

# Five Awarded \$500,000 From Attack

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., recently awarded more than a half-million dollars in damages to five elderly black women who were the victims of a Ku Klux Klan shooting attack which occurred in April, 1980. The jury verdict was hailed as a blow to the KKK. "It marks the first time that Klansmen have been held accountable for their evil and violent deeds by a Federal jury in a civil lawsuit," observed Randolph Scott-McLaughlin of the Center for Constitutional Rights, an attorney for the plaintiffs.

This historic lawsuit arose out of an incident in which a band of heavily-armed Klansmen, seeking to intimidate the black residents of Chattanooga, rode through the black community, burned two 8-foot crosses and then continued their malicious nightriding by firing their shotguns at the five elderly women.

After the shooting incident, the Klansmen, William Church, Marshall Thrash and Larry Payne, were charged with felonious assault with intent to commit murder. An all-white jury acquitted Payne and Church of all charges and found Thrash guilty of a minor charge of simple assault. As a result of the verdicts, the black community in Chattanooga erupted. Pitched battles with local police were fought in the streets. Calm was eventually restored when black ministers and other community organizers formed a community patrol.

Shortly thereafter, attorneys from the Center for Constitutional Rights, along with George Hairston of the NAACP, Charles Victor McTeer of Mississippi and A.C. Wharton of Memphis, Tennessee, filed the suit on behalf of the women. The novel suit was based on the Civil Rights Act of 1870, which makes it illegal "to go in disguise upon

the highway" or to intimidate people because of their race. In this case, the plaintiffs charged that the Klansmen had conspired to intimidate the black residents of Chattanooga, and in fact carried out these violent activities in furtherance of that conspiracy.

The suit was also filed as a class action on behalf of the black residents of Chattanooga, seeking an injunction to prohibit the KKK from engaging in acts of violence, intimidation, harassment and unlawful conspiracies designed to deter black people from exercising their civil and constitutional rights. A decision on this aspect of the suit will be forthcoming shortly from U.S. District Judge Frank Wilson, who presided over the trial.

The significance of the suit was highlighted by Attorney Betty Lawrence Bailey, also of CCR, who stated: "This case has established that black people have a constitutionally protected right to peacefully and safely walk the streets of their cities without fear of racially motivated violence."

Attorney Scott-McLaughlin added: "In this era of resurgent racist violence there is an increasing need for this type of aggressive litigation to defend the rights of black people. This is especially true at a time when the Reagan administration's Department of Justice is in the process of dismantling the gains of the civil rights movement, and refuses to prosecute Klansmen and Nazis for violent actions in Greensboro, N.C. and Buffalo, N.Y., as well as in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In this suit, we have seen that private attorneys utilizing the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1870 can, and will, bring these violent Klansmen to justice."

# St. Paul's Announces Founders' Day Speaker

LAWRENCEVILLE, Va. — Dr. Thomas A. Wilkins, administrative affairs-management specialist and consultant, will be the annual Founder's Day Banquet speaker Saturday, March 13, at 6:30 p.m., when the St. Paul's College community and alumni pay tribute to the late Archdeacon James Solomon Russell, founder of the institution.

A resident of Reston,

Wilkins is a St. Paul alumnus who has held top administrative posts on local, state and national levels. He is a founding member of the Conference of Minority Public Administrators. He was the first black selected by the U.S.

Department of Labor for executive management training at the Federal Executive Institute.

Wilkins has been actively involved with St. Paul's alumni over thirty years. He serves as a vestryman and chairs the Liturgical Committee of

his Church. The banquet and other Founder's Day activities are open to the public.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 1982

8:00 A.M. Morning Worship  
 9:30 A.M. Church School  
 11:00 A.M. Morning Worship

TRANSPORTATION IS PROVIDED TO ALL SERVICES  
 Call 68-6052 or 682-8464 or 682-7160

## Legal Notice

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Housing Authority of the City of Durham, North Carolina will receive bids for the construction of new roots NC-13-7 Cornwallis Road, until 3:00 P.M.: EST: on the 31st day of March, 1982 at the Housing Authority Building, 330 East Main Street, Durham, North Carolina, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Included in the bid documents are forms of contract documents including plans and specifications which are on file at the Office of the Housing Authority of the City of Durham, North Carolina, at 330 East Main Street, Durham, North Carolina, which describe the work to be performed and the materials to be furnished under the bid.

A certified check drawn on a bank or trust company insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, payable to the Housing Authority of the City of Durham, North Carolina, or satisfactory bond executed by an acceptable surety on the bid bond form contained in the specifications and in accordance with the instructions to bidders set forth therein, in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the bid shall be submitted with each bid.

All bidders are hereby notified that they must have proper license under the State Laws governing their respective trades. Attention is called to the provision for equal employment opportunity, and payment of not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the specifications must be paid on this project.

The plans and specifications referred to in this invitation for bids show seven (7) types of houses which are contained in Project NC-13-7. In addition to the bid for the total work for the whole Project, the Contractor must submit separate bids applicable to building roots on each of the seven (7) types of buildings by taking each type of building as a group for which the bid is submitted.

The Housing Authority of the City of Durham reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of 30 days subsequent to the opening of bids without the consent of the Housing Authority of the City of Durham, North Carolina.

Date: March 4, 1982

Housing Authority of the City of Durham, North Carolina

By: James R. Tabia  
 Executive Director

PUBLICATION DATES:  
 THE CAROLINA TIMES  
 March 10, 17, 24, 1982

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