

Ballot Refused Smithfield Negroes

MAJOR MARTIN DIES IN PLANE CRASH

FORMER SHAW COACH CRASHES NEAR REIDSVILLE

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — Major Harold D. Martin, director of the ground school at the Tuskegee Army Air Field, and Flight Officer Charles W. Stephens, a graduate of Tuskegee Institute, were instantly killed late Saturday when the plane in which they were occupants, crashed near Reidsville. The announcement was made by the Army Public Relations Office.

Major Martin, who served as commander of the ground school here, resided in Washington, D. C., where prior to his entry into the service, he was an instructor at Miner Teachers College.

He graduated from Norwich University in Connecticut in 1930, and while there won athletic letters in four sports.

Several years ago he directed athletics at Shaw University. He was an official of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association and was active in the promotion of sports among the colleges.

Major Martin was the son of J. F. Martin who resides in Boston, Mass. Also surviving are his wife and two sons of the Capital City, and two brothers.

Officer Stephens was a native of Monroeville, Ala.

FLORENCE, S. C. TO STUDY NEGRO PROPOSAL

Florence, S. C. — The possibility of employing Negro police officers here will be taken up at the next meeting of city council, it was indicated Thursday, following a presentation before the council of five Negro citizens of this community.

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Chief among the proposals were the employment of Negro policemen and the establishment of a weekly garbage collection system in Negro neighborhoods as is done in white.

Rev. Mr. Hill said he was most cordially received by city council and even more cordially received were the proposals. Council led by Mayor Zoigler, acted quickly on most of the suggestions, including the improvement of lighting in Negro neighborhoods, resurfacing of badly worn streets, collecting garbage weekly, though reserving action on the Negro police proposal until its next meeting.

SELMA MOTHER KILLS HUSBAND

SELMA — Melvin Watson was shot and killed by his wife, Mrs. Lizzie Watson, about 1:15 o'clock Friday morning, according to her statement to a staff correspondent.

Mrs. Watson is the mother of 3 children, Louise 8, Doris Jean 6, and Annie Lois 4.

At a corner's inquest held Friday morning, the wife told the jury that her husband came home drunk about one o'clock, whipped her and threatened to shoot her. During the brawl, however, she succeeded in grabbing the gun first, shooting instantly killing her husband. Immediately after the shooting she called officers who lodged her in the city jail here and later in the county jail in Smithfield.

"Though I was forced to shoot, even then, I did not intend to kill him," said Mrs. Watson in an interview. "I was bawled in a corner with no choice but to shoot, she went on, in her conversation to this reporter. In checking further with the officers, it was found that they were told the same story.

Corner Duward Crech, after hearing evidence, placed her under a \$500 bond, which she paid.

Interment was at the Red Hill Christian Church a few miles from Selma.

SHOT THREE TIMES; DOING ALL RIGHT

RALEIGH — According to police, Willie Hartsfield, 211 Washington Street, had three bullets pumped into his body last Thursday evening in front of the Sir Walter Hotel by Lee Moore, bellhop at the hotel, and remained in fairly good health. Hartsfield was rushed to the hospital, had one bullet removed from the shoulder, one from the hip and one from above the knee, and was discharged.

Moore was arrested and charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. He was released under \$500 bond.

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Hostess guest at Bennett College. Lady greets Miss Margaret Caldwell of Greensboro Girl Scouts while...

Hostess guest at Bennett College, Greensboro, for the 19th Annual Home-Making Institute was Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. In the foreground, Mrs. Roosevelt receives flowers from Miss Margaret Nance, Bennett College freshman on behalf of Greensboro Girl Scouts while...

WELCOME NEWS OF MIXED COMBAT UNITS ON WESTERN FRONT

New York, N. Y. — March 22 — The National Negro Congress has written President Roosevelt and Secretary of War Stimson, welcoming announcement that "Negro and white soldiers now are fighting together as units of the 1st and 7th Armies on the Western Front."

The letters, signed by Theodosius M. Dale, NNC Acting Secretary, pointed out that Negro soldiers, in volunteering for combat service, have again demonstrated their unconditional willingness to participate fully in every aspect of the war against fascism and show "courage and a spirit of sacrifice equal to that of all other U. S. fighting men."

The new policy being carried out on the Western Front, the Congress assured the President, "will raise the morale of Negro troops on all fronts, as well as that of the Negro people throughout the nation. We shall continue to work toward a time when Negro and white soldiers will be trained together in camps here at home, and sent in mixed units to all theatres of war."

Encouraging NNC support for peacetime compulsory military training, need for administering postwar military training on an equal and unsegregated basis.

To Secretary Stimson, the Congress expressed the belief that "the necessities of military efficiency and national unity needed for final victory call for further extension of democracy in the armed forces. The Congress offered its continued support for progressive changes which will eventually eliminate all segregation and discriminatory practices in the United States Army."

NO FEDERAL LAW VIOLATION SEEN ABC SALES

RALEIGH — Deposition of the case involving George Mitchell, manager of ABC Store No. 4, here, resulted in a finding of no violation without penalty for the store, which was charged with supplying liquor to Berlin Johnson on March 1. The court's decision is in line with the Wake County Alcohol Beverage Control Board, which met on Tuesday to examine the case of Mitchell.

Mitchell admitted that he had sold Johnson a total of 38 bottles of various whiskeys within a half-hour's time, but because of "stool pigeons" had neglected to keep a list of the bottles, which Johnson had also been appraised to each bottle.

Johnson, fined last fall for possession of non-taxable liquor for the purpose of sale, was arrested soon after police watched him from a squad car carry the whiskey from his store to an automobile.

In spite of what they had just learned, Mitchell said he had just (Continued on back page)

S. C. Capital Hesitates on Hiring Negro Policemen

Columbia, S. C. — An about face of certain members in city council was regarded likely to spell death for a renewed proposal to employ Negroes as police officers in this city.

A plea for the employment of Negro officers, the third in three years, was made by the Rev. H. B. Butler, representing the Negro Citizens committee. Mayor Fred D. Marshall and Councilman Gary Paschal reportedly favored the proposal, urging that Columbia adopt the plan put to effect at Charlotte, N. C., two years ago.

But informed sources revealed that Mayor Marshall after communicating with Charlotte officials expressed dislike of the Charter plan, which limits the power of Negro officers to the status of "stool pigeons" of "info men." The mayor, it was said, holds the belief that if the Negro officers were not to be given full power and authority as policemen, they should not be hired at all.

Chief opposition to the hiring of Negro officers comes from Councilman J. S. Parr, present commissioner of police, who objects on the ground that it would involve a "change of policy." The council is slated to vote on the proposal March 27.

Jailed Wacs Are Patriot WLD Tells FR

New York City — (WLD) — The four WACs jailed for a year by an Army court-martial at Ft. Devens, Mass. for refusing to obey orders while they were on strike against discrimination in work assignments and opportunities for training are "real patriots," Workers Defense League national secretary Morris Milgram said in a message to President Roosevelt.

"We face a world race war," Milgram said, "just because the jimcrow practices of the armed services prevent colored peoples the world over from believing it is possible that the white status will work with them on a basis of full equality. Privates Alice Young, Mary E. Green, Anna C. Morrison, and Johnnie Murphy, by following the dictates of their consciences and refusing to accept Army discriminatory practices, are real patriots, for they acted in the best interests of their country and of the world."

Milgram told FDR that the WACs, who received dishonorable discharges and a year in jail, deserved a full pardon and reinstatement, "but that was no solution to the problem, which needs a purge of racism from the armed services, and enforcement of the anti-discrimination section of the Selective Service Act."

RED CROSS BLOOD SEGREGATION CRITIC PUNISHED

Cleveland — (WLD) — A protest to James V. Bennett, director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, against the loss of good time awarded Milton Kramer, conscientious objector, because he protested segregation of blood by the American Red Cross, was made by the Congress of Racial Equality Thursday through its organization secretary, George M. Houser.

Kramer was accused of smuggling out a letter because in full view of the warden at the Milan, Michigan Federal Correctional Institution he gave a letter to a Red Cross worker outlining his attitude against the prejudiced and unscientific blood bank segregation by the Red Cross.

"The next day," Houser wrote Bennett, "Kramer was locked up in a cell in segregation without explanation and two days later was called in to see the warden who told him he was charged with smuggling a letter out. Following that, for seven days Kramer was locked up in the hole. Later on when Kramer was called before the disciplinary committee, one year of good time was taken away from him."

Kramer is a conscientious objector. (Continued on back page)

Kentucky Will Buy School Text By Negro Authors

Frankfort, Ky. — Two textbooks written by Negro authors and dealing specifically with the Negro in American history, were placed on the multiple list for social studies for the fifth and sixth grades respectively. Both books are published by the Associated Publishers, Washington, D. C.

This is the first time text books by Negroes have been adopted for Kentucky or for any other southern state, said Mrs. Lucy Harsh Smith, president of the Kentucky Negro Educational Association and a director of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. The adoption of those books is largely the result of the persistent efforts of Mrs. Smith who has long advocated the use of such text for the general improvement of race relations and who has pushed this matter thru to its completion.

Throughout Kentucky, independent school districts are now selecting text books from the multiple list prepared by the commission that will be purchased by the state for use in the schools. Mrs. Smith urges all principals and teachers to interest themselves in these books that they might be used for all the children of the state.

"The vast majority of text books used in the public schools either ignore the Negro or inaccurately cover his role in the development of the nation. In the interests of establishing a firm foundation for racial good will, all children, white and colored should have accurate and complete information on the truly worthwhile accomplishments of the Negro," said Mrs. Smith. "The placing of these books by the state text book commission on the multiple is a great step forward."

TWO ACQUITTED; OTHERS SUSPENDED IN CIGARETTE CASE

RALEIGH — Six persons, charged with participation in a "cigarette ring," were tried on Monday in City Court. Two defendants received acquittals, and the others were given suspended terms.

Ernest Brooks, 45, of 316 South Thibault Street, and Dave Weaver, 47, of 203 East Cabarrus Street were acquitted. They were charged with receiving eight cartons of stolen cigarettes.

Pleading guilty were Chester Y. Smith, 30, of 218 1-2 Camden Street; Jacob White, 49, of 118 Smithfield Street; and Chester Debnam, 30, of 520 Cannon Street.

Smith and White were charged with larceny and receiving. White pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting in larceny and receiving, and the plea was accepted. Both men were sentenced to one year on the roads, suspended on payment of \$50 costs and two years probation.

The one conviction was in the case of Flora Duke, 818 Manly Street, charged with receiving 40 cartons of cigarettes, knowing them to be stolen. She was sentenced to four months in prison, suspended on payment of costs and one year probation.

The victimized concern was Walgreen's Drug Store here.

Ernest Brooks Sentenced To Die; Moron, Says Gates

(By Staff Writer)

Wilmington — Ernest Brooks, fifteen-year-old Negro youth of this city, will die in the State's gas chamber May 25, 1945, unless Attorney C. J. Gates, his colored lawyer, effects an appeal to the State Supreme Court. Judge Paul J. Frizzelle, Snow Hill jurist, pronounced sentence on Brooks Friday night, following the verdict returned by the thirteen-man jury, which had deliberated about six hours after hearing pleas by Gates and Clifton Moore, district solicitor. Brooks was tried for first-degree burglary and rape of a local white woman.

The Brooks' case created considerable interest here because of the extreme youth of the defendant and because a Durham Negro lawyer handled his defense. Negro lawyers seldom practice in the local courts, though they are courteously received here. In fact, Judge Frizzelle complimented Attorney Gates and Clifton Moore.

(Continued on back page)

NEW QUINTUPLETS DIE WEDNESDAY

Washington, D. C. — Quintuplet girls were born to a 36-year-old Negro woman Tuesday night but by 6 a. m. Wednesday all had died.

The mother is Mrs. Ada H. Turner, whose husband Harold, is a \$1,320-a-year receiving clerk at the Government Bureau of Standards. Mrs. Turner is the mother of eight other children, the youngest 10 months old.

Two and one-half months premature, all but one of the quintuplets were born alive. The attending physician said that except for the smallest baby, all were fully developed and weighed from one to one and one-half pounds each. The five were delivered within 17 minutes beginning at 10:40 p. m.

At Freedman's Hospital, where the babies were born, Dr. A. P. Allen said that prenatal examination of Mrs. Turner had indicated the likelihood of multiple birth, but that only twins had been expected Tuesday night. Her post-mortem was held.

Mrs. Turner walked to the hospital Tuesday night and was awakened at 2 a. m. by a newspaper reporter who gave him his first news of the quintuplets.

Some have already been reduced to inactive status while it is (Continued on back page)

ARMY JC SEEN IN MOVE TO OUST ARMY MEDICS

Washington — Army jimcrow was seen as the sinister motive to oust Negro doctors from the army.

Some have already been reduced to inactive status while it is (Continued on back page)

Soldiers Record Praised In Book, "At His Side"

Negro soldiers made a proud record along the Ledo Road in the China-Burma-India war theater, as reported in the book, "At His Side," the story of the American Red-Cross overseas in World War II, to be published on March 19 by Coward-McCann, New York.

Building the Ledo Road through the Burmese jungle was one of the engineering marvels of the global war, the author points out. Army bulldozers, trucks, jeeps and rock crushers, transported 15,000 miles from the United States, did a wonderful job. So did the United States Army engineering units, predominantly Negro, according to Korson. The Ledo Road, opened up a land route into China and permitted the shipment of vital war goods to China.

"Even before grading, surfacing and drainage, U. S. Army motor convoys, driven by Negro soldiers, moved in a steady stream in both directions," states the author.

"Among the U. S. Army units stationed at various points along the road, the 823rd and 45th Engineers, and the 45th and 21st Quartermaster's were composed entirely of Negroes, except for officers. American Negroes, who far outnumbered white soldiers on the road, made a proud record. Red Cross workers said that they were cool, brave, and patient under extremely adverse conditions. Inevitably there were serious accidents. Skidding in the slippery mud was common (except for small stretches of crushed-rock surface, the Ledo was a dirt road).

Some trucks failed to make the steep grade and overturned; some sideswiped each other. Occasionally a truck would not negotiate a hairpin curve, left the road and crashed into the bottomless gorge below."

The American Red Cross opened a chain of clubs along the Ledo for the entertainment of truck drivers, road builders and maintenance men. (Continued on back page)

Alabama First All-Negro Jury Rules Against Suit

Birmingham — Alabama's first all-Negro jury returned a verdict against the plaintiff in a \$5,000 suit here last week.

The suit involved the shooting of James Thomas, a minor, by Mrs. Olivia Nix, a restaurant proprietor. Thomas was shot by the woman who claimed he threatened her with a bottle, when he objected to her from her restaurant.

The Negro jury, the first in this county or state in the memory of court officials, was composed of 11 men, by agreement of Horace Afford, defendant's attorney, and Harrison Kendrick, plaintiff's attorney.

FOUR AWARDED PURPLE HEART

One Negro bluejacket and 3 Marines were awarded the Purple Heart recently for injuries received in action against the enemy of the United States, the Navy Department announced this week.

Andrew Leroy Flynn, steward third class, USN, of 17 Thurmond Street, Winston-Salem, N. C., was presented the medal at the U. S. Naval Air Facility, officer, for injuries received June 6, 1944.

The other three awards went to members of the 1st Marine Corps, who were injured July 24, 1944, in the reoccupation of Guam. They were struck by shrapnel when the landing craft on which they were loading ammunition came under enemy mortar fire. Their names are as follows:

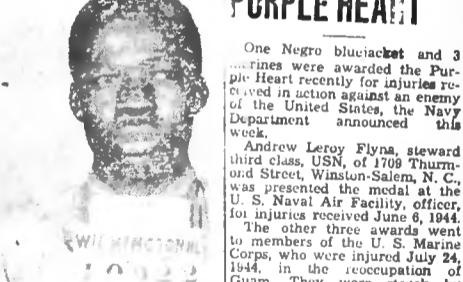
Pfc. Darnell Haynes, who enlisted in the Marine Corps in November 1943, and left for overseas duty in April 1944. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lubert Johnson, live at 200 North 10th St., Monroe, La.

Pfc. Wilbur J. Webb, Jr., who enlisted in November 1943, and left for overseas duty in March 1944. His mother, Mrs. Pink Webb, lives on Route 1, Jackson, N. C.

Pvt. Jim W. Jones, enlisted in November 1943, and left for overseas duty in March 1944. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Will Jones, live at 101 North B Street, Midland, Texas. They have another son in the service, Corp. Will Jones, Jr., who is with the Army in New Guinea.

All three marines are now serving with an ammunition company of a Marine field depot in the Marianas Islands.

HIS LAWYER SAYS HE IS A MORON



Ernest Brooks, fifteen-year-old youth, who will die in the State's gas chamber May 25, unless his lawyer, C. J. Gates, of Durham, effects an appeal to the State Supreme Court.

Brooks is a moron, says Attorney Gates. (Photo through courtesy New Hanover Identification Office).