

NICHOLAS LIGHTNER TAKES OWN LIFE IN RALEIGH HOME

ILL HEALTH CITED AS CAUSE

RALEIGH, N. C. (Special to the TIMES)—Calvin Nicholas Lightner, prominent young undertaker of this city, took his own life here Wednesday morning at the home of his parents Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Lightner, 419 South East Street by shooting himself through the head with a shotgun.

Mr. Lightner was a jovial nature and gave no indication that he was contemplating taking his own life. For the past several months he had been undergoing treatment by his physician, and it is thought that he had become despondent over ill health. No note or message was found by officers who investigated the tragedy.

On Tuesday night Mr. Lightner had returned from Washington, D. C., where he had gone for a rest. He appeared to be in good spirits and had talked with occupants of the home a few minutes before going to his room apparently to lie down.

Unusually popular with the younger social and business set throughout North Carolina, as well as in Raleigh, the tragedy cast a pall of gloom over the entire state. Within a few moments after the news spread a continuous flow of sympathizing visitors and telephone calls were directed at the home.

Mr. Lightner, as he was known to thousands of his friends and admirers, was born in Raleigh and was 29 years of age at the time of his death. He attended the public schools of Raleigh and J. C. Smith University of Charlotte. Several years ago he graduated from the Gup-ton-Jones School of Embalming. He was successful in passing the state board and was licensed as an embalmer, whereupon he entered business with his father. Possessing a pleasing personality, success soon attended the young man's entrance into the field of undertaking, and the business took on new life.

At the time of his death Mr. Lightner was a member of the Davis Street Presbyterian church, the Raleigh Ushers Union and the Rho chapter of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. During his years at J. C. Smith university he was a popular member of the football and basketball teams.

Surviving Mr. Lightner, in addition to his parents are two brothers Lawrence and Clarence students at N. C. College in Durham and one sister Mrs. Margaret Hayes of Raleigh.

The funeral will be held at the Davis Street Presbyterian church of which the deceased was a member and trustee, Friday afternoon at five p. m. with the Rev. J. W. Smith, pastor of the church, in charge of the ceremonies. Interment will be at the Mt. Hope cemetery.

Active pall bearers will be W. J. Latham, W. H. Pace, C. L. Williams, J. W. Ligon, J. LeVister, P. H. Williams, Jr., G. M. Herndon and C. H. Flagg.

Honor 260 War Vets

CHICAGO.—More than one third of the members of the 8th Infantry, Illinois National Guard have been awarded the State of Illinois "Long and Honorable Service Medals." The presentation was made Friday May 26 at the Armory by the regimental commander, Colonel William J. Warfield, who himself enlisted in the regiment as a private in 1902.

Ceremonies preceding the presentation included a regimental parade followed by an inspection conducted by the field and staff officers.

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FLA. LYNCHERS FREED

TAKES OWN LIFE



CALVIN N. LIGHTNER

Widely known Raleigh undertaker and very popular member of the younger social set who, by sending a charge of buck shots through his brain Tuesday, took his own life, at his home.

KNOXVILLE COLLEGE GRADUATE TO RECEIVE MASTERS



MISS RUTH A. GRAHAM

Beautiful and talented daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Graham of Knoxville, is a candidate for the Master of Arts degree in Sociology at Atlanta University. The degree is to be conferred at the June convocation. Miss Graham received her A. B. degree from Knoxville College in 1935. While at Knoxville College she was one of the most popular co-eds.

Colored Girl Signs With Goodman Ork

CLEVELAND.—Benny Goodman, first important white musician to openly cross the color line, and obtain Negro talent for his organization, has added Madeline Green to his famous band as a singer under a two year contract, it was revealed last week.

Miss Green, who was born in St. Matthews, S. C. and came to Cleveland with her parents at the age of two, as already joined the outfit and will probably be featured with quartet and quintet in which Lionel Hampton stars.

Goodman first heard her while his orchestra was filling an engagement in St. Louis. At that time she had just left the Jeter Pinks orchestra because she refused to sign a five year contract. Miss Green was made an offer by the clarinetist, which she

Famed Novelist Commencement Speaker At 'Kege

Dr. Howard Odum, Famed Sociologist—A Principal Speaker. President Patterson Awards Degrees, Certificates and Diplomas to 200 Students

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—A record breaking crowd, said to be the largest since the 80th anniversary celebration was present last Monday at Tuskegee Institute's 64th annual graduation program, which was climaxed by the award of 200 degrees, certificates and diplomas by President Frederick D. Patterson.

Graduation Day highlights: A forceful address by Dr. H. W. Odum, famed sociologist, author of "The Southern Regions" and professor of sociology at University of North Carolina; a stirring pledge of loyalty by N. R. McCray, representing the reunion class of 1939; a speech, "Making Education Real for Rural Communities" by Margaret Young, highest honor

and induction of the class of 1939 into the General Alumni Association by Capt. A. J. Neesley, executive secretary.

The colorful academic procession, as it moved down the main campus-highway was led by the Institute band, with Capt. F. L. Dry, bandmaster and Capt. W. A. Richardson, marshal of the day. Heading the list of marching dignitaries were President Patterson, Dr. Odum, Dr. Bousfield of Chicago, members of the Rosewald Foundation and Eual O'Connor, former law partner of President Roosevelt and president of the infantile paralysis foundation.

After conferring of degrees, President Patterson introduced Mr. O'Connor to the big audience. Speaking briefly, Mr. O'Connor said the race grant for an infantile paralysis unit at Tuskegee was the largest yet made and was given because of the splendid type of work being done at the Institute.

Final Tribute Paid Mrs. Rhettie Sowell

The funeral services for Mrs. Rhettie E. Sowell took place at four o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the Mount Calvary Holy church, Eric and Glenn Sts. Bishop Johnson pastor of the church conducted the ceremony, assisted by Revs. Sossoms and Graham.

The deceased, Mrs. Sowell a faithful widow of Rev. F. Sowell died Monday May 22 at the home of her sister Lizzie Josey, Richsquare, N. C. She had been sick for almost a year and died at the age of forty eight.

Before her marriage to Rev. Sowell she was Miss Rhettie E. Josey, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Josey. She was a faithful member and Sunday school teacher in Willow Oak A.M.E. Church of Richsquare, N. C. For some years she taught

in the North Hampton county school system. Later she taught at Clairmont Virginia under the principalship of her uncle, the late Dr. John E. Smallwood.

The citizens of Durham best know Mrs. Sowell by her social and religious activities. She rendered faithful services for many years in St. Joseph and Coppins Chapel A.M.E. churches, and was a constant companion and support, during the 27 years of the marriage to her husband during the years of his ministry in the eastern and western North Carolina conferences of the A.M.E. church.

She is survived by her husband, stepson and stepdaughter, three sisters four brothers, and a host of relatives and friends. The remains were borne to the new Beechwood cemetery.

Zora N. Hurston On NCC Faculty

As an additional phase in the already strengthened faculty of North Carolina college which now includes two new doctors of philosophy, Prof. A. Henningburg and Dean A. Elder, Miss Zora Neale Hurston, noted novelist and writer has accepted a chair at the institution for next term it was announced by Dr. J. E. Shepard today.

described her voice as 'unusually' but did not sign immediately since she did not want to appear too anxious. She was known here as Zora Neale Hurston. Please turn to page eight.

Miss Hurston's selection was ideal in that it will give her students direct contact with a successful novelist. She will inevitably prove a great aid to prospective writers at the college and by doing so, she will be lending added prestige to the school.

"Tell My Horse" one of her latest novels is a typical example of her work. The free flowing style and keen observation exemplified by the authoress in this book definitely places her in the upper brackets of present day novelists.

OLDEST PROFESSOR



DR. D. J. JORDAN, head of the department of History and Political Science at North Carolina College who has served the institution longer than any other male member of the faculty. Prof. Jordan received his undergraduate training at Columbia University.

BEAUTIFUL CO-ED



MISS GRACE DOYLE Outstanding student at Fisk University, Nashville, who broke tradition by becoming the first co-ed elected president of the student council. In addition to holding her place on the dean's list with a B average or above she has been active in dramatics. Miss Doyle will be a senior next year.

Cadd Grant O'Kelley Dies

Funeral services for Prof. Cadd Grant O'Kelley were held Monday, May 29, in Raleigh at St. Paul A.M.E. church where the distinguished from all over the state gathered to pay homage to this beloved man who had spent more than a half century in the field of education in North Carolina.

The deceased was born in Raleigh and was 72 years old at the time of his death, which climaxed an illness of several months. For more than 25 years Dr. O'Kelley was identified with the North Carolina College for Negroes at Durham and at the time of his death was in charge of all extension courses held by the college.

During his life Dr. O'Kelley held positions of president of Kittrell College, Slater Normal and Industrial School, now Winston Salem Teachers College, and was active in all phases of the teaching profession in the state.

Surviving Dr. O'Kelley are Mrs. Ruth Bergen of Mooresville. Please turn to page eight.

Witness Suffers 'Lapse of Memory'

DAYTONA BEACH, (Special to the TIMES)—Justice, Florida style, was displayed Saturday when the two admitted lynchers of Lee Snell, colored taxi driver, were acquitted by a trial jury, for the "lack of evidence."

A verdict of "not guilty" was returned when Constable James Durdin, from whom Snell was snatched by the lynchers and who in turn was the witness for the prosecution, suffered a lapse of memory and was unable to identify the accused murderers as the men who shot Snell.

The lynching took place on April 29 while Durdin was transporting Snell to a small town near here for "safe keeping" following his arrest after a collision between his car and a bicycle in which the bicycle operator was killed. Snell immediately stopped his machine after the accident and offered Benny Blackwelder the 12 year old victim, all possible assistance until officers arrived.

Constable's Memory Fails Earl and Everett Blackwelder brothers of the dead boy, were identified by Durdin several days later as the men who accosted him on the highway, and after relieving him of Snell, killed him before he could intervene.

Reversing his testimony altogether from the one which he gave at the coroner's inquest on May 2, Durdin said at the trial that he "could not say for sure" that the defendants were the guilty parties. At the inquest he was positive of their identity.

Queer Selection of Jurymen At one point in the trial, States Attorney Murray Sams excused the jury and reminded Durdin of a conversation in Sams' office in which Durdin intimated that he was going to change his testimony.

This Durdin also blandly denied stating that he had no recollection of such a statement and that any accusations just an attempt to besmirch his "character."

Back in the court room, Durdin's 14 year acquaintance with the defendants did not serve to aid his memory when he gain reiterated that he did not recognize the lynchers.

As an indication as to the outcome of the trial, something can be learned from the queer selection of the jury. Such utterly prejudice provoked questions as the following were asked the veniremen:

"Have you ever contributed to the NAACP?"

"Do you advocate equal social rights for Negroes?"

U. S. Probe Asked It is alleged that leniency was promised the two lynchers before they would condescend surrendering.

Another Woman Charges Negro With Rape

BURLINGTON, N. C. (Special to the TIMES)—Another white woman, this time Mrs. J. C. May has accused a Negro of criminal assault. The Negro Roy Wagstaff, was charged at a secret preliminary hearing before Magistrate T. H. Perry, Decoration Day, May 30, and was immediately rushed to Greensboro to avoid "possible mob violence."

assault was made in her home shortly after midnight while her husband was away. He was apprehended last Friday at the home of a friend, Jerry Carr, and was secretly transferred from Greensboro to Graham for the hearing today.

The exact date of Wagstaff's trial is not known but it will possibly be held during the August term.

3 Negroes Plead For Life

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Under sentence to die June 9, three Negroes are expected to appear before Gov. Dixon and the State Pardon Board this week in an effort to gain clemency it was reported.

Grady Tabbs, convicted of murdering a Hale county white man, Joseph Frazier, convicted of slaying Caroline Frazier and Lonnie Avery convicted of slay

ing Caroline Avery, are the three men seeking clemency from the Governor.

Three other Negroes come up for hearings this week. Ray Anderson convicted of assaulting a white woman, Charles White, convicted of the same crime and Harvey Lee Gilmore, a murdered are also expected to have hearings soon.

Alphonso Elder Receives Ph. D.

According to information obtained here this week Alphonso Elder, dean of North Carolina College for Negroes will receive the degree of Doctor of Education from Columbia University on June 7 at the commencement exercises to be held at that institution. The title of Elder's thesis was "Functional Thinking in Mathematics."

Dean Elder has been a member of the North Carolina College faculty since 1925. In 1929 he was made dean of the college and has held that position since that time.

The N. C. College dean was born in Sandersville, Georgia, the son of Thomas J. and Mrs. Lillian P. Elder. His father recently celebrated his fiftieth anniversary as principal of the public school of Sanderville.

Mr. Elder attended the public schools of his native city and is a graduate of the high school and college of Atlanta University having completed his A. B. degree at Atlanta in 1921 with Magna Cum Laude honors and as valedictorian of his class. He obtained his masters degree from Columbia University. Dean Elder has also studied at Chicago University, the university of Cambridge in England and has traveled in England, France and Italy.

Prior to becoming a member of the faculty of North Carolina College Mr. Elder taught at Bennett College College in Greensboro and at Elizabeth City State Normal at Elizabeth City. In addition he has made a special statistical study of Freshmen and Seniors in high

GETS PH.D.



DR. ALPHONSO ELDER

schools in North Carolina. For four years he summarized and reported the results of senior examinations of all high schools in North Carolina under the direction of H. I. Tigg of the state department of education.

Dean Elder also assisted in the preparation of course of study for high school in North Carolina, and was a director of the "Spring Hope" project under the direction of Clyde K. Ervin, state superintendent of education.

In addition to his heavy duties as dean of North Carolina College Mr. Elder has found time to serve or several years as a member of the board of directors of the Mutual Building and Loan Association of Durham.

Democracy Is Theme Hillside Commencement

Titles of Mister and Miss was bestowed on one hundred and eight Hillside students as they graduated from the from school at the city Armory on Thursday night, June 1.

"Democracy—On Trial" an address delivered by Leo Davis seemed to be the theme of the graduation as Dr. W. H. Wannamaker, chairman of the Board of Education, W. F. Warren, superintendent of the city

schools, and Principal W. G. Pearson each touch correlated subjects in their speeches to the candidates.

A half an hour concert by Hillside band under the direction of William Cole, instructor preceded the procession which was followed by invocation, an anthem and then the welcome by Benjamin S. Lowe. Innumerable trophies, medals Please turn to page eight.