

198 Negroes Burn To Death

FLASH!!

Just before going to press the CAROLINA TIMES has been informed that the new evidence presented this week before Judge Leo Carr, by Attorneys for the plaintiffs, in the case against Bishop M. H. Davis and the trustees of Kittrell College was sufficient to cause the court to grant a rehearing. Time for the rehearing will be at 10 o'clock in Graham, on the morning of May 11.

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NCNA TO HOLD 4TH ANNUAL SESSION

Dr. Shepard To Address Meet Here Sunday

DURHAM — The North Carolina Committee on Negro Affairs will hold its fourth annual meeting here Sunday, April 28 at the North Carolina College for Negroes. The theme of the conference will be "Exploring the Present Status and Needs of North Carolina Negroes." Dr. James E. Shepard, president of the North Carolina College will be the principal speaker. Due to his experience and deep insight in Negro affairs, Dr. Shepard is considered the logical man to strike the keynote for the conference.

According to Mrs. Irma Neal Henry, executive secretary of the Committee, this meeting will be one of the most important in the history of the organization. A special call to the women of the state is being issued for the purpose of discussing woman's place in the economic, civic and political affairs of the race, and how she play a greater part in shaping the policies of the organization.

Leaders of the discussion groups are as follows: W. D. Hill, assistant secretary, North Carolina Mutual; J. A. Tarpley, supervisor Negro Schools, Greensboro; L. E. Austin, editor of the Carolina Times and Dr. A. Henderson, assistant to the president, North Carolina College for Negroes. Speakers to the women's section will include Mrs. Clyde R. Hoey, wife of the Governor of the state; Miss Louise Latham, dean of girls, Washington High School, Raleigh; Mrs. J. W. V. Cordice, of the Durham Public Schools and Miss Phyllis O'Kelly, Welfare Worker of Wadesboro.

In keeping with the policy of the committee, several important factors will be discussed centering around the economic, educational and civic problems affecting Negroes of the state.

The afternoon session which will be opened at 4 o'clock will be taken up by discussion groups of the several sub-committees. At the evening session, which will be held at Duke Auditorium of the College, Prof. James A. Taylor, dean of the college will address the group and his subject will be "After the Conference What."

Those who will act as consultants of the open forum discussion are J. G. Blackus, Miss E. M. Harper, Attorney Curtis Todd and C. A. Haywood of Raleigh; Dr. F. D. Clark, Dr. Clyde Donnell, of Durham, Dr. O. Max King, of Franklinton, Dr. Geo. Simpkins, of Greensboro, Leander Hill of Winston-Salem, and other prominent leaders of the state.

National Negro Insurance Ass'n Holds Session

CHICAGO, (ANP) — The National Negro Insurance association, organized in 1920 for the purpose of maintaining the business of life insurance and strengthening the bonds of confidence between Negro insurance companies, policyholders and the public, this year during National Negro Insurance Week, May 6 to 11, will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of its organization.

Negro insurance companies, which not only are selling a commodity to the public but are training and educating thousands of young men and women throughout the country to become courteous and efficient salespeople, have progressed dramatically in the twenty years since organization of the association, and now, filling an important niche in Negro life, they represent a high standard of efficiency, safety and strength.

The Negro insurance company perhaps more than any other Negro business organization, has disproved the old adage that Negroes will not support a Negro business. Hardly what seemed to be overwhelming handicaps twenty years ago, the Negro insurance company has amassed millions in money, securities, assets and reserve, built up a pride in Negro business, and made work for thousands of young Negro men and women.

Surviving one of the worst depressions in history, Negro insurance companies have emerged stronger for that experience, according to business statistics, and have made more consistent gains during the last ten year

period than can be said of most other businesses. In this field Negroes are demonstrating, to an amazing degree, the benefits to be derived from honest racial cooperation.

National Negro Insurance records reveal that approximately \$200,000,000 worth of insurance was produced during National Insurance Week, 1935, and approximately \$20,000,000 during the same period, 1939. This is the result of planning, direction, and group cooperation, says the officials. With \$25,000,000 as this year's goal, Insurance Week 1940 will be set aside to depict progress of Negro insurance and its value to the Negro. F. A. Young, New Orleans, is chairman for National Insurance Week.

Sponsor Youth Program

BY CATHERINE BLACKWELL
An excellent youth program was celebrated on "Young Peoples Day," Sunday evening April 14th at St. Joseph CME Church. Devotions were conducted by J. Winford Buchert, followed by the sermon which was preached by the Rev. J. H. Lightsey. After a brief intermission, the young people took the entire program in charge. The speaker for the occasion was Rev. W. H. Bland.

On Sunday, April 28 at 11 o'clock the pastor will speak from the subject "The right source of knowledge" at 7:45, "The disclosing God."

DeSHAZOR BEAUTY COLLEGE HOLDS SPRING GRADUATION EXERCISE



There were 35 in the Spring church last Sunday afternoon graduating class of the DeShazor Beauty College. The exercises were held at St. Joseph AME church last Sunday afternoon. Late comers were forced to seek seats in the balconies. In the foreground and seated are members of the faculty. Reading left to right they are: Prof. N. Nance, Mrs. S. Bishop Whitfield, Mrs. Sadie Thomas, Mrs. E. Bishop, Mrs. DeShazor Jackson and Dr. Leo Bruce.

Hundreds Attend Mass Meeting At Hillside

DURHAM — The largest mass meeting ever held by the Durham branch of the North Carolina Committee on Negro Affairs took place here Sunday afternoon when most of the entire auditorium of the Hillside Park High School was filled with persons from all walks of life who had gathered there for the purpose of formulating plans for the new registration to be held in Durham county during the month of May.

R. N. Harris, chairman of the political division of the committee opened the meeting by explaining to those present the purpose for which they had gathered. A well organized plan of contacting every qualified Negro in Durham was presented and adopted by the organization. If the plans of the committee are carefully carried out the largest registration in the history of Durham is expected. Every block in every community in which Negroes live will be worked, and each person present promised to act as a committee of one to do his best to have as many Negroes register as possible.

Talks on registering and voting were made by several persons present, and crooked politicians who go out for the purpose of obtaining money with the promise that they can deliver the Negro vote were declared the enemies and out of keeping with the ideals of the organization.

Special effort on the part of the committee is made necessary this year on account of the new registration order by the election board of Durham County. Prior to the new registration ordered there were practically 4,000 Negro voters in Durham; and the Committee hopes to swell the number to 5,000 before the books close at sunset on May 11.

KITTRELL COLLEGE CASE APPEALED

EDITOR'S NOTE: Below is full account of the hearing held in Graham last Friday before Judge Leo Carr which dissolved the restraining order brought by laymen of the AME church to prevent Bishop M. H. Davis from disposing of stock belonging to Kittrell College. The account written by D. B. Martin, one of the plaintiffs in the action, and a prominent layman of the AME church, gives in detail just why the action was brought and the views of those who attempted to save the bonds belonging to the school.

The hearing at Graham before the Honorable Leo Carr on Friday, April 19, at which time Bishop M. H. Davis and the Board of Trustees of Kittrell College were given the "green light" to sell the Duke Power Stock supposedly left as an endowment fund to the institution climaxed the effort of North Carolina laymen of the AME Church to take legal steps for the best interest of the Church and School as a whole. The decision was appealed by the plaintiffs. The reason why the restraining order was issued was because of the fact that we as laymen were reliably informed that the stock was in process of sale. The committee composed of G. W. Cox, Chairman; Watson Law, Greensboro; Kenneth Jones, Chapel Hill; E. D. Mickie, J. C. Scarborough, Sr. and D. B. Martin, appointed by the laymen who met on March 31, 1940 to discuss this matter wanted an opportunity to confer with Bishop Davis and his committee as

hop Davis and his committee as business men to make what we thought better suggestions in going about to liquidate the enormous debt of the institution. A letter was addressed to the Bishop on April 9 and a copy sent to all members of his committee, but the venerable prelate in answering would not agree to the suggestion for a conference made by our committee. We realized that the school had debts and were just as anxious as any of the fearless ministers, who openly did the biddings of the Bishop to get these debts paid, but we did want to know the items which made up a total of \$14,136.77 said to be due Bishop Davis personally and \$12,071.00 said to be due the late John R. Hawkins.

The committee was also informed that the good Bishop deposited all funds of the college in the name of M. H. Davis and our investigation has not disclosed a bank account in the name of Kittrell College. However, there may be one.

The above represents some of the things paramount in the discussion of the group of laymen from Greensboro, Chapel Hill and Durham, who formed a temporary organization on March 31, 1940 in Durham. These important matters did not get an opportunity to be presented at the hearing due to the fact that the able Counsel for the Defense pleaded to expedite time an consider the legal phase of the restraining order. Please turn to Page Eight

Dancers Trapped In Building; Five Persons Jailed

NATCHEZ, Miss., (Special to the TIMES) — Five persons were in jail today as suspects in the firing of a dance hall which cost the lives of 198 persons here early this morning. Although the arrests have been made police have not definitely as yet pinned the tragedy on any particular person or persons.

According to several persons who escaped the building which went up in flames within 15 minutes after the fire was discovered, there were several drunken persons in the building on the grounds, some of which were overheard to remark that they were going to set fire to the dance hall. It was the belief at first that the building was set on fire accidentally.

Declaring that the building was the worst fire trap imaginable, Mayor William J. Byrnes ordered a thorough investigation into the various matters that were going around.

It was believed at the outset that more than 250 persons perished in the flames, but a careful count today revealed that only 198 persons actually lost their lives in the building which burned like paper after it once became ignited. Several other persons seriously burned or injured were expected to die according to hospital attaches which will run the number well over 200.

The dance was being given by the Moneywaters social club and the Walter Barnes orchestra was furnishing the music. It was believed that all of the members, including Barnes himself perished in the burning.

There were practically 300 persons in the building at the time it caught fire, and a few of them escaped through the front door which was the only exit the building possessed. Several others were able to get through the ticket window which stood near the door. Others made a futile attempt to break through the windows that had been well barred to prevent persons from slipping into the dance hall.

The first which was quick by dry Spanish moss hung from the rafters of the building as decorations apparently vied with time in consuming the building, before fire fighting apparatus could be brought into play the screams and moans of the dying could be heard above the falling walls and crackling of the flames.

After the flames had been brought under control and firemen could enter the building means of the dying could be heard beneath the ruins. Several who were brought out and rushed to the hospital died enroute. Others are expected to die. Many were believed to have over come with smoke or crushed to death in the stampede which followed the alarm.

More than half of the population of this city are Negroes and there is hardly a home that has not been touched by the tragedy in the loss of relatives or friends. Grief, sadness, woe, tears, cried are left in the wake of this most terrible catastrophe as relatives discover some mark of identification on burnt body of many stretched out on a garage floor or in a funeral parlor. In many families as many as three relatives were lost in the flames.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The American Red Cross rushed three disaster relief workers to Natchez, Mississippi today to aid the injured and the families of the Negroes who perished in a dance hall fire last night.

Dr. William DeKleine, medical advisor of the Red Cross, prepared to leave Washington today by airplane, weather permitting, to aid in hospitalization of the injured Negroes, the Red Cross announced. Mrs. Molly Hodges, Mississippi field representative left Jackson early today by motor and expected to be in Natchez at noon. Miss Roberta Morgan, Red Cross relief worker at the Amite, Louisiana Red Cross headquarters set up following a recent tornado, was instructed by telephone to go to Natchez, the Red Cross also announced.

From Mrs. Hodges, the headquarters here learned that 204 Negro men and women were reported dead and probably 100 injured, including 40 with serious burns and broken bones. Among the dead were said to be members of a Negro orchestra from Chicago.

DeWitt Smith, national director of the Red Cross Disaster Relief Service, stated that Dr. DeKleine would immediately investigate needs for hospitalizing the injured, and that Miss Morgan would arrange in cooperation with local agencies for temporary care of the families of those who lost their lives.

TO SPEAK HERE



DR. EDMUND J. SCOTT

Republican National Committee man who will speak at the North Carolina College in the B. N. Duke auditorium, Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock May 5. Doctor Scott is one of the nation's outstanding men of achievement and his appearance here is expected to draw an unusually large audience.

DeShazor Holds Spring Graduation Exercises

DURHAM — The DeShazor Beauty College held its Spring Graduation exercise here Sunday afternoon at St. Joseph AME church at three o'clock with 35 members of the school receiving diplomas.

The program was presided over by M. H. Thompson, attorney for the college. The address to the graduates was delivered by L. G. Blackus of Raleigh, state supervisor of recreation among Negroes.

The Spring graduation exercise this year was of unusual beauty and dignity, and eclipsed in many respects those which the college has had heretofore. The

climax of the entire program was the address delivered by Mr. Blackus to the graduation class during which he admonished its members to regard their profession with seriousness.

The DeShazor Beauty College was organized in Durham four years ago, and since that time has had remarkable growth under the leadership of Mrs. J. DeShazor Jackson its secretary-supervisor. Mrs. DeShazor is noted for her thoroughness and desire for the best. On the school's faculty are some of the best qualified instructors that it is possible to obtain. In addition all of the facilities are modern and

modern and the best that money can buy.

The instructors are: Miss J. DeShazor, supervisor; Mrs. E. B. Whitfield, anatomy; Prof. I. Boyd Oglesby, business; Prof. M. Nance, electricity; Dr. L. Knox, chemistry; and Dr. Leo Bruce, anatomy.

Grades of the class are: Mrs. Elizabeth Andrew, Raleigh; Mrs. Josephine Lee Bennett, Newton; Evelyn Bellamy, Charlotte; Annie Mozell Boney, Roskill; Mrs. Mamei Mosell Blunt, Durham; Mrs. Mary J. Brum, Durham; Mrs. Callie B. Daye, Durham; Miss Charlie Bell Flowers, Durham. Please turn to Page Eight