

Florida Supreme Court Grants Walter Lee Irvin Stay Of Execution



RAIFORD, FLA. C. A. Irvin, Interstate Press Director, is shown above after a talk with Walter Lee Irvin in the State's death house here before the condemned man had received the good news that the Supreme Court had granted him a stay of execution. He is pointing to a spot on Walter's body where a bullet entered and still remains. Physicians say its removal may dislocate one of his organs, thus causing him immediate death. Note the spot on his neck where a bullet entered the front leaving through the back of his neck.

One of the men, Walter Thomas, was shot to death by a sheriff's posse near the point where the crime is alleged to have been committed.

Shepherd, another one of the accused, was fatally wounded by sheriff McCall while being taken from Raiford prison back to Lake County for a new trial, a mandate of the United States Supreme Court.

Greenlee, 16 years old at the time of the alleged crime, is serving a life sentence in Belle Glade, Florida, commonly called "Little Raiford."

Walter Lee Irvin, now in Raiford awaiting to be electrocuted and whose death warrant was signed and sealed by acting Governor Johns, was to have been executed Monday, Nov. 8 but was given a new lease on life Friday, November 5.

Interstate Press, during this visit with Walter, uncovered some very vital information which was turned over to Robert W. Saunders, Executive Secretary of the Florida Branches of the National Association

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for the Advancement of Colored People. Highlights of this information was: Walter Lee Irvin told us in the presence of prison officials that he was not guilty, that he had never seen Greenlee at all.

Irvin told us that, "If you want to help me, go to Groveland and meet my sister; if you have any difficulty in finding her, her husband works at a service station. They will place you in contact with the doctor who was not called upon to testify. If he had been called upon he would have testified that the woman had not been raped at

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all." Even though Irvin told a very straightforward story, we still wanted to get the record straight. At our own expense we went to Belle Glade, Florida, and had a talk with Greenlee; he told the same story, that he had never met Irvin. He also showed us whelps on his body where he had been manhandled, apparently bruised or abused.

Friday, November 4 the Fla. Supreme Court declined to grant a stay of execution for Irvin after his attorney, Paul Perkins, contended the "deliberate killing" of Samuel Shepherd, a co-defendant, by Lake County Sheriff Willis McCall had prevented Shepherd from giving testimony that would have cleared Irvin.

Hawley Students Visit Planetarium

CHAPEL HILL. Thirty-seven students of G. C. Hawley High School of Creedmoor attended "Star of Bethlehem," at the Morehead Planetarium's annual tribute to Christmas, when they visited the campus of the University of North Carolina this week.

The group included Edith Burwell, Fredman Crowell, Elizabeth Neal, Ray Dell Cozart, Armentha Greene, Burmas Green, Cora Greene, Nadene Bailey, Guffie Green, Melvin Greene, Shirley Green, Betty Grissom, Willie Ed Grissom, Emma Lou Gooch, Lucy J. Harris, Marshall Hawkins, James Montague, Douglas Martin, Victoria Taylor, Pennis Bailey, Sammy Parker, William Hayes, Calathies Daniels, Marie Taylor, Joe Ann Watkins, Virginia Daniels, Floyd Landis, Annie K. Landis, Avan Daniels, Bruce Atkins, Sadie Jenkins, Daniel Burwell, James Brodie, Mozelle Cozart, Magdalene

Illinois Legislator Dead At 57; Was First Chairman Of Major Committee

CHICAGO, Ill. State Rep. Charles J. Jenkins, the only Negro to become chairman of a major committee of the Illinois legislature, died this week at the age of 57. For 23 years, he had represented Chicago's 3rd district.

A quiet mild-mannered man, Rep. Jenkins had the respect and attention of the House when ever he rose to speak. For two sessions he served as chairman of the powerful Appropriations Committee. He was recognized as a parliamentary expert in the House. Moreover, it was his decision to have a special committee staff to analyze all monetary requests and this brought a special commendation from the Illinois Taxpayers' Federation.

Last year Jenkins was a nominee for Superior Court Judge on the Republican ticket but narrowly missed election. He declined to run again for state representative this year because of ill health. He had been hospitalized three weeks before his death.

To him, his great triumph came in 1953 session of the legislature when the House passed 81 to 30 an Equal Employment Opportunity Bill which he had sponsored. The big margin of passage came at Grissom and Marshall Allen. They were accompanied by N. Brown, advisor, and James Ragland.

ter he took the floor—in his last major address and delivered an impassioned plea for the bill. With tears streaming down his face, the legislators switched their votes and Jenkins thanked them for "one of the last favors I shall ask of you."

Drop Dismissal Charges

NEW YORK. Dismissal charges against two civilian employees of the Armed Services Medical Procurement Agency in Brooklyn have been dropped and adjustment in the status of other Negro workers at the installation have been promised following intervention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Miss Ethel Jones and Miss Phyllis McLaurin were assured of withdrawal of dismissal charges against them after Herbert Hill, NAACP labor relations assistant, had conferred for six hours with Col. Howard F. Currie, chief of the agency; Col. John E. Haughey, inspector-general of the agency; Captain Alfred Eyer, U. S. Navy, and Lt. William E. Hogan, special assistant to the chief of agency, representing the U. S. Air Force.

In response to Mr. Hill's

charge that the dismissal actions stemmed from racial bias, Col. Currie said that the actions were "Terrors" which developed as a result of "poor administration" rather than manifestations of racial prejudice. The Colonel promised to initiate a five-point program to curb inter-racial tensions within the agency. Mr. Hill is to meet with agency officials in February to review developments within the agency and to make additional proposals.

Sammy Davis Wants \$150,000 For Loss Of Eye

Los Angeles, Calif. Sammy Davis Jr. has filed suit against Mrs. Helen S. Boss, 72, who was the driver of the car that was in a collision with

his automobile last November 19th. This was the accident that caused Davis to lose his left eye. He's suing Mrs. Boss for \$150,000.

The suit also names Mrs. Besse Ross of Akron who was a passenger in Mrs. Boss' car that night. Sammy is claiming that because of the injuries he received, he will be unable to pursue his career.



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