

OFFICER ACQUITTED IN NEGRO'S SLAYING

Thomas Nelson, former Fairfield policeman, today stood acquitted of a charge of first degree manslaughter in the death last month of O'Dee Henderson, Negro, in Fairfield Jail.

A jury in Bessemer Circuit Court yesterday afternoon returned a verdict of not guilty in the case after deliberating less than three hours. Judge Gardner F. Goodwyn presided at the trial.

As soon as Jury Foreman John Arrant read the verdict, friends of Nelson rushed over to congratulate the defendant. Judge Goodwyn asked that no handshaking take place in the courtroom and Nelson, with his wife and seven-year-old daughter, walked out.

Solicitor Arthur Green said he would push the other cases, in which three men were indicted for first degree manslaughter in connection with the Negro's death in Fairfield Jail.

The cases have been passed until Fall session of Circuit Court.

Still to be tried are W. T. Glenn and W. G. Cook, former police officers at Fairfield, who were on duty when Henderson was shot, and M. M. Hagood, Fairfield resident, who had a scrape with Henderson that led to the latter's arrest.

Nelson admitted firing the shots that killed the Negro. He pleaded self defense, claiming the Negro had pushed him into a corner and was making an effort to seize his gun just before the shooting occurred.

Nelson, Glenn and Cook have been discharged from the Fairfield Police Force.

RICHARD W.

THAT TRAIN JUST COULDN'T MOVE ON

Cases against two railroad conductors, haled into Police Court today to answer charges of blocking a crossing and making two men late to work, were nol-prossed by Judge Henry Martin.

Judge Martin threw out the cases after testimony showed L. G. Meadows and C. L. Teat, Birmingham-Southern Railroad conductors, did tie up traffic at Third-st and 12th-av, w, for approximately 45 minutes, but only because a coupling broke and engine trouble developed. City code provides that a train may block a crossing for no more than three minutes.

The conductors explained that after the coupling between an engine and its attendant cars broke, making it impossible for the engine to move its cars, a second engine was brought up to push the stalled cars. The second engine then went bad, but did move the cars after some repair work.