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NEW STAMPS to accommodate the new postal rates recently enacted by Congress are shown here: upper row includes 6-cent stamped envelope, 10-cent air mail stamped envelope; and 6-cent Franklin D. Roosevelt, the new basic first-class postage stamp for coins and booklets. Bottom row includes: 1-cent Jefferson, Lincoln 5-cent postal card; and 10-cent air mail stamp. New rates are in effect.

## Case Puts Juvenile Rights Issue On Spot

The issue of juvenile rights in criminal cases is a hot one. Locally, the matter came up several months ago in the case of a youth in Westwood who was involved in glue sniffing and murder of two little girls.

Another case, now pending before the U.S. Supreme Court, will shed further light on the tangle of problems concerning juveniles and the law.

IT WAS the start of a beautiful day in Baltimore, Ohio. The summer sun's early morning rays bathed the tiny community.

For Gladys Willard it seemed this July 29, 1966, would bring nothing more than the pleasures of a usual Friday shopping trip to the county seat in Lancaster, 10 miles to the south.

Only the return of some curlers she and a neighbor across Fremont Street had used the night before to do her hair remained on the list of unfinished household chores.

It was shortly after 8 a.m. when she walked across the street carrying the curlers and gave them to the neighbors' teen-age son.

SHE WAS NEVER to be seen alive again, and the neighbor boy, Buddy Lynn Whittington, now stands accused of the 63-year-old woman's murder in a case pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.

In this case the nine justices may find material that will bring another major step in a revolution in rights afforded juveniles accused of adult crimes.

For, by order of an Ohio juvenile court, Buddy Whittington became a man at 14, able to stand trial and face the electric chair as an adult.

Yet he was not given many of the legal rights an adult is due in moving, as he did, from an initial confrontation with police, through juries that have been his home for six of the past 14 months, and toward a murder trial.

Since the nation's first juvenile courts were established in Illinois in 1899, they have operated on the premise that a youth in trouble gets more help from judges presumed to act like fathers than from any grant of rights. The unanswered question in this theory—one the high court may at last answer—is how that premise is made good when a boy is accused of a crime that leaves him open to being punished like a man.

In the appeal accepted by the Supreme Court, Buddy's lawyers suggest answers that would mean dramatic changes in juvenile courts which now touch the life of one American youth in every six.

FOR WHERE confidentiality and informality are now the rule, they would have the justices require youth tribunals to offer:

—trial, an option for a public trial by judge or jury, and the right to counsel and to remain silent—not just in the courtroom, but from a youth's earliest confrontation with police or youth officers.

A stricter procedure governing the admission of evidence, and tougher requirements of proof when it appears a youth may be subject to adult criminal proceedings and punishment as a result of juvenile court action.

Most of these rights are listed in the Constitution for the protection of accused persons without hedges on the age of the person they are designed to protect.

For the most part, however, these rights have been denied youths—including Buddy—although the court has been increasingly strict on their application to adults.

Buddy's lawyers, Jack Sugman and Jackson C. Kistler of Lancaster, Ohio, hope their case will be a compelling reason for the justices to make the move.

THE CASE BEGAN in Buddy's home town of Baltimore, a village of 2,150 persons about 23 miles southeast of Columbus.

Buddy was to go to summer school on that July day. But, as he tells it, he had a stomach ache. And when his parents left the house before 8 a.m., for a trip to Canton, he went back to bed to listen to his record player.

Shortly after 8 a.m., Mrs. Willard crossed Fremont Street to the Whittington house, carrying the curlers Mrs. Olive Whittington had used the night before to set her friend's hair.

Buddy says he met Mrs. Willard at the door, took the curlers and then went back to his room.

Mrs. Willard was found about 12 1/2 hours later, strangled to death, lying under Buddy's bed.

IN THE HOURS that followed, Buddy was questioned by Police Chief Elwood Phillips, Fairfield County Prosecutor E. Raymond Morehead, a juvenile court officer from the county seat in Lancaster 10 miles to the south, and a deputy from the office of County Sheriff Jack Blaser. Buddy's parents were present.

The record shows no effort to tell the boy he could remain silent or retain a lawyer. What does appear is Buddy telling his questioners he had stayed in bed for a time that morning, then had been in and out of his house visiting neighbors and a nearby blackberry patch.

He said he left the house for good around 11 or 12 and went to a nearby playground to play baseball for the afternoon.

LAWYERS KISTLER and Sugman argue facts in the case leave a reasonable doubt who killed Gladys Willard, and that, had adult court rules applied, the outcome might have been different. At least, they contend the same decision would not have been reached with Buddy having the full protection of basic constitutional rights.

The lawyers say the evidence neither establishes a motive for the act-five state psychiatrists say Buddy is sound-mind, as an Ohio appellate court said, does it "disclose any thorough investigation by officials toward eliminating the possibility... (Mrs. Willard) was killed by some other person."

But even with that sole on the investigation, the Ohio court found no constitutional flaws in the treatment accorded Buddy, who turned 15 last July 23. That includes his being denied the right to counsel and to remain silent in a solitary cell on the second floor of Lancaster's 115-year-old county jail from May through September, 1967.

Whether the U.S. Supreme Court will share the view of the Ohio courts cannot be forecast.

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