

Widow Wants \$100,000 in Death of Mate Who Refused Jim Crow Seat on Train

Railroad Detective Fired Fatal Shot as Wife Sought Aid

A suit for \$100,000 damages was filed against the Norfolk & Western Railway Co. in Federal Court here Saturday by Mrs. Lucille K. Serrell, of 3825 N. 18th st., widow of war veteran George Serrell, who was shot to death by a railroad detective last Feb. 14 near Charles Town, W. Va.

Mrs. Serrell filed the suit on claims that her husband's slaying was willful and for deprivation of their civil liberties and humiliation.

Serrell, a veteran of Pacific fighting, was shot by C. M. Campbell after he and his wife had been put off a train near Charles Town for refusing to sit in a jim crow coach.

A subsequent coroner's jury in the West Virginia town ruled the shooting "justifiable homicide" after Campbell testified he shot Serrell while the latter was choking another man.

Serrell and his wife were travelling to the veteran's home in Virginia when they were required to change trains at a junction near Charles Town. A row over jim crow seats resulted and the couple were put off the train, arrested and driven in the detective's car along a highway to a destination they never learned.

During the ride, a fight developed and Serrell was shot down before his wife's eyes.