the situation.