



Foster Hailey
Newspaper Reporter

Bio & Character Sketch of Foster Hailey

August 13, 1899 – August 13, 1966

Age in April, 1923: 23 Age at Death: 67
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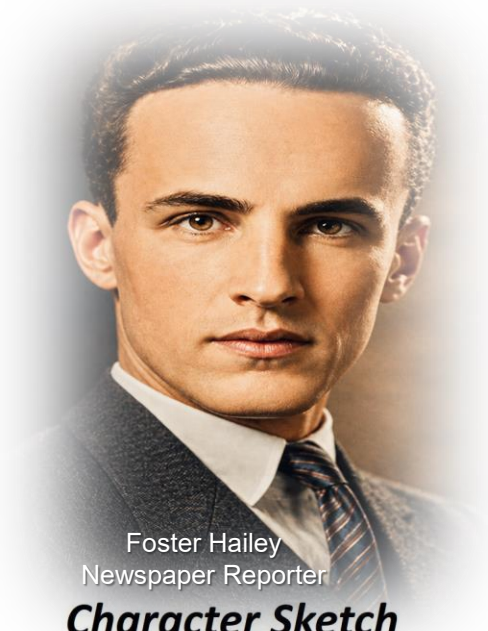
Foster Hailey was born in Berry, Illinois on August 13, 1899. He attended the University of Missouri's School of Journalism and graduated in 1924. He was the President of his Senior J-School Class.

After several reporting jobs, Hailey was hired by the New York Times and served in many editorial roles over a 27-year career with them. He was their correspondent in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

In 1954, Hailey won the Missouri Journalism Award and he was an eight-time recipient of the New York Times Publisher's Award for Excellence in Journalism.

He wrote two books including "Pacific Battle Lines" about his time spent with the Navy reporting news of action in the Pacific during World War II.

In 1965 Hailey retired to Tucson, Arizona. Foster Hailey died in Tucson, Arizona on his 67th birthday, August 13, 1966.



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Character Sketch

At just twenty-three years of age, Foster Hailey used his athletic prowess to quickly climb and sit on top of James Scott's jail cell just as the lynch mob was trying to cut through its door. He used his reporting skills to listen and write down what he heard and saw in the jailhouse as well as at Booche's Pool Parlour in the days before the jail assault.

Under cross examination during the Barkwell trial, Hailey was somewhat unimpressive however. He was unable to clearly paint a picture of George Barkwell's mob leadership and distinct actions taken that led to Scott being taken from the jail.

Like Misselwitz, Hailey's "underperformance" in recollecting the lynching event in a meaningful way belies his much more distinguished career highlights afterwards.



Summary Justice Partners, llc

SIDE

129

Heat presses down on the courtroom. Spectators fan themselves with programs and newspapers. Foster Hailey sits on the stand.

HAILEY

My name is Foster Hailey. I am a student at the university and a reporter for the Daily Missourian.

HULEN

What did you see and hear at the jail on the night of the lynching?

HAILEY

Once the mob cut through the grate to the colored section, I found a high perch overlooking Mr. Scott's cell. I saw Mr. Barkwell telling others that Mr. Scott was inside.

HULEN A

nd then?

HAILEY

A man brought forwards a blowtorch and began to cut away the locking mechanism of Mr. Scott's jail cell.

HULEN

And did you see Barkwell handling the torch?

HAILEY

Well, sir, that depends on what you mean by handling. Another man was operating the torch, but then some fellow cut the hose and tried to carry the tank away. At first no one could get the torch working again, but then Mr. Barkwell started monkeying with the gas tank. And after he got done, they were able to light the torch again, and they cut their way into the cell.

HULEN

Thank you, Mr. Hailey. (to judge) Nothing further your honor. Hulen sits and Congressman Major rises to cross examine.

SIDE

129

MAJOR

"Monkeying with the tank," Mr. Hailey? Monkeying? What exactly do you mean by "monkeying"? Could you actually see what the man you supposed to be Mr. Barkwell did to the tank?

HAILEY

Well, no sir. But I assumed he was fixing it.

MAJOR

And did he have any tools in his hands?

HAILEY

No, sir, none that I could see.

MAJOR

So you assumed a man with no tools was repairing an acetylene tank, despite never witnessing what he actually did? No further questions, your honor.

He sits.

HULEN

Redirect, your honor?

The judge nods. Hulen rises.

HULEN

To be clear, Mr. Hailey—the equipment wasn't working before Barkwell touched it. You watched him work on it. And afterward, it functioned again. You drew a logical conclusion. Correct?

HAILEY

Yes, sir.