

Bass' Funeral "Ties Up" Four-Lane Highway Here

Hundreds View Body Of Matthew P. Bass

BY CHARLES R. JONES

The funeral of Matthew Phillip Bass, convicted rapist, tied up a four-lane highway last Sunday afternoon as both the sympathetic and the curious converged on a local funeral home for the last rites. 1,500 persons are believed to have viewed his remains.

Bass, 47, was executed in Central Prison's gas chamber last Friday morning for the rape-slashing of Mrs. Sarah Keels Mehler last June 12, in the Occidental Life Insurance Building here. It took him 13 minutes and 55 seconds to die—the record time is 15 minutes.

Bass apparently went to his death unafraid. His heart beat remained normal until it stopped.

Eulogistic services were conducted by the Rev. J. H. Clanton, assistant chaplain of the N. C. State Prison, one of the last persons to see Bass before he inhaled a lethal dose of cyanide gas.

The service was performed at 4 p.m. at Payton's Funeral Home, New Bern Avenue. Interment took place at Lightner's Cemetery, Garner Road.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Alberta Bass; two daughters, Phyllis and Jessie; and five sons.

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Harry Golden Appears At Shaw University Monday

Shaw University's Greenleaf Chapel is expected to be filled with an overflow interracial and inter-religious crowd Monday, December 15 at 8 p.m. to hear noted author Harry Golden.

The address is the only one Golden has scheduled for three months.

Rabbi Abe Schoen of Beth Myer Synagogue will give the invocation prior to a musical selection featuring Paul Crump, baritone, accompanied by Harry Gil-Smythe.

Shaw University President William Russell Strasser will welcome Golden.

The speaker is editor of the widely read Carolina Israelite of Charlotte. Under his editorship the newspaper's circulation has reached some of the world's most outstanding citizens. It is one of the most quoted papers in the region.

Raleigh Journalist-author-editor Jonathan Daniels of the News and Observer, North Carolina's "Old Reliable Newspaper," will introduce Golden. The two are friends and associates of long standing.

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HARRY GOLDEN

"Understanding, Compassion In The North," Brooks Hays

ELKIN — Rep. Brooks Hays (D-Ark.) Monday night defended his roll as a moderate in the integration battle saying "there is understanding and compassion in the north and we must find ways to draw upon it."

He said "Let the South proceed on her own. We who know the problem best should be allowed time to handle it."

Speaking to the Northwest North Carolina Development Organization consisting of 11 counties, Hays said he had a desire to "spare other states and cities the pain and anguish that his citizens and his state had felt in the past year."

Hays spoke Tuesday morning at Winston-Salem, N. C., and again Tuesday night at Charlotte.

Drifter Is Indicted In Deaths

BOWLING GREEN, Va.—William Brown, 56-year-old drifter, was indicted Monday on charges of murdering two white women who were among eight persons held captive in their home Nov. 13 for more than six hours.

Trial date for Brown was set for Jan. 9 in Caroline County circuit court before Judge Leon Bazile. Brown previously was found sane and able to stand trial.

Brown, of Shelbyville, Tenn., was captured by members of a 200-member posse about 17 hours after the two women were shot to death in their home.

The victims were Mrs. Jean S. Brooks, 33, and her mother-in-law, Mrs. Kate S. Brooks, 74.



POPE JOHN AT MISSIONARY COLLEGE — Smiling Pope John XXIII chats with a student of Rome's College of Propaganda in Italy last week after celebrating an early morning mass. Pope John had been national director of the Institute for the Propagation of the Faith and has shown particular interest in missionary work. In the center is Greenie Cardinal Aragianian, who also attended the ceremony. (UPI PHOTO).



FIRE DRILL — As Fire Commissioner Edward F. Cavanaugh Jr. lines the operation, youngsters hold a fire drill at a public school in New York City last week. Standing next to Cavanaugh is fire department chief George David. Fire department officials were out in force during the day checking possible fire hazards in 1,500 public, private and parochial schools in the city. The investigation, scheduled to take about a week, was ordered in order to prevent a disaster such as the Chicago school fire earlier in the week, that claimed 91 lives. (UPI PHOTO).

Dr. King Considering Trip To Russia Soon

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The private secretary of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. reported tonight the integration leader is seriously considering a trip to Russia some time in May.

The secretary did not disclose whether it was to be a speaking tour.

Dr. King, president of the Montgomery Improvement Assn., spearheaded the 1956 bus boycott here which led to a Supreme Court decree ordering desegregation of all public transportation facilities in the capital city.

The young integration leader is still recuperating from a stab wound received in a Harlem, New York, department store while autographing copies of his new book which depicts the Negroes' fight for integration in the south.

NAACP HEAD THREATENED

MONROE — A chapter leader of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People said Friday his life had been threatened by an anonymous telephone caller.

Robert F. Williams, president of the Union County Chapter of the NAACP, said a "white man" had telephoned his home Thursday night and told his wife that "my time had just about come."

"The man told my wife that pretty soon I'd be dead," Williams said.

The Negro leader said he was away from home at the time, investigating an alleged Ku Klux Klan threat about six miles from Monroe. He said the Klan had "threatened a colored fellow."

State-Wide Body Formed, Opposes School Closings

RICHMOND, VA. — A state-wide group to oppose the closing of public schools to avoid integration plans to hold its organization meeting within a few weeks.

Groundwork for the organization was laid in a meeting Saturday. Dr. J. L. Blair Buck of Richmond is temporary chairman.

The delegates heard a Central Virginia industrialist say his firm probably would not have located in Virginia had it been able to anticipate the state would close schools rather than have them integrated.

The executive, who asked to remain unidentified, said he feared he would lose one-fourth of his key employees if schools in his locality closed. He said his firm had a 5 million-dollar investment in the state.

State News Brief

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BARDEN FOUND GUILTY

RALEIGH — James Kennon Barden, Washington Terrace, charged with unlawful entry, was tried in Wake Superior Court Monday. He was found guilty and sentenced to 12 months on the roads, suspended for two years on condition he pay a fine of \$50 and costs. Barden was accused of breaking into a business establishment on S. Blount Street.

REV. WERTZ ELECTED

CHARLOTTE — The Rev. L. W. Wertz, pastor of the St. Paul Baptist Church here, was elected this week as president of the Mecklenburg County Ministerial Association, an interracial organization. He thus became the first Negro to head the Association. The minister has served as first vice-president

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Strong Civil Rights Plank Seen By Harry S. Truman

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Ala. Vote Probe Continues

Dies Leaving Grave

Testimony Is Heard On Denials

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Federal Civil Rights Commission opened its Alabama voter registration probe Monday in an atmosphere of angry local defiance.

It appeared the hearings prompted by charges that registrars had discriminated against Negroes, would provide the first full test of the commission's powers. Most local authorities expressed determination to withhold their records.

Grand juries in Dallas, Wilcox and Lowndes Counties held emergency weekend sessions and ordered that all records in their jurisdiction be impounded.

Of the counties to be investigated.

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Ex-President Holds News Conference

Former President Harry S. Truman predicts that the Democratic Party will come up with another strong civil rights plank in its 1960 platform.

Defiantly fielding reporters' questions on the subject at a news conference here Friday, Truman conceded the party needs southern votes and made it clear he is not reading anyone out of the party.

"I think the last plank was a good one . . . the South stayed with it and I'm certain we'll have a good strong plank again in 1960," he said.

The questioning centered around recent statements in which National Party Chairman Paul Butler, in effect, warned the South to be ready for a strong civil rights plank or get out of the party. Southerners have interpreted Butler's statements to mean the South would come out on an

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Bonus Money Month Into Fourth Week

The fourth week of the Church Bonus Money program got underway Thursday, December 11, and will close at midnight Wednesday, December 17. The month consists of six weeks and will close December 31.

New churches planning to participate in the contest should appoint someone to collect the purchase slips or receipts submitted by the members of the churches each week. Only those purchase slips for merchandise bought from CAROLINIAN advertisers will be counted. A list of those advertisers appear on the front page of each edition.

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HELD IN DARING ROBBERY TRY — Nelson Dudley, 25, above of Brooklyn, N. Y., allegedly attempted a robbery at the East New York Savings Bank last week. Police say Dudley gave the bank teller a note which read: "I have a hand grenade." The note asked for \$25,000. When the bank teller ignored the note and stepped on an alarm button, Dudley fled. A patrolman apprehended the suspect a short distance from the bank. He allegedly had the grenade on his person. (UPI PHOTO).

Ligon Principal Attends Schools Meeting In Ky.

H. E. Brown, principal of the J. W. Ligon High School attended the annual meeting of the Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges last weekend at Louisville, Kentucky, Dec. 3-5 at the Central High School.

Dr. Allison Davis from the University of Chicago attempted to place Testing in its Proper Perspective in the Educational Program.

The meeting next year will be held in Louisville, Kentucky.

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H. E. BROWN

Woman, 90, Made Daily Grave Trip

SPENCER, Va.—A 90-year-old woman who wandered off Friday after making her daily visit to her husband's grave was found dead Saturday about a mile from her home.

The body of Mrs. Millie Jamison was found near a creek by a member of the huge search party which had combed the woods through

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Bomb Threat Made At A School Here

A threat that a bomb had been placed in the Hugh Morison Junior High School building here Wednesday morning brought police and fire department personnel to the area in a hurry.

The students were evacuated from the building and housed in a church across the street while a thorough search was made

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Free On Bond

GARNER — A North Carolina State College student was free under \$500 bond Monday on charges arising from the death of a pedestrian struck by his car.

Patrolman D. M. Dixon said Everett Baker, 23, a Garner Negro was killed when hit by a car driven by James Edmundson, Jr., 29, of Pikeville. Dixon quoted Edmundson as saying he did not see the victim until he felt the body strike his car.

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