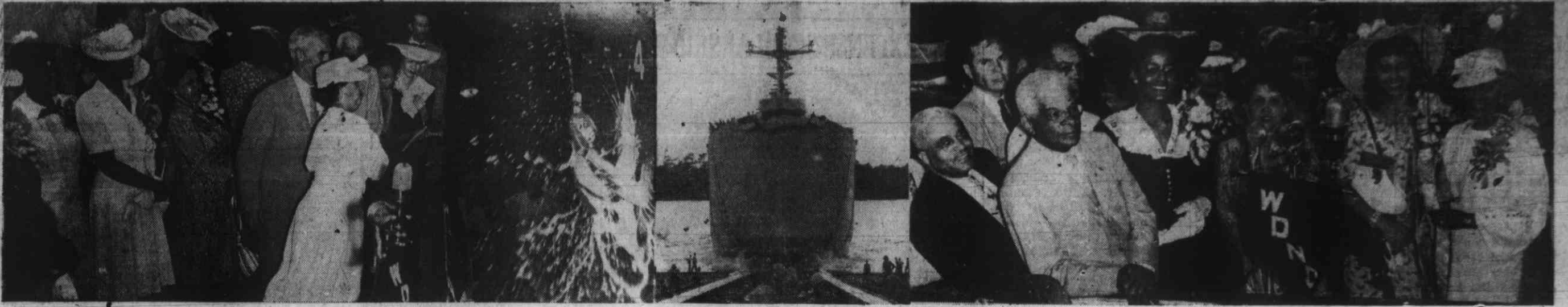


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Above are some of the scenes at the launching of the S. S. JOHN MERRICK, held at the yards of the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company in Wilmington last Sunday, July 11. Pictured on the extreme right is a closeup of some of the many dignitaries who came from all parts of the country to witness the historic occasion. Pictured are Mrs. Martha Merriek, of Durham, Mrs. Scott of Washington, D. C. and Mrs. Wheeler of Wilmington, the youngest daughter of the great humanitarian for whom the ship was named. Beside Mrs. Donnell stands Miss Constance Merriek, of Durham, Mrs. Scott of Washington, D. C. and Mrs. Wheeler of Wilmington, N. C. Also pictured is Dr. Charles C. Spaulding, who with John Merriek, for whom the vessel is named, was a co-founder of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co. and is the present president of the Company. George W. Cox, vice president and agency director of the North Carolina Mutual stands beside Dr. Spaulding. Pictured in the center is the Liberty Vessel, S. S. JOHN MERRICK, as it started its maiden voyage after having been christened. This ship is the first that has ever been named for a Negro below the Mason-Dixie line and is the 114th completed at the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company yards at Wilmington. At the extreme left the camera caught Mrs. Donnell as she burst the champagne against the bow of the boat and sent it sliding down the ways. Also seen on the picture are many of the dignitaries who played vital parts in making the occasion the tremendous success it was.

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DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA SATURDAY, JULY 17th, 1943

BONDS TODAY

Florida Board Education Equalizes Teachers Salaries

20,000 AT MERRICK LAUNCHING

Federal Court Indicts 33 For Part In Indiana Lynching

Sheriff And Deputies Among Those Held For Lynching Last October

WASHINGTON, — Thirteen persons have been arrested in Vigo County, Indiana on charges of conspiring to violate the Civil Rights Statutes in the lynching of James Edward Person, a Negro, near Paris, Illinois last October 12. The arrests were the result of indictments by a Federal grand jury, and included a former sheriff and three former deputy sheriffs, according to Francis Biddle, Attorney General of the United States.

Person had served in the present World War, but had been honorably discharged at the time of the lynching. The American Legion Post at Jackson, Tenn., made the complaint to Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge who order an investigation by the FBI.

According to the Justice Department all of the thirteen men will be arraigned at Danville, Monday, July 19. They are being held in \$2,000 bond each.

The indictment charges specifically that the defendants, "acting under the color of state law," conspired to violate the Civil Rights Statutes by denying Person his right not to be deprived of his life or liberty without due process of law as guaranteed by the constitution of the United States.

If convicted the thirteen men face a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment or a fine of \$5,000 or both.

Person, the indictment said, had committed no offense, and no warrant was outstanding for (Please turn to Page Two)

Seeks To Start Fund



REV. J. H. CLAYBORN

Presiding elder of the Ft. Smith, Ark., district of the A.M.E. church, who was proposed that each of the 8,000 churches in the connection raise at least \$5 each annually to establish a student aid fund for the benefit of the colored people after the war will need funds to continue their education. The \$40,000 would help 200 young men at \$200 each or 400 at \$100 each. Dr. Clayborn pointed out.—ANP.

See Page Eight For Contest Standings.

MEDIC SEWS UP MAN'S HEART ...HE LIVES

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill. (AP) — Friends of Dr. H. H. Weathers disclosed this week that the surgeon had successfully accomplished an operation on a human heart. The surgery, an unusually complicated operation requiring great dexterity and skill, was performed here Tuesday at St. Mary's hospital.

The patient, Nathaniel Pickett, 22, is reported recovering and showing rapid progress. He was brought to the hospital suffering from stab wounds, including a cut in the right auricle, one of the two upper heart valves that handle blood from the veins.

Dr. Weathers cut through the pericardium sac surrounding the pulsating heart and made a figure eight suture. A figure eight suture is a type of continuous stitch that covers a large or small territory. Translated to the language of the layman it means the wound required three stitches.

Had not Doctor Weathers immediately operated, Pickett would have died in a few minutes, said his colleagues.

The feat of the local physician is regarded in medical circles as something closely approaching a miracle. In the history of (Please turn to Page Two)



Pictured above is Dr. C. C. Spaulding as he spoke to the capacity crowd which filled Central Baptist Church in Wilmington last Sunday. Speaking on a subject of Post-war security, Dr. Spaulding pleaded for the continuance of interracial harmony in North Carolina. In addition to the address delivered by Dr. Spaulding, also on the program was the Honorable J. Melville Broughton, Governor of the State of North Carolina.

Florida Education Board Agrees To Equalize Teachers' Salaries

PALM BEACH, Fla. — The Board of Education here has signed a consent decree in the case of Stebbins vs. Board of Public Instruction, to become operative Tuesday, July 6, 1943. The Board adopted a salary schedule on June 22 which is to be applied equally to white and Negro teachers. The schedule adopted groups the teachers into four classes: 1. Teachers with normal school qualifications, 2. Teachers with three years of college training, 3. Holders of master's degrees, 4. Holders of doctor's degrees. (Please turn to Page Two)

First Ship In South To Bear Negro's Name Is Christened At Wilmington

U. S. Troops Guard Detroit Until August

DETROIT, Mich. — United States troops will remain here until sometime in August according to assurance made to the NAACP by Adjutant General James A. Ulio.

In answer to the NAACP's urging that troops not be withdrawn immediately after the July fourth holiday, General Ulio wired the NAACP "your message is appreciated and precautionary measures have been taken accordingly." The NAACP feels that it would be better to keep the troops indefinitely than to remove them one day too soon and has expressed the conviction that it would be well for the War department to wait until cold weather sets in the tendency of people to congregate in parks and on street corners has lessened, before it order the removal of soldiers stationed here.

In expressing appreciation for the War department's decision to keep the federal troops here until August, Walter White executive secretary wrote General Ulio:

"I returned from Detroit this morning. It is my conviction, based upon my personal observations and those also of members of our staff who have been constantly in Detroit since June 20, that there would have been a resumption of the riot had the federal troops been removed on (Please turn to Page Two)

HENRY BEATTY DIES SUDDENLY

Henry Beatty, age 37, Durham merchant, died of an attack of acute indigestion while enroute from South Carolina to Durham Tuesday evening around eight o'clock. Mr. Beatty had gone to South Carolina with his sons to purchase vegetables for sale on the local market, but took desperately ill seven miles north of Sanford. He died before medical aid could reach him.

The deceased was born in Balden county but had lived in Durham since 1919 where he had engaged in the grocery and produce business.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Florence Beatty, eight sons and two daughter. The sons are Sivie, Haywood, James Maxwell, Richard, George, Henry and Thomas. The daughters are Miss Lorraine Beatty and Mrs. Pauline Ellison.

(Continued on Page Seven)

REWARD OFFERED IN DETROIT FOR RIOTER'S ARREST

DETROIT — With 13 deaths in the recent race riots here still unsolved, the Wayne County Board of Auditors last week offered a reward of \$100 to any person who could furnish information leading to the arrest of a rioter. (Please turn to Page Two)

WILMINGTON, July 12—A crowd conservatively estimated at 20,000 gathered at the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company's yard here Sunday evening to witness what will doubtless go down in ship construction history as one of the most momentous events ever held.

The occasion was the Launching and Christening of the S. S. John Merriek, the 114th liberty ship to be constructed here, and the first in the history of the south to bear the name of a Negro.

Long before the moment had arrived for the actual launching, throngs of Negroes began pouring through the gate, leading into the yard until the grounds surrounding the ship, perched high on the shipways was a teeming mass of humanity.

It was an orderly crowd made up of persons from all walks of life. The trained, the untrained, the governor, the president of the shipbuilding company, insurance executives, ministers, ship construction workers, women, children, the barber, the baker and the candlestick maker, all had gathered to witness the launching of a ship that would bear the name of John Merriek, a Negro who through industry, thrift and hard work had lifted himself by his own bootstraps to the pinnacle of the Negro business world.

Music for the launching was furnished by the Pre-Flight Navy Band from Chapel Hill which gave impetus to the spirit of the occasion by charging the band to play "The Carolina Shipbuilding Company March." (Please turn to Page Six)