

Jury Would Have Convicted Wetzel

HAD THE EVIDENCE
BEEN CONCLUSIVE

After all, a jury of twelve persons heard the evidence in the Wetzel trial, and gave the verdict. And NOT the editors of the Charlotte Observer or the Greensboro News.

Charlotte is 72 miles and Greensboro 84 miles from Rockingham. The JURY was within 15 feet of the witnesses.

The JURY heard Robert Terry testify. His identification of Wetzel was confused and far from conclusive. He unquestionably identified the murderer that night in an entirely different light from the way he did in later days.

And the sworn testimony of some officers seemed at variance with the descriptions that were crackling over radios that night and in the papers next day.

Asked by a Reporter would the jury have given Wetzel the gas chamber had the evidence warranted such verdict, Foreman J. R. Morse replied "most certainly, yes." But the jury felt there was an element of doubt in the evidence of Terry and the officers, and chose to have the man receive a life sentence.